

Provision for Surviving Dependants in Social Security: A New Architecture for the 21st Century?

EISS Conference 2023

Fulda, 21-22 September 2023

Venue: Fulda Transfer - Heinrich-von-Bibra-Platz 1a, 36037 Fulda

Introduction

Social security for surviving dependants 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

14.15-15.45

Survivors' Benefits in Sweden: Social Security Developments, Collective Agreements and Gender Aspects

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