JPI MORE YEARS BETTER LIVES

JOINT CALL 2015

EXTEND

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Social inequalities in extending working lives of an ageing workforce

IMPACT ON CIVIL SOCIETY AND POLICY

EXTEND focus are social inequalities in late career, retirement transitions and the post retirement phase against the context of current retirement and pension polices. It has impact in manifold areas und in the future will have even more.

The project was presented and discussed at several scientific and practical conferences as well as workshops; two papers have been submitted to scientific journals.

At one of the conferences - Work, Stress and Health 2017 conference in Minneapolis – the Finish partner of EXTEND have won the Best Intervention Competition with their paper "Enhancing late-career management and engagement in work organizations – A randomized controlled trial among older employees". They show that human resources measures programs can improve the health of in particular low-skilled older workers. In a blog post on the Future of Ageing Blog Series hosted by the International Longevity Centre – UK, which is followed by over 7000 policy makers and ageing and demographic change experts, EXTEND members discuss the challenges older workers in the health and care sector face.

How to extend the working life in the long-term care sector in a social acceptable way and while doing so not increasing inequalities is the core question of a presentation and panel discussion at the German Senior Citizens Day organized by the German EXTEND partners. This is the largest event for senior citizens in Germany were older people, policy makers, companies and other stakeholders meet.

EXTEND has been discussed with employer associations, trade unions, public pension insurances and other relevant stake holders and was received as an excellent project addressing a topic of uttermost societal importance.

SUMMARY

The project EXTEND started in April 2016. It investigates social inequalities in late career, retirement transitions and the post retirement phase against the context of current retirement and pension polices in most European countries aimed at extending working lives.

The interdisciplinary EXTEND team includes experts from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Finland, Denmark and Germany.

The research focuses not only on the societal macro level but also explicitly on a sector (the social services sector) where the goal of longer working lives is confronted with particular barriers, which disproportionately affects health- and care-professionals.

The research is "solution driven" in that the project is looking for innovative solutions on different levels, including pension and retirement policies, improving the employability of an ageing workforce and measures for healthy ageing in work.

CONSORTIUM

The consortium consists of 6 partners from 5 EU countries:

1. Forschungsgesellschaft für Gerontologie e.V., Germany: Gerhard Naegele (coordinator of project)
2. IAT Gelsenkirchen, Germany: Josef Hilbert
3. Centre for Comparative Welfare Studies, Denmark: Per Jensen
4. University of Sheffield, United Kingdom: Alan Walker
5. VU University Medical Centre Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Dorly J.H. Deeg
6. Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland: Jukka Vuori

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