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Quarterly Bulletin of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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From the desk of the Chairperson

Dear Readers of Family International!

I am pleased to announce that in our last Full Committee Meeting on November 19th, 2007 the obligatory elections to the board of our committee were successfully held, and the results may be seen in this issue.

One long standing officer of the Board, Ceja Gregor-Hu, who served for the last six years as treasurer was not allowed to be elected once more in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of our Committee. Ceja Gregor-Hu performed her task very diligently, expedite and with great enthusiasm. I would like to thank her very much for her service to the Committee and I am very glad that she offered to keep working for us as auditor.

Unfortunately we are not yet in a position to publish the proceedings of our Seminar in November 2007, which included an interesting presentation from Eunice Omondi, Kenya and of Benedikt Metternich, Austria. We hope however to be able to publish these proceedings in our next issue.

Apart from information about our Committee you will also find, amongst others, in this issue, family-relevant information from the United Nations.

The relevance of our Bulletin is in part derived from the contents our members and readers are prepared to offer. Please do not hesitate to send contributions, announcements of upcoming events, reports on your activities and other information you wish to share with our readers.

I remain

Yours faithfully

Michael Schwarz

Chairperson

**SPECIAL FEATURE:
DEVELOPMENT IN AN AGING
WORLD**

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Development in an Aging World

World Economic and Social Survey 2007

Advance Planning Needed to Adapt to Ageing Populations, UN Report Says

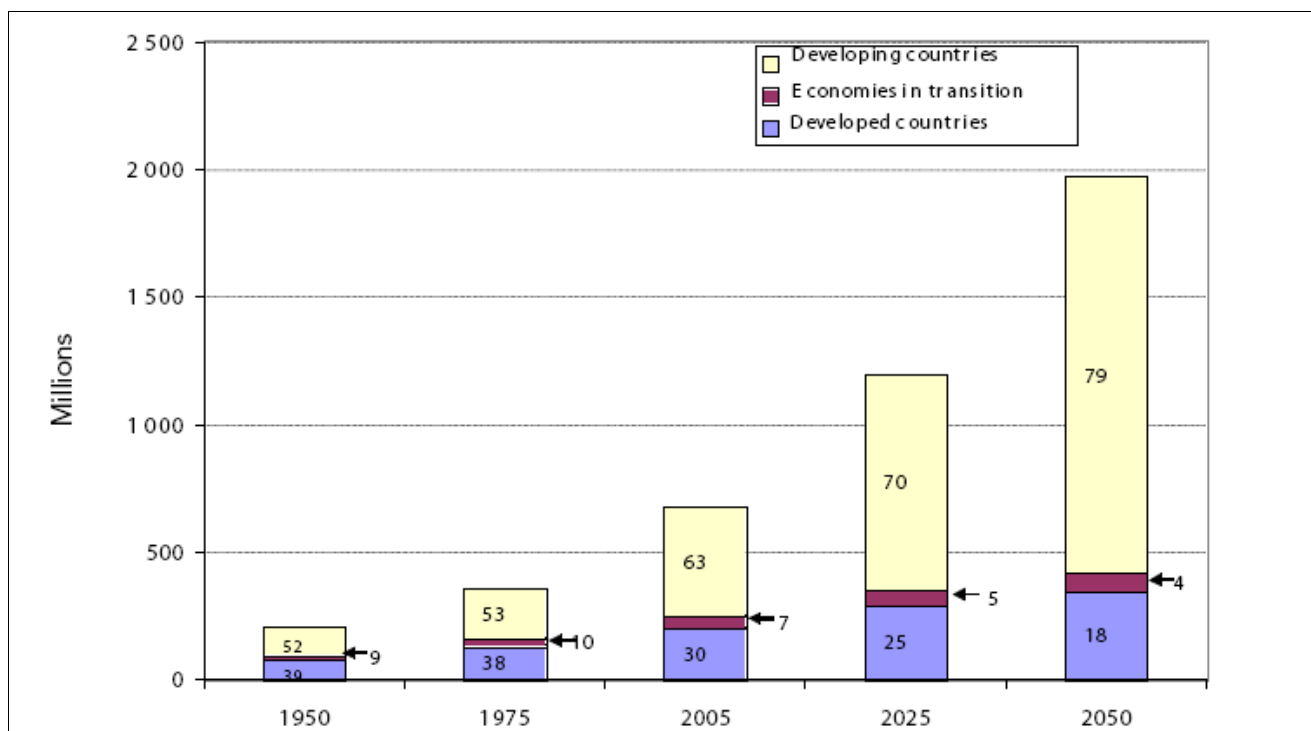
United Nations New York, 19 June: With ageing having a profound impact on economic and social development worldwide, policy responses put in place ahead of time could ease adaptation and harness the benefits of long-term demographic changes, the United Nations announces in a new report launched today.

As the proportion of older persons continues to increase at unprecedented rates worldwide, the share of the population of working age will shrink and the labour force itself will grow older, the *World Economic and Social Survey 2007 (WESS)* says.

Developing countries that still have a growing youth population, especially low-income economies, will experience a strong growth in their labour force until 2050. And that growth may open a unique window of opportunity for economic development if required policies are put in place, says the *WESS*.

At the same time, the report notes that in many developing countries the process of population ageing is already taking place and at a much faster pace and at lower levels of income than it did in developed countries. At current trends, by 2050 almost 80 per cent of the world's population of 60 years and older is expected to live in what are now developing countries. (See figure 1)

Figure 1: Size and distribution of world population aged 60 years or over, 1950, 1975, 2005, 2025 and 2050



Note: (1) The graph shows estimates (until 2005) and medium-variant projections (after 2005).
(2) Percentages are shown inside the bars. Source: UN/DESA.

While many responses to overcome the possible negative consequences of ageing on economic growth, including international migration and outsourcing of employment, have been suggested, measures geared toward stimulating productivity growth may have to carry the most weight, the *Survey* concludes. In most cases, increases in productivity would need to be coupled with measures aiming to stem the fall in labour supply, such as raising the participation rates of women and older workers. According to the *Survey*, between 60 to 85 per cent of the required increase in productivity to maintain a given rate of output growth in developed countries would be needed to offset possible negative effects of a slower growing labour force on income growth.

International migration is unlikely to provide a solution to the decline of labour force in developed countries because it is not expected that any country would admit the massive amount of migrants needed to fill the gap. To offset the projected increase in the old-age dependency ratio, the *Survey* estimates that the European Union, for instance, would require a constant net inflow of 13 millions immigrants per year in the next 50 years while Japan and the United States would each have to absorb 10 millions migrants per year.

On the other hand, outsourcing of employment to off-shore locations may alleviate labour shortage by shifting production abroad, yet it will not reduce the pressure on old-age pension system because it does not lead to the necessary expansion of the contributory base in the home country.

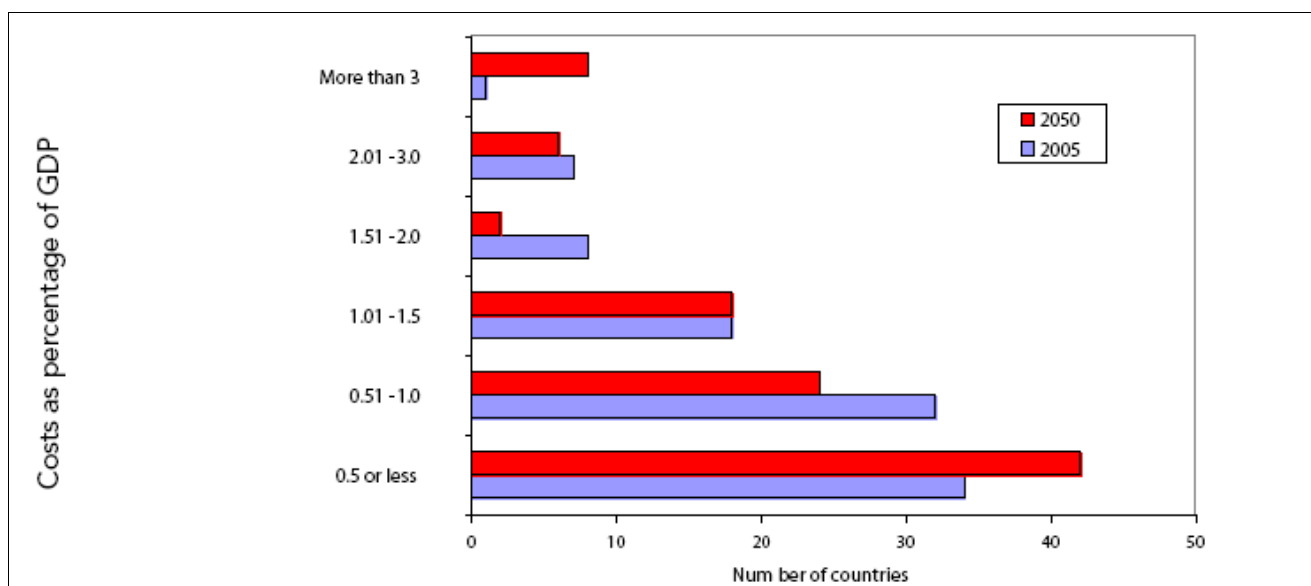
Social security and health care systems under additional strain

Ageing will also affect the income security of older persons and the financial viability of pension systems and costs of health-care systems.

Living standards often decline for people at older ages. And 80 per cent of the world's population does not have adequate protection in old age against health, disability and income risks. In developing countries alone, an estimated 342 million older persons currently lack adequate income security. The number will rise to 1.2 billion by 2050, if the coverage of current pension schemes is not expanded.

Old age poverty tends to be high in countries which lack a comprehensive formal pension system; the introduction of old age pensions and/or cash transfers towards older persons have been a powerful instrument to reduce poverty in old age both in developing and developed countries. In most contexts, a universal social pension which offers benefits equivalent to the international extreme poverty line (\$1 a day) seems to be affordable, even in low income countries, according to estimates presented in the *Survey* (see figure 2). Expanding coverage, though, is a major challenge for the poorest countries.

Figure 2: Simulated costs for developing countries of universal social pensions designed to keep older persons out of extreme poverty, 2005 and 2050.



Note: Universal pensions are estimated at \$1 per day for all persons aged 60 years or over. The annual rate of GDP growth for the period 2005-2050 is assumed to be equal to that observed in the period 1990-2005. Source: UN/DESA.

At the same time, in countries with extensive coverage, pension schemes are under pressure because of increased longevity, faulty programme design, mismanagement, insufficient economic growth and inadequate employment generation. Reforms are urgently needed.

The design of pension systems and their reform need to be based on a broad approach argues the *Survey*. Pension systems have to be tailored to country-specific conditions. In this regard, pension system can be seen as constructions consisting of multiple layers or pillars adjusted to the prevailing characteristics and needs of different segments of society. Financial sustainability is an important guiding principle in the design of a pension system, but not the only one: providing minimum economic security for all is the ultimate goal. Thus ensuring solidarity, accessibility and adequacy of benefits are other relevant principles to take into account. Overall, the *Survey* says, the demographic dynamics do not pose an insoluble problem for old-age pension schemes.

Population ageing poses challenges to national health care systems. For developed countries, ageing may imply rising health costs and attempts to maintain adequate levels and quality of health and long-term care for an ageing population. The challenge for many developing countries is even larger as, counting on fewer resources, they still have to resolve many basic health issues while addressing the increase in the demand for health care services brought about by increasingly older populations.

The challenge of adapting existing health and long-term care systems to the ongoing demographic and epidemiological changes is large. Yet, the demographic impact on health spending over the next 50 years or so would account for no more than a few percentage points of gross domestic product. As argued in the *Survey*, other factors than ageing turn out to be more important in driving up the future cost of health care, such as changes in health-seeking behaviour by individuals, inefficiencies in the delivery of health services, introduction of new medical technologies, price increases of pharmaceuticals and health insurance policies.

Population ageing will definitely influence health care expenditures, but need not consume unsustainably large shares of national income in the future. The composition of health care spending will have to undergo substantial changes with increasing importance to medical and long-term care services. In addition, policy makers should consider focused interventions in preventive health care and education, such as discouraging smoking and excessive drinking and encouraging physical exercise to reduce obesity. These measures could help to reduce the risks of developing chronic illnesses such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases later in life and be part of the actions towards containing the rise in health costs.

Challenges are surmountable and opportunities should be seized

The World Economic and Social Survey 2007 emphasizes that the challenges posed by rapid population ageing, while large, they can be overcome through well-focused policies and without excessive strain on available resources. The Survey calls on Governments and the international community to redouble efforts to incorporate ageing into the international development agenda to realize the objectives of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Summing up:

- Population ageing reflects development and is inevitable.
- Fertility and migration policies could delay, but will not avoid population ageing.
- Negative effects of slower labour force growth can be offset by increasing both overall labour productivity and participation rates for women and older workers in ageing societies
- Improved working conditions for older persons can extend working life and enhance their contribution and participation in the economy.
- Old age pension systems must be based on multi-pillar systems, but with a universal social pension scheme at its basis to provide a minimum of income security and keep older persons out of poverty.
- Health and long-term care systems need to be reformed and adapted to ageing populations. Health cost will likely rise in coming decades, but ageing is not the principal factor. Health and long-term care cost may be contained by focusing on preventive action, measures that limit rising costs of drugs and treatments and promotion of home-based care systems.

For further information, please visit <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/> or contact Rob Vos, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, + 1 212 963 4838, vos@un.org or Franck Kuwonu, UN Department of Public Information, +1 212 963 8264, email: kuwonu@un.org.

From the United Nations



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 January 2008

Sixty-second session

Agenda item 62 (b) 07-47151

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/62/432)]

62/129. Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004 and 60/133 of 16 December 2005 concerning the proclamation of the International Year of the Family and the preparations for, observance of and follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

Noting that in paragraph 5 of its resolution 59/111 and paragraph 2 of its resolution 59/147, respectively, the General Assembly underlined the need to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities in dealing with family issues,

Noting also that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 constituted an important opportunity to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of efforts at all levels to carry out specific programmes within the framework of the objectives of the Year,

Aware that a major objective of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family is to strengthen national institutions in formulating, implementing and monitoring policies in respect of families,

Recognizing the need for additional capacity-building at the national and regional levels in order to promote and facilitate the implementation of the mandated objectives of the International Year of the Family, taking into account that national capacity development in the area of family policy-making continues to be a major concern for many countries,

Convinced of the necessity of ensuring an action-oriented follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family beyond 2004,

Recognizing the important catalytic and supportive role of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions in ensuring an action-oriented follow-up in the field of the family,

Cognizant of the need for continued inter-agency cooperation on family issues in order to generate greater awareness of this subject among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Convinced that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking in respect of family policy development and capacity-building,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. *Encourages* Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to integrate a family perspective into national policymaking;

2. *Commends* the important contribution made by all Member States at all levels to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family, and in this regard welcomes the efforts of Member States to pursue these objectives, including those of the Government of Qatar, which has established an International Institute for Family Studies and Development;

3. *Urges* Member States to create a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

4. *Invites* Governments to continue to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues, and encourages the United Nations Programme on the Family, within its mandate, to assist Governments in this regard, including through the provision of technical assistance to build and develop national capacities in

the area of formulating, implementing and monitoring family policies;

5. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

6. *Recommends* that United Nations agencies and bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions and the private sector play a supportive role in promoting the objectives of the International Year of the Family and contribute to developing strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

8. *Decides* to consider the topic "Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" at its sixty-fourth session under the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family".

76th plenary meeting
18 December 2007

Commission for Social Development



UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division for Social Policy and Development

46th Session, 6 to 15 February 2008, New York

The Forty-Sixth Session of the Commission for Social Development will be held from 6 to 15 February 2008. The opening meeting will take place on Wednesday, 6 February, at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 4, UN Secretariat Building, New York.

The **provisional annotated agenda**, with the organization of work and the current membership, is contained in document [E/CN.5/2008/1](#). Members of the Commission, as well as observers, who wish to attend the session and be included on the list of participants, are kindly requested to communicate the composition of their delegations to the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Otto Gustafik (fax 1 (212) 963-5935; e-mail: gustafik@un.org).

The Theme is: "**Promoting Full Employment and Decent Work For All**"

Commission for Social Development

Forty-sixth session

6-15 February 2008

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 November 2007
Original: English

Excerpt from:

Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

(a) Priority theme: promoting full employment and decent work for all

In its resolution 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, the Economic and Social Council decided that the theme for the 2007-2008 review and policy cycle would be "Promoting full employment and decent work for all", taking into account its interrelationship with poverty eradication and social integration. The Commission reviewed the theme at its forty-fifth session in 2007. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme for the policy part of the 2007-2008 cycle.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting full employment and decent work for all (E/CN.5/2008/4)

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

(ii) World Programme of Action for Youth

(iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

(iv) Family issues, policies and programmes

The Commission will consider issues pertaining to the situation of social groups. It will have before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development as well as reports of the Secretary-General on the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its regional implementation.

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/index.html>

Vienna NGO Committee on the Family



United Nations

23 November 2007

Economic and Social Council

Commission for Social Development

Forty-sixth session

6-15 February 2008

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda¹

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: promoting full employment and decent work for all

Statement submitted by the International Federation for Family Development on behalf of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

Statement

1. "Social development requires the assurance to everyone of the right to work and the free choice of employment. Social progress and development require the participation of all members of society in productive and social useful labour" (Declaration on Social Progress and Development, General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969).

2. "Particular efforts by the public and private sectors are required in all spheres of employment policy to ensure gender equality, equal opportunity and non-discrimination on the basis of race/ethnic group, religion, age, health and disability, and with full respect for applicable international instruments." Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (chap. 3, para. 45).

Employment and decent work

3. Women and men are entitled to obtain decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. Social welfare policy should be an integral element in a broad strategy of increasing employment opportunities for both women and men.

4. The three core issues addressed by the World Summit for Social Development: the alleviation and reduction of poverty; the expansion of productive employment; and the enhancement of social integration are crucial objectives in order to achieve sustainable development. These objectives should encompass the task of addressing and redressing the global inequalities and the waste of human resources generated by the lack of productive employment. The unemployed are excluded not only from economic benefits, such as social insurance, pension and medical care, but also from social activities and participation in community life. It is imperative that offers of employment exclude forced, bonded and slave labour and unacceptable forms of child labour. The degradation of labour must be vigorously located and eradicated in the labour market. Social welfare policy should be an integral element in a broad strategy of increasing employment for both women and men and should ensure that such work is as productive as possible.

Employment and families

5. What are often perceived as economic policies actually affect and are affected by the ties that exist within family units and the resources generated by families. Labour market programmes are generally focused on individuals as units of labour, rather than on family units, as the basis of primary human societies.

¹ E/CN.5/2008/1

6. Families are a reflection of the strengths and weaknesses of the social fabric and, as such, offer a comprehensive approach to, and understanding of, global problems. Unemployment is one of the problems faced by families. In many cases a family can provide a buffer when one or more of its members are unemployed. The family dimension, therefore, should be taken into con-

sideration when dealing with programmes on employment and decent work.

7. Special attention should be given to the need for multilateral approaches to facilitate family and work responsibilities. These should include flexible working hours or part-time work for women and men and childcare facilities to assist parents in taking care of their children.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Projects of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family have been supported since its inception in 1985 by:

- ❖ Austrian Federal Government
- ❖ Bank Austria Creditanstalt
- ❖ Berndorf Gruppe
- ❖ Country Womens Association in Lower Austria
- ❖ E.F.T. Transportagentur GmbH
- ❖ European Commission
- ❖ Government of Germany
- ❖ Government of Liechtenstein
- ❖ Government of Luxembourg
- ❖ Government of Spain, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands
- ❖ INGOs
- ❖ Lower Austrian State Government
- ❖ Niederösterreichische Versicherungs AG
- ❖ OMV
- ❖ Rotary International
- ❖ Schoeller-Bleckmann Oilfield Equipment AG
- ❖ Shell Austria AG
- ❖ Siemens



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

In two Full Committee Meetings representatives of the 43 International Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), who are members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, and 22 associate member organisations, discussed various institution-building projects and activities and approved the proposed Plan of Action for 2007. The Board of the Committee worked out a schedule for its implementation, which was realised in co-operation with the support of the member organisations of the Committee and their representatives. The world wide network of civil society organisations, research and university institutes, government agencies and individuals continues to be, not only a beneficiary of interactive exchange, but is in many cases, directly involved in the work of the Committee.

The following projects were realised in 2007

1. Families International

Three issues, Nos. 62 – 64 of the Quarterly Bulletin of the Committee were published.

Special features included proceedings from our International Forum: Microcredits and Families and from a further International Forum: Microcredits and Families – Cooperation across Borders. These issues may be downloaded from our website.

2. International Forum Microcredits and Families on May 22nd 2007

An International Forum titled Microcredits and Families was held on May 22nd at the United Nations Vienna International Centre. Dr. Andreas Galik from the bank Schelhammer & Schattera, Vienna, gave a report on the possibilities of ethical investment, especially in funds concentrating on providing microcredits to citizens in developing countries. Gerhard Novy, representative of Oicocredit in Austria gave an in-depth report on the work and on the methods of a company working in the field of microcredits.

3. International Forum Microcredits and Families – Cooperation across borders on November 19th

An International Forum on: Microcredits and Families – Cooperation across boarder was held on November 19th at the United Nations Vienna International Centre. Benedikt Metternich, from ICEP, Vienna reported on the work of ICEP in the field of development aid via providing funds and support for various projects connected with microcredits. Eunice Omondi from Imani, Nairobi – a partner organisation if ICEP – reported on the work in the field in Africa and on the difference these microcredits have on the situation of families, using the funds and projects provided for from ICEP.

4. Co-operation with the United Nations Organisation

- (a) An international NGO Statement which was prepared by the members of the Committee and signed by ECOSOC accredited member organisations was submitted to the Commission for Social Development of the United Nations and became an official document of the CSD in 2008.
- (b) The Board of the Committee circulated the Message of the United Nations Secretary-General on the occasion of the International Day of Families on May 15th 2007 to the various networks of the Committee and kept these networks informed with documents of United Nations Resolutions pertaining to family issues.

5. Web Site and Home Page of the Committee www.viennafamilycommittee.org

The web page of the committee was constantly updated and is the main vehicle to publish our quarterly bulletin Families International. Issues No. 37 to 64 may be downloaded from our website without cost to the reader or to the Committee. In 2007 the webpage of the Committee was visited more than 8.000 times.

6. Elections to the Board

During the Full committee meeting on November 19th, 2007 the elections to the board were held according to the rules of the Committee.

The results were as follows:

Chairperson:	Michael Schwarz, IFFD
Deputy Chairperson:	Chairperson: Peter Crowley, ICAA
Secretary:	Maria Helena Paes, PROSALIS
Deputy Secretary:	Monika Hummel, Intl Kolping Society
Treasurer:	Thomas Kloiber, FAFCE
Member:	Lily Gauci, FCCFM

In the first meeting of the newly elected board the following were coopted to the board:

Eva Matt, Consumers International
Toni Gauci, ICCFM
Günther Danhel, IEF

PLAN OF ACTION 2008

I. SERVICE TO THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- (1) **FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL** (QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY): EXPANDING THE INFORMATION EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE PUBLICATION IN OUR WORLD-WIDE NETWORK OF PARTICIPANTS THROUGH:

- i. SPECIAL FEATURES ON FAMILY ISSUES & POLICIES
- ii. PUBLICATION OF PRESENTATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL FORUMS ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE
- iii. NEWS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS RELEVANT TO FAMILIES & FAMILY-ORIENTED ORGANISATIONS
- iv. NEWS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMM ON THE FAMILY
- v. NEWS FROM THE VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY
- vi. FAMILY RELATED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION NEWS
- vii. RECENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS
- viii. PUBLICATIONS - PERIODICALS AND MAGAZINES
- ix. INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY-ORIENTED ORGANISATIONS

- (2.) **INTERACTIVE-INTERNET-FORUMS**

- i. IMPROVING FUNCTIONALITY AND USABILITY OF INTERACTIVE INTERNET FORUMS
- ii. UPDATING INTERACTIVE FACILITIES FOR WWW.CIVILSOCIETYNETWORKS.ORG
- iii. SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENT OF INTERACTIVE INTERNET FORUMS

- (3) **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- i. ORGANIZATION OF TWO FULL COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN VIENNA AND TWO INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

II. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

- (1) COOPERATION WITH THE PROGRAMME ON THE FAMILY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)
- (2) SUBMISSION OF JOINT INGO WRITTEN STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE TO THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CSD) 2008 IN NEW YORK

III. PROJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE

- (1) INTERACTIVE-INTERNET- FORUMS

COORDINATOR: PETER CROWLEY

- (2) FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: EVA MATT

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: PETER CROWLEY
MICHAEL SCHWARZ

- (1) COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

COORDINATOR: ROSINA SANTA OLALLA

- (2) DATABASES OF THE COMMITTEE

COORDINATOR: MONIKA HUMMEL

- (3) FINANCES

COORDINATOR: THOMAS KLOIBER

From the European Union - European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008)



Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008

The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have declared the year 2008 the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue ([Decision No. 1983/2006/EC](#)).

The overall objectives of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008) are:

- promoting intercultural dialogue as a process in which all those living in the EU can improve their ability to deal with a more open, but also more complex, cultural environment, where in different Member States as well as within each Member State, different cultural identities and beliefs coexist,
- highlighting intercultural dialogue as an opportunity to contribute to and benefit from a diverse and dynamic society, not only in Europe but also in the world,
- raising awareness of all those living in the EU, in particular young people, of the importance of developing an active European citizenship which is open to the world, respects cultural diversity and is based on common values in the EU as laid down in Article 6 of the EU Treaty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU,
- highlighting the contribution of different cultures and expressions of cultural diversity to heritage and ways of life of the Member States.
- The activities, envisaged to achieve the objectives of the Year, include:
- events and initiatives on a European scale aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue, through involving directly or otherwise reaching as many people as possible, and highlighting achievements and experiences on the theme of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue;
- events and initiatives at national level and regional level with a strong European dimension aimed at promoting the objectives of the Year, with particular attention being given to actions relating to civic education and learning to appreciate other people and their differences;
- information and promotion campaigns, particularly in cooperation with the media and civil society organizations as Community and

national level to disseminate the key messages concerning the objectives of the Year and the

recognition of best practices, especially among young people and children;

- surveys and studies on a Community or national scale and consultation with transnational networks and civil society stakeholders.

The Program will contribute to giving expressions and a high profile to a sustained process of intercultural dialogue which will continue beyond the year 2008. Intercultural dialogue will thus contribute towards achieving a number of EU's strategic priorities, in particular by respecting and promoting cultural diversity in Europe, encouraging active European citizenship, contributing to equal opportunities and non-discrimination, and emphasizing cooperation and greater cohesion based on the common values in the EU.

Main target group of the Program is civil society; youth in particular, the key methods for achieving the objectives of the Year include promotion and exchange of good practices, as well as emblematic actions related to culture and education.

In accordance with the Decision's articles, regulating the cooperation by the Member States, each Member State appoints a national coordination or an equivalent administrative body, responsible for organizing that Member State's participation in the Year. In Slovenia, the coordinator of the Year is the Ministry of Culture, assisted by the [National Coordination Body for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue](#), trans-sectoral working group, appointed by the Minister of Culture. The National Coordination Body with the representatives of the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Sport, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Office of the RS for Youth, Government Office for European Affairs and Government Communication Office, has prepared a [national strategy for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue](#), a strategic document for the implementation of the Decision in Slovenia. Furthermore, it prepared and published a call for

proposals for an action on a national scale, selected the project Europe in School by the [Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth](#) and made a proposition to the European Commission concerning the abovementioned project. The National Coordination Body will actively participate in the implementation of the national strategy, as well as coordinate all actions related to the Year, organized by the [Ministry of Culture](#) or [other ministries](#).

In cooperation with the European commission, the Ministry of Culture is preparing an [opening event of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue \(2008\)](#) at the Community level, which is going to take place on 7 and 8 January in Ljubljana, at the very beginning of the Slovenian EU Presidency. The overall Program consist of a series of events,

all dedicated to the theme of intercultural dialogue, with an international conference entitled Intercultural dialogue as the Fundamental Value of the EU and various program events (an exhibition on the role of media in stimulating intercultural dialogue, screening of short films presenting case studies on coexistence of cultures in multiethnic societies and signing of media protocol). The evening ceremony on 8 January will officially launch the European Year of Intercultural dialogue (2008).

The European Commission appointed 12 European Ambassadors for Intercultural Dialogue, committed to the objectives of the Year. On the proposition of Slovenia, this honorary title has also been conferred upon [Marko Peljhan](#), renowned Slovenian artist.

Recent and forthcoming events

31ST JANUARY 2008

HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ENTITLED “EUROPE’S LOOMING DEMOGRAPHIC CRUNCH: THE SEARCH FOR NEW LABOUR AND WELFARE POLICIES”

Bibliothèque Solvay – Parc Léopold – 137 Rue Belliard – 1040 Brussels 9.00h – 14.30h

WHAT, WHERE & WHEN:

High-level international summit entitled “*Europe’s Looming Demographic Crunch: the Search for New Labour and Welfare Policies*”, co-organised by *Friends of Europe*, Swiss Life and Gallup, with the support of Adecco, the European Confederation of Private Employment Agencies (Eurociett) and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND), with media partners *Europe’s World* and EurActiv.com.

It will be held at the Bibliothèque Solvay in Brussels on Thursday, 31 January 2008.

Under discussion:

Consequences of Demographic Changes – Ageing – Economic Impact of Current Demography – Policy Measures for Addressing Labour Shortage – Flexicurity – Labour Mobility – Family Policies – Finance of Healthcare and Pensions – Role of the Private Sector for Pensions and Healthcare

People:

This European Policy Summit will bring together top-level speakers from all over Europe for a lively and interactive debate. They include:

- **Joaquin Almunia**, EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs
- **Robert Anderson**, Coordinator of the Living Conditions research programme at the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND)
- **Wolfgang Clement**, Chairman at the Adecco Institute and former German Minister of Economics and Labour
- **Aart de Geus**, OECD Deputy Secretary-General and former Dutch Minister of Social Affairs and Employment
- **Marian Hošek**, the Czech Republic’s Deputy Minister for Social Policy, Social Services and Family Policy
- **Annemarie Muntz**, President of the European Confederation of Private Employment Agencies (Eurociett)
- **Catelene Passchier**, Confederal Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- **Jose Silva Peneda MEP**, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and rapporteur of “A European Social Model for the Future”

We hope you will be able to join our audience of EU, international and national senior representatives, business leaders, social partners, academia and members of the international press at the Bibliothèque Solvay.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Please [click here](#) to download the **programme and registration form** (regular updates can be found on our website www.friendsofeurope.org). You may return the registration

By fax, +32 (0)2 738 75 97

or by email: registrations@friendsofeurope.org.

6 – 15 FEBRUARY 2008

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

46th Session,
6 to 15 February 2008, New York

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

(a) Priority theme: promoting full employment and decent work for all

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/index.html>

26 – 29 MARCH 2008

16TH WORLD FAMILY THERAPY CONGRESS

Porto, Portugal

'Transformation and Globalization: Family Therapy in the 21st Century' is the theme of the International Family Therapy Association congress. The congress will explore how family therapy contributes to the changes being experienced by families worldwide; the impact of post-modernism on the field; and Intimacy, Desire, and Domesticity.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Conference website - www.paragon-conventions.com/ifta2008;
Email: ilev@paragon-conventions.com

14 – 16 APRIL 2008

1ST NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FAMILY AND COMMUNITY STRENGTHS CONFERENCE

Newcastle, NSW

The conference will focus on the strengths of Indigenous families and communities. Recognising that connection to community, country and culture is central to Indigenous family well being, delegates will explore how Indigenous cultures strengthen families and communities. The conference will present stories from those working to strengthen Indigenous family and community engagement. Convened by the Family Action Centre at the University of Newcastle in partnership with the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Incorporated (SNAICC).

FURTHER INFORMATION: Conference website: www.pco.com.au/family;
Email: family@pco.com.au;
Phone: (02) 4984 2554

15TH OF MAY 2008

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

The theme for the International Day of Families 2008 is **Fathers and Families: Responsibilities and Challenges**

28 – 29 MAY 2008

CHILD AND YOUTH RESEARCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY: A CRITICAL APPRAISAL

Nicosia, Cyprus

This is the first international conference organised by the International Childhood and Youth Research Network. One of the main aims of the conference is to critically explore the intersection between research, policy, and practice by facilitating a dialogue between the different perspectives. The conference envisions a productive, inter-disciplinary dialogue among the various stakeholders who are, in different ways, involved in the lives and welfare of children and youth. Topics may include:

- Globalization, migration, consumption
- Poverty, inequalities and social exclusion
- Children's rights and children's participation
- Children in divided societies
- Education, citizenship, identity
- Methodological issues
- Theory in child and youth studies
- Gender, ethnicity, race, and disability
- Child labor, child work
- The ethics of child and youth research
- Daily life of children and youth
- Practitioner research

Call for papers: proposals are invited for presentations and sessions in a variety of formats. Closing date for submissions is 31 January 2008.

FURTHER INFORMATION: International Childhood and Youth Research Network website: www.icyrnet.net;

Email contact: Christos Chrysanthou at christos@cycollege.ac.cy

10 – 13 JUNE 2008

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON COUPLE AND FAMILY RELATIONS

55th International Conference

In collaboration with Väestöliitto

SUSTAINING SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGES AND RELATIONSHIPS: DREAM OR REALITY?

Helsinki, Finland

CONTACT: <http://www.iccfr.org/en/index.php>

ICCFR-CIRCF Secretariat:

4 Barnfield Wood Close
Beckenham
Kent BR3 6SY
England
Phone/Fax: +44 +208 +663+0445
Email: secretariat@iccfr.org

12 – 14 JUNE 2008



3RD EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF FAMILY SCIENCE!

Program

Variety of the European Families

(Conference language: English and German)

Thursday, 12th June 2008

09.00 Welcome and opening of the Congress

09.30 Images of the Family

Questions about the contemporary Family in Europe

[Martine Segalen](#) (Paris)

Europe and its different Concepts of Families - Approaches in Political Science

[Sieglinde Rosenberger](#) (Vienna)

Aspects from Migration Research

[Rosa Aparicio Gómez](#) (Madrid)

10.30 Break

11.00 Gender Roles in the Family

Gender Roles in the Family

[Julia Brannen](#) (London)

Perspective from Men-Studies

[Walter Hollstein](#) (Basel)

Perspective from Women-Studies

[Frigga Haug](#) (Hamburg) - enquired

12.30 Break and Poster session

14.00 Parallel-Session

Images of the Family

Impact of ethical and religious factors on
Images of Families

[Thomas Knieps-Port le Roi](#) (Leuven)

Possibilities of empirical Ascertainment

[Rudolf Richter](#) (Vienna)

Gender Roles

Gender Roles and Gender Identities

[Luisa Muraro](#) (Milan)

Men in the Family

[Cornelia Helfferich](#) (Freiburg)

) Discussion

Discussion

15.30 Break

16.00 Paradigms of Developmental Psychology

[Klaus A. Schneewind](#) (Munich)

Changes in Fatherhood

[Inge Seiffge-Krenke](#) (Mainz)

Welfare Regimes and Images of Family in
Europe

[Birgit Pfau-Effinger](#) (Hamburg)

Integration of Women Studies and Men Studies
in Family Research

[Heather Hofmeister](#) (Aachen)

17.00 Discussion

Discussion

- 17.30 Closing of Session
- 18.30 **Reception** for the participants of the Congress in the University of Vienna by the Federal Minister Andrea Kdolsky and Federal Minister Ursula von der Leyen
- 19.30 Evening Talk:
Family Science - What are the Challenges for Politics, Economics and Science?
(Panel Discussion)
- Chaired by: [Wolfgang Mazal](#) (Vienna)
- Participants: [Andrea Kdolsky](#)
(Federal Minister for Health, Family and Youth; Vienna)
- [Ursula von der Leyen](#)
(Federal Minister for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth; Berlin)
- [Norbert Schneider](#)
(Family Researcher; Mainz)
- [Michael Meyer](#)
(Economist; Vienna)
- [Markus Beyrer](#)
(Secretary General, Federation of Austrian Industry; Vienna)
- N.N.

21.0 End of Discussion

22.0

Friday, 13th June 2008

- 09.00 **Globalisation and Challenges for the Family**
- Keynote
[Hans-Peter Blossfeld](#) (Bamberg)
- Co-Presentation
[Sven Kesselring](#) (Munich)
- Co-Presentation
[Martin Abraham](#) (Nürnberg)
- 10.30 Break
- 11.00 **Development and Dynamics of the Family in Europe**
- Development and Dynamics of the Family in Europe
[Johannes Huinink](#) (Bremen)
- Development in South Europe
[Giovanna Rossi](#) (Milan)
- Global Comparison and what Europe can learn
[Wolfgang Lutz](#) (Vienna)
- 12.30 Break and Poster session
- 14.00 Parallel-Session

Globalisation

Social Class and Family Formation
[Rosemary Crompton](#) (London)

Coping with Globalisation induced
Insecurities
[Rainer K. Silbereisen](#) (Jena)

15.00

Discussion

15.30

Break

16.00

Globalisation versus Work-Life-
Balance

[Janneke Plantenga](#) (Utrecht)

Family Policy in a Globalized
World

[Mary Daly](#) (Belfast)

17.00

Discussion

17.30

Closing of Session

Development and Dy- namics of the Family

Development in the new EU-Member-States
[Zsolt Spéder](#) (Budapest)

Causes for divorce
[Guy Bodenmann](#) (Fribourg)

Discussion

Family Dynamics and Systems of Social Security
[Peter Whiteford](#) (Paris)

Legal Aspects of Living- and Family Arrange-
ments

[Bea Verschraegen](#) (Vienna)

Discussion

Saturday, 14th June 2008

09.00

Results Revisited - Reports of the Parallel-Sessions

[Marina Rupp](#) (Bamberg)
[Christiane Rille-Pfeiffer](#) (Vienna)

09.45

Work, Mobility, Family in Europe

[Norbert Schneider](#) (Mainz)

10.15

Break

10.45

Social Policy, Family, Gender in Europe

[Ilona Ostner](#) (Göttingen)

11.15

Today's Family: Out of the Perspective of Children

[Lieselotte Ahnert](#) (Köln)

12.00

End of Congress

VENUE

University of Vienna, Dr. Karl-Lueger-Ring 1, A-1010 Vienna

Online Registration: <http://www.familyscience.eu/>

26 – 31 JULY 2008

XXI. IFHE WORLD CONGRESS

Congress 2008 – 100th Anniversary

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) will celebrate its 100th anniversary when it meets in Lucerne, Switzerland, July 26-31, 2008, for the XXI. IFHE World Congress. It is fitting that IFHE returns to Switzerland for this Centennial Congress, as the Federation was established in 1908 in Fribourg, Switzerland, following an international conference under the patronage of the Council of State of the Canton of Fribourg. Invitations had been sent to governments and organisations in all countries with known programs in home economics, with 750 individuals from 20 countries attending.

CONTACT:

www.ifhe2008.org

info@ifhe2008.org

Closing date for early registration March 31, 2008

Closing date for registration June 15, 2008

16 – 19 AUGUST 2008

19TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

The CFESS and the IFSW are pleased to invite Social Workers from all over the world to join the International Federation of Social Workers' (IFSW) 19th World Conference of Social Work to be held for the first time in Brazil, Salvador, Bahia State, from August 16 to 19, 2008.

The Conference theme - 'The challenge of ensuring rights in a global and unequal society' - inspires Social Workers from all over the world to think about the obstacles imposed on their professional practice by the local and global reality in a context in which the following should be highlighted:

- The globalization of socio-economic processes and extreme social inequities imposed by labour/trade and social disparities, as well as regional and international divisiveness;
- The threatened shortage of natural resources, so necessary to life and to societies, imposed by the destructive capitalist model;
- The growing militarization of global conflicts to the detriment of political negotiation.

The World Conference intends to place the most advanced form of critical social thinking at the discussion table as far as worldwide Social Work is concerned, and to provide visibility to successful professional actions in addressing this reality represented by the International Federation of Social Workers' (IFSW) five regions.

The conference, plenary sessions and paper presentations are structured around five major themes that address the main concerns of Social Workers and discuss the daily challenges and demands related to our profession:

- Ethics and Human Rights: how to address the challenges of the 21st Century.
- Challenges to the coexistence of a multiethnic world.
- Theoretical-methodological inputs to understand the social being and intervene in the social reality.
- Professional, ethical and political projects and societal projects.
- The international labor division, unemployment, poverty and self-sustainability of the planet.

It will be a unique opportunity to bring together experiences in which Social Workers from all over the world discuss and advocate on behalf of human rights, and of economic, political, and cultural democracy of an ethical, political and professional practice committed to the construction of a fair world based on solidarity....

CONTACT:

email: secretariat@socialwork2008.com

<http://www.ifsw.org/home>

Rua Teixeira Leal, 107-A, Graça, CEP:40.150-050, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.

Fone/Phone/Tel: +55 71 3336-5644

Fax: +55 71 3336-5633

4 – 7 SEPTEMBER 2008

IFA'S 9TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING

Official Venue

Palais des Congrès de Montréal

Ageing Design Montréal (ADM) is proud to invite you to the International Federation on Ageing's 9th Global Conference and Expo Ageing & Design which will take place in Montréal, Canada, from September 4 to 7, 2008. This event will combine the IFA's biannual flagship global Conference on ageing with the international debut of our new Exhibition series on Ageing and Design.

Please take the opportunity to explore this website to discover what this major encounter is all about and what Montréal, UNESCO City of Design, has to offer. We look forward to welcoming you in 2008!

ADM and the IFA would like to acknowledge the generous financial support of our principal sponsor, **AXA Canada**.

Program

The conference program is underpinned by three major documents: the *United Nations Principles for Older Persons*, the *UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* and the *World Health Organization's Active Ageing Policy Framework*.

Three themes will be explored during the four-day Conference in Montréal: **Health, Security, and Participation**. The important inclusion for this conference is that of Design, with the program examining the impact and relationship of design against these three themes. Design is a major component that must be given greater relevance towards improving the quality of life of our older citizens.

Finally, the fourth component of the conference program will be focused on the **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**, providing participants the venue to examine achievements since the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid in 2002 and to look at future opportunities to maintain focus on the needs of older people.

The IFA's 9th Global Conference on Ageing will feature symposia, workshops, poster and paper presentations addressing four main tracks:

Track A Health, and the Impact of Design on Health

Track B Participation, and the Impact of Design on Participation

Track C Security, and the Impact of Design on Security

Track D Madrid +5

CONTACT US

If you would like further information or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, contact us at:

Ageing Design Montréal

4398, Boul. St-Laurent, Suite 302

Montréal, Québec, H2W 1Z5

Canada

Tel.: +1 514 387 8859

Fax: +1 514 396 3378

Email: info@vdm-adm.ca

www.ageingdesignmontreal.ca

7 – 10 SEPTEMBER 2008

XVIIth ISPCAN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Hong Kong

The Congress is being organised by the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) in collaboration with Against Child Abuse (ACA), Hong Kong. ISPCAN congresses provide an opportunity for professionals all over the world to meet, discuss concerns, learn from each other and support each other. Apart from stopping and preventing abuse and neglect, the theme of the XVIIth ISPCAN Congress hopes to stimulate participants to move the world 'Towards a caring and non-violent community' emphasising a child's perspective along the way.

FURTHER INFORMATION: ISPCAN website - www.ispcan.org/congress2008

2 – 7 NOVEMBER 2008

ICAA LIMASSOL 2008

Planning is well under way for **ICAA's 51st International Conference on Dependencies** in Limassol, Cyprus, from 2 to 7 November 2008. Under the overall theme "**Empowerment for Practitioners**" the meeting will bring together addiction specialists from all over the world to discuss different aspects of their daily practice and related research and policies.

Keynote addresses in plenary sessions will focus on four main themes: "Managing Change", "Targeting Populations", "Reaching Youth" and "Shaping Practices".

FURTHER DETAILS on the program as well as a lot more interesting information are available on the [Conference Web Site](#) on [this site](#).
<http://www.icaa.ch/>

5 – 8 NOVEMBER 2008

70TH NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FAMILY RELATIONS ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 5-8, 2008

Peabody Hotel, Little Rock, AR

The Theme: "*Lenses on Family*"

The lenses through which we view family affect what is seen and unseen, as well as how our research findings are understood. The theme of this year's conference encompasses how families are defined, which family processes are presumed to be adaptive, and how our research findings are interpreted in the public arena.

CONTACT Conference Office at toll free 888-781-9331, ext. 15

Family related NGO news

Leonids Muceniaks,
Chairman of Union of Latvian Large Families Associations
International Day of Families 2008

The theme for the International Day of Families 2008 is
Fathers and Families: Responsibilities and Challenges

Our NGO celebrates this day since 1994 and thanks that our state - Latvia will also start to celebrate it starting this year. Such was the decision of our Parliament last year.

Please let me know how you celebrate this day and if you have video materials, which advertise this day?

Do you know which countries celebrate this day and in which countries this day is fixed in the calendars?

Do you have information which NGOs and other organizations make activities for celebrate this day every year? How they do it?

Latvia started the new initiative and nominate the **FAMILY FRIENDLY MERCHANTS** now: http://www.bm.gov.lv/eng/Information/latest_news/?doc=8523 Have your country similar activity? If yes, maybe we could start and make co-operation among similar merchants and among organizers of similar activities?

Answers on these questions could be very good helper for making activities in this day more widely!

There will be the Family Festivity on **May 24**, 2008 (as last year:

<http://www.gimenessvetki.lv/galerija.php?id=50&gal=11>) and the European Region World Family Organization Conference *On Parenting Support* from **May 25 till May 26 in Riga, Latvia**. Who would like to take part and would like to know more please write me.

CONTACT:

Leonids Muceniaks,
Chairman of Union of Latvian Large Families Associations

Leonids.Muceniaks@ltv.lv

MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

FIRST FAMILY FRIENDLY MERCHANTS WILL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES

Ministry of Children and Family Affairs (MC) will award seven family friendly companies with the *Family Friendly Merchant (FFM)* certificate. These certificates are awarded by a special commission to the qualifying companies, and it gives permission to use the *FFM* logo. The *FFM* award was established in 2007 to promote family friendly values in business and commerce.

The evaluation process was conducted by representatives of MC, Ministry of Health, The Association of Municipalities of Latvia, The State Children Rights Inspectorate, The Consumer Rights Protection Agency and members of two NVOs. The *FFM* award is valid for two years and the company can apply for reassessment afterwards.

In order to qualify for this award, company must implement a family friendly and easily accessible service and ensure benefits for the families of its employees. The policy of a *FFM* should allow equal work and family life balance and promote family oriented values in general.

The first *FFM* certificates will be awarded to 7 Latvian companies: The Puppet Theatre of Latvia, Guest House *Straumēni*, Latvija State Forests, *Latvijas Finieris* unit *Troja*, *Laima*, *SEB Unibanka* and Latvian National Television.

The *FMM* certificate is an excellent way of showing company's devotion to family oriented values.

Information on the application and evaluation process can be found at www.bm.gov.lv

2008 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

WWSF PRIZE for women's creativity in rural life

Deadline 31 March 2008

Dear WWSF Members and Friends,

The [Women's World Summit Foundation](#) cordially invites you to submit nominations for its 15th annual **PRIZE for women's creativity in rural life**, honouring creative and courageous women and women's organisations working to improve the quality of life in rural communities around the world.

Since inception of the prize program in 1994, **331** Laureates have been honoured for their creativity with a cash donation of US\$ 500 each and US\$ 3000 for established organizations in Africa. All Laureates and their profiles are published on our web site <http://www.woman.ch/home.php>. A travelling exposition is giving visibility to all the prize winners which has recently been exhibited at the United Nations in Geneva during a Human Rights Council session.

WWSF is happy to announce that the United Nations General Assembly (6 November 2007) decided to declare that 15 October of each year shall be officially proclaimed and observed as the International Day for rural women.

Given your experience, interest and perspective with regard to issues of development, human rights, micro-credit, peace building and empowerment of women, we greatly appreciate your participation and thank you in advance for sending us your candidates. 15 to 20 prize winners will again be selected in 2008 and several of them will be invited to Geneva to personally present their work at an award ceremony on 15 October – International Day for rural women.

Your nomination(s) should arrive no later than **31 March 2008**.

We wish you a most successful New Year and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Elly Pradervand

WWSF Executive Director

Contact for nomination guidelines:

WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation

11 Avenue de la Paix 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Email: wrwd@wwsf.ch <<mailto:wrwd@wwsf.ch>> . www.woman.ch <<http://www.woman.ch>>

Introducing

About International Inner Wheel

The Objects of the organisation are:

- 1) To promote true friendship
- 2) To encourage the ideals of personal service
- 3) To foster international understanding

The organisation has 100,000 members in about 101 countries and geographical regions worldwide.



History:

Inner Wheel began on the 10 January 1924 when Mrs Margarette Golding presided over a club formed of Rotarian wives. The roots from which International Inner Wheel has grown were established in 1934 when the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain & Ireland was formed. In 1930's clubs were formed in Australia, New Zealand and Norway.

It was realised that unity is strength and members had the wisdom and foresight to form Clubs, later establishing Districts and then Associations and National Councils.

In 1967 International Inner Wheel was formed which gave an opportunity for qualified members in any country to serve as Officers and to strengthen the unity of the organisation throughout the world.

Today:

International Inner Wheel links together members in different parts of the world including Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia & the America's. See other links for websites

<http://www.innerwheel.com/index.html>

Publications

Johannes Pfliegerl, Christine Geserick

Kinship and Social Security in Austria

A social history for the 20th century

The state and the family, including the whole network of relatives, are the two greatest providers of social security in modern Europe. Like the state, the family provides care, education and financial support to the individual. But how do state and family interact along social change? Using empirical data and findings from historical social research, the authors outline the embedding of family and kin in the Austrian social insurance system, as it evolved along the 20th century. This outline is illustrated by over 50 charts and tables for Austria and selected European countries.

The analysis provides insight into:

- The chronology of the Austrian welfare state (1850-2000)
- Statistical trends regarding family change (fertility, marriage and family forms, household size, timing of biographical key events, etc.)
- The legal evolution of social security and family policy
- Intergenerational transmission of social security
- Demographic aspects of kin availability and stability
- Changes of societal attitudes towards family relations
- A timeline of cultural ideologies and political measurements
- Gender aspects of giving and receiving social support

This Austria-focussed outline is embedded in the interdisciplinary EU-project "KASS" ("Kinship and Social Security") funded by the European Unions Sixth Framework Programme.

Johannes Pfliegerl, Mag., sociologist at the Ilse Arlt Institute on Social Inclusion Research at the University of Applied Sciences in St. Pölten with research areas: sociology of family, youth welfare, family and migration.

Christine Geserick, M.A., sociologist at the Austrian Institute for Family Studies at the University of Vienna with the research areas: sociology of family, youth and gender.

ISBN: 978-3-7065-4480-1

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Familienforschung - Schriftenreihe des Österreichischen Instituts für Familienforschung

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<http://www.studienverlag.at>

© COMECE, NOVEMBER 2007

Proposal for a Strategy of the European Union for the Support of Couples and Marriage

A Working Document of the COMECE Secretariat

Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community

Rue Stévin, 42 – B-1000 Brussels – Belgium

Tel. +32 (0)2 235.05.10 – Fax +32 (0)2 230.33.34 www.comece.eu

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- ❖ Government of Liechtenstein
- ❖ Government of Luxembourg
- ❖ Government of Spain, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands
- ❖ INGOs
- ❖ Niederösterreichische Landesregierung
- ❖ Niederösterreichische Versicherungs AG
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- ❖ United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities

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Josefstraße 13, A-3100 St. Pölten, Austria, Fax: 43-2742-7222210,
Email: famcom.vienna@utanet.at, Web: <http://www.viennafamilycommittee.org>

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