



ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONFERENCE AND CALL FOR PAPERS

4th International Research Conference on Social Security

Brussels, 5-7 May 2003

A Social Security in a Long Life Society@

Demographic ageing, globalisation processes, radical changes in traditional family structures have major impacts on everyone's lives. The lengthening of the average life span has resulted in a tremendous impact on society, creating fresh opportunities as well as new risks. This demographic shift has been accompanied by new life patterns and family arrangements. It has also altered the balance between work and leisure time – a trend magnified by the shrinking duration of the working life and by less stable patterns of employment. Overall, these developments challenge the validity and adequacy of existing social security programmes. The evolving nature of the life cycle – and new associated risks – need to be described, analysed and taken into account in the development of innovative policies. Comparative research can offer invaluable guidance to policy makers in reshaping social security programmes to satisfy the challenges and opportunities of the emerging “long life society”.

To address these compelling issues, the next **International Research Conference on Social Security**, to be held on 5 to 7 May 2003 in Brussels, Belgium, at the invitation of the Belgian Minister of Social Affairs and Pensions Mr. Frank Vandenbroucke, will focus on the **new challenges generated by a “long life society”**, with special emphasis on new roles for families in a multi-generational and ageing society; on reassessing work and retirement in a long life society; on adapting social security schemes to the challenges of a long life society; and on the effects of migration in an ageing society.

The conference, organised as part of the International Social Security Association's research programme, has several objectives. First, it is intended **to inform and enlighten the current policy debate** on major issues facing social security as a result of the changes referred to above. Second, it is designed **to inform decision makers about recent research findings and the experiences** derived from innovative policies and programmes. Finally, the Conference will **explore the direction that research should take** in order to contribute to the overall improvement of social protection. This event follows up on the work of the “Year 2000 International Research Conference”, held in September 2000 in Helsinki, Finland. That Conference examined the impact of globalization on social security (See <http://www.issa.int/engl/publ/2conthelsinki.htm> to access the numerous papers of the conference).

The Conference will be essentially forward looking; the maximum amount of time will be devoted to discussion during sessions (some of which will be concurrent). A limited number of keynote addresses will be organized with a view to clarifying the major issues and setting the framework for discussion. The plenary sessions, and some concurrent sessions, will be interpreted in **English, French, Spanish and German**.

The ISSA encourages anyone interested in proposing a paper to submit the title of the paper, together with a short outline by **1 September 2002**. You can do this by either completing the form on page 4 or on-line at www.issa.int. Contributions should relate to the general theme or one of the specific topics as presented on page 3 and should refer to recent or current research activity or to innovative policies or programmes which are being documented by research. Contributions relating to comparative research and reports of studies with a direct bearing on the functioning of social security systems are particularly welcome.

A Scientific Committee (see below) will be responsible for the selection of papers to be presented at the Conference. There will also be an opportunity for some papers to be presented in the form of a poster session. The selected papers will be available to the participants at the Conference in the original language only. All the papers will be accessible on the **ISSA Web site** (www.issa.int). The Scientific Committee will inform the authors of proposals for contributions whether their paper has been selected or not as soon as possible after the deadline. The papers selected should then reach the ISSA General Secretariat **no later than 1 February 2003**.

An invitation to the Conference, together with a detailed programme, will be sent in November 2002 to each person who has expressed an interest in taking part in the Conference. As the ISSA is not in a position to meet the travel and subsistence costs of attendance at its meetings, participants and contributors will be expected to find the means of meeting these costs themselves. However, no registration fee will be charged for this Conference.

Scientific Committee of the Conference

Chair: Bea Cantillon, University of Antwerp (Belgium). **Members:** Jonathan Bradshaw, University of York (UK); Gøsta Esping-Andersen, University of Barcelona (Spain); Neil Gilbert, University of Berkeley (USA); Anne-Marie Guillemard, Université Paris 5 and Institut universitaire de France; John Myles, University of Toronto (Canada); Joakim Palme, University of Stockholm (Sweden); Peter Saunders, University of New South Wales (Australia); Bernd Schulte, Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Law (Germany); Erik Schokkaert, University of Leuven (Belgium); Paul Van de Water, Social Security Administration (USA); Roland Sigg, ISSA General Secretariat.

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Theme of the Conference and Research Questions

The fourth International Research Conference on Social Security will focus on challenges arising for social security in a long life society. Population ageing is changing the balance between generations and has important implications for the family, labour markets and social security. New challenges are arising: the creation of an adequate environment for older persons, in particular that of work, pensions and care, the adaptation of social security schemes, the necessity of investing in human capital in order to increase output, and the integration of migrants. The following elaborates these themes and identifies a few of the central questions that this conference will address from a research perspective.

New roles for families in a multi-generational and ageing society. Families have gone through many important changes in the last thirty years which have not always been adequately addressed by recent social security policies. As the new century unfolds, family members of all generations will be called on to play new and different roles in ensuring social protection. Public policies and the family can complement each other; social security is expected to encourage this goal. How can social security adequately cover the needs of the young and the old, while promoting family and community solidarity? How can traditional social protection strategies, based on family and community networks, be replaced or complemented when they are unable to fulfil their roles? In view of the needs arising from increasing numbers of frail elderly, who will take responsibility for the required caring work?

Reassessing work and retirement in a long life society. Active and/or productive ageing is often described as the panacea for resolving the alleged ageing crisis. Social security can either promote or hinder the processes of active ageing. The behaviour of the population aged over 50 is crucial in this regard: employment opportunities have many implications both for their health and active life and for the sustainability of pension programmes. How can the trend toward early retirement be reversed? What do we know about the effectiveness of training, rehabilitation and work resumption strategies, and how can they be improved? How could pension systems be adjusted in order to support active ageing, in particular in respect to removing disincentives to participation in some form of employment after pensionable age?

Adapting social security schemes to the challenges of a long life society. Socio-demographic changes have and will continue to have important implications for social security, in particular for pension, health and long-term care schemes. Is there a real crisis underlying the pension debate, and what measures will allow pension schemes to adapt while guaranteeing income security in an ageing society? What do we know about the sustainability of health and long-term care systems, and how can they be adapted to the changing needs of the population? How can social security be improved for the population as a whole, in particular in covering workers in precarious and informal sector employment and persons outside gainful employment? Furthermore, changes brought by a long life society require strengthening policies toward children and families, as social protection of the elderly is increasingly dependent on making the right investment in children. How can social security respond to these challenges?

Migration in an ageing society. This topic has been somewhat neglected in social security research, despite the fact that migration is playing an increasingly important role in shaping most societies and might even facilitate the transition towards a long life society. Adequate social security provisions for migrant workers are crucial to improving the contribution of these workers to the well being of societies. Can migration actually enhance the balance between the working population and the retired? What role can social security play in improving the integration of migrant workers? Are the specific needs of older migrants being taken into consideration?



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Brussels, 5-7 May 2003
"Social Security in a Long Life Society"

Request for invitation and submission of paper

Name:

Position:

Institution:

Address:

Country:

Fax:

E-mail:

G Please send me an **invitation** to the **Fourth International Research Conference on Social Security**

G I wish to submit **a paper to the Conference** (please provide a brief outline of proposal)

Title of paper:

Outline:

G I will submit the paper for poster presentation only

Send to: International Research Conference on Social Security
(before **1 September 2002**) International Social Security Association
Case postale 1, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 799 85 09

This form can be filled in and sent by Internet at www.issa.int