
EISS Conference 2023

Fulda, 21-22 September 2023
Venue: Fulda Transfer - Heinrich-von-Bibra-Platz 1a, 36037 Fulda

Introduction

Social security for surviving dependents was originally linked to the financial security of widows (and orphans) when the male sole breadwinner model was predominant. Survivors’ benefits were therefore introduced primarily out of social considerations, in order to prevent poverty from occurring after the family breadwinner had ceased to exist.

In the present, on the other hand, the benefits are increasingly aimed at ensuring that widows and widowers can maintain their standard of living.

As a result of social change, it must be questioned whether the provisions for surviving dependants are up to date. Increased female employment, non-marital partnerships, same-sex partnerships and a drastic increase in the number of divorces are now a reality everywhere.

Some social security systems have already reacted to this, others are still in the process of reform. What recent reforms have there been in survivors’ insurance in Europe? What is the international (legal) framework? What do developments in the global field look like? What happens in case of divorce? These will be some of the questions discussed during the conference.

Preliminary Programme

Day 1 – Thursday 21 September 2023

Morning Session
9.00-9.30 Arrival & Registration

9.30-10.00 Welcome & Opening
Franz Marhold, President of the EISS

Introduction to the Conference
Stamatia Devetzi & Jochen Reinhard, University of Applied Sciences Fulda

Panel 1
10.00-11.15 Survivors’ Benefits: A Systematic Introduction
Ulrich Becker, Max-Planck-Institute for Social Law and Social Policy
How to Design Survivors’ Benefits in the 21st Century?
Christoph Freudenberg & Verena Zwinger, German and Austrian pension insurance institutions

Discussion
11.15-11.45 Coffee Break

Panel 2
11.45-13.15 Minimum Standards Regarding Survivors’ Benefits
Guido van Limberghen, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Bringing Survivors’ Pensions up to Date: The Finnish Reform in 2022
Suvi Ritola, Finnish Centre for Pensions

Discussion
13.15-14.15 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session

Panel 3
Martina Axmin & Jenny Julén Votinius, Lund University

Survivors’ Benefits and the New Concept of Family: Challenges for the Spanish Social Security System
María Salas Porras, University of Málaga

Discussion
15.45-16.15 Coffee Break

Panel 4
16.15-17.00 Survivors’ Benefits in Switzerland
Thomas Gächter, University of Zürich

Discussion
17.00-17.45 EISS General Assembly

19.30 Dinner at Fasanerie (transfer by coach included)
Day 2 – Friday 22 September 2023

Morning Session

Panel 5
9.30-10.30  Young Researchers Forum

Self-employed Workers and Their Access to Social Security Protection: A Legal Comparative Research
Fenicia Aceto, Tilburg University

The Family Dimension of Statutory Pensions in a Changing Social Context: A Study on the Solidarity of an Asymmetric Division Between Care and Work
Ruth Sierens, KU Leuven

10.30-11.15  Survivors’ Benefits and Divorce
Jochen Reinhard, University of Applied Sciences Fulda

11.15-11.45  Coffee Break

Panel 6
11.45-13.30  Survivors’ Benefits in France
Francis Kessler, Sorbonne Law School, University Paris I

Legal Facets of Survivors’ Benefits
Eberhard Eichenhofer, Jena University

Panel Discussion & Final Conclusions