

## Extending working life beyond the age of 50; challenges in cross-national research

Governments have increased their focus on keeping people in work at older ages. There is a need for good-quality, cross-national studies, to gain knowledge on the determinants of remaining in work at older ages as well as on the health consequences of extending working lives. For example, does extending working lives lead to higher sick-leave or disability pension rates?

However, such studies involve several conceptual and methodological challenges. For instance, how to define different routes to retirement across nations with different social security systems? How do we assess the relative contribution of different push and pull factors such as financial drivers, health and policy context? How to study the health consequences of remaining in work at older ages? What about socially productive roles such as informal caring? What do we mean by concepts such as sustainable or healthy working lives?

This pre-conference will focus on such challenges and on ways to handle them. It will provide opportunities to discuss collaborative cross-national research in this area.

<b>Venue</b>	Austria Center Vienna (ACV), Vienna, Austria
<b>Time</b>	Lunch-to lunch Wednesday 9 – Thursday 10 November 2016
<b>Organizing committee</b>	Jenny Head, University College London, Ewan Carr, University College London, Kristina Alexanderson, Karolinska Institutet

## Programme

### Wednesday 9 November 2016

- 12:30 ■ Lunch
- 13:30 ■ **Welcome and introduction.** Kristina Alexanderson, Professor, PhD, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, and president of the EUPHA Section of Social Security, Work & Health
- 13:40 ■ **Research and policy context: an overview.** Jenny Head, Professor, UCL
- 14:10 ■ **The renEWL study of extending working lives: methodological challenges.** Ewan Carr, Researcher, UCL
- 14:45 ■ Short introductions from all participants
- 15:00 ■ Coffee/tea break
- 15:15 ■ **Workshop 1: How do we address methodological challenges in cross-national research?** Break-out group discussions.
- 16:20 ■ Reports from group discussions
- 16:55 ■ Summing up and preparation for day two
- 17:00 ■ End of afternoon programme
- 18.00 ■ Dinner with all the participants of this pre-conference and continued discussions

## Thursday 10 November 2016

- 8:30 ■ Recap of yesterday and presentation of today's schedule
- 8:35 ■ Cross-country comparison of labour participation of older workers: an analytical framework. Angelique de Rijk, Associate Professor, Maastricht University, The Netherlands
- 9:05 ■ Health implications of the extension of retirement age: evidence from a systematic review of the literature. Zofia Bajorek, Researcher, The Work Foundation, UK
- 9:35 ■ Other experiences of challenges in cross country comparisons. Ambitions for that? Kristina Alexanderson and others
- 10:10 ■ Coffee/tea break
- 10:25 ■ **Workshop 2:** Future collaborative cross-national research: what are the gaps and how do we develop future research? Break-out group discussions
- 11:15 ■ Reports from group discussions
- 11:40 ■ Summing up: what have we learnt from this preconference and how do we move forward? Joint discussions.
- 12:00 ■ Lunch

**Lunches, tea and coffee on both days are included in the registration fee, however, not the cost for the pre-conference dinner.**

This, as the previous pre-conferences of the EUPHA Section on Social Security, Work and Health, will be a meeting place for the sickness absence researchers of Europe – to learn, develop, initiate different types of collaborations, and enjoy!

**You are most welcome!**

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