

# EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR RESEARCH ON SUPPLEMENTARY PENSIONS

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### ENRSP CONFERENCE IN POZNAN (Poland)

On  
September 13 and 14, 2012

The topic of the next conference will be

### **“Old Age Crisis and Pension Reform – Where do we stand?”**

The conference will take place at Poznan University of Technology. It will be a conference of Network members plus a number of Polish experts in the field. Network members should also be committed to invite and encourage younger researchers to present papers.

The main purpose of the conference will be the analysis and evaluation of pension reforms which have been introduced in different countries since 1994, after the World Bank Report “Averting the Old Age Crisis – Policies to Protect the Old and Promote Growth” had been published. One of the main ideas of this report was the promotion of pension privatisation (understood as fully or partially replacement of pre-existing pay-as-you-go pension systems with ones based on individual, private pension savings accounts).

The World Bank, after the publication of this volume, played an important role in advocating mandatory funded pensions in Central and Eastern Europe in the 1990s and 2000s. Pension privatization, which started as a regional trend in Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe in the 1990s, reshaped the pension debate in the European Union (EU) as post-socialist countries with partly-privatized pension systems joined the EU in 2004 and 2007. The global financial crisis of 2008-2010 has halted - at least temporarily - the trend towards mandating savings in individual, funded pension accounts worldwide. The question is whether the original and modified position of the World Bank – especially the idea of pension privatization – was the proper answer to such economic and demographic factors as demographic ageing (i.e. declining fertility rates and increases in longevity), the increasing number of years spent in retirement (including in early retirement), and growing fiscal pressures on government.

Polish colleagues will prepare a paper on the Central and Eastern European experiences with the World Bank approach. Pension reforms in Latin America could be also addressed by other participants. Other papers should – on this background - address the issues of poverty in old age, equality, funding/non funding, public finance. The papers may focus on one of the aspects or on all of them on the background of the different countries and systems. Other possible topics for discussion during the conference are for example: the issues of implementation pension reforms (for example the cost of transition from one pillar to multi-pillar pension system in post-socialist countries),

pension design and pension risks (in both accumulation and decumulation phase of pension schemes).

The ENRSP conference in Poznań should contribute not only to assessment of the primary multi-pillar model of pension system recommended by the World Bank in 1994 and its subsequent modification in terms of current knowledge about the effects of introduced pension reforms. It should also give a multi-dimensional picture of chances and threats of pension systems and pension reforms in XXI century (for example the World Bank report pointed out population aging as the main threat for pension systems and underestimated risks connected with investments of pension benefits in local and global financial market).

Since the network needs more – especially younger – members the current members are encouraged and should be committed to invite younger researchers – especially those with experience in the field to present papers and join the network.

Please submit proposals for papers until March 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 to Heinz-Dietrich Steinmeyer ([steimey@uni-muenster.de](mailto:steimey@uni-muenster.de)) and Marek Szczepanski ([marek.szczepanski@put.poznan.pl](mailto:marek.szczepanski@put.poznan.pl)).

The organizers want to publish papers from the conference in form of a scientific monograph. It would be nice if the contributors could send their papers before the conference, till August the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The Scientific Committee of ENRSP for this conference consists of Barbara Waine, Jim Stewart, Pierre Concialdi, Heinz-Dietrich Steinmeyer and Marek Szczepanski.**

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