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PAPER ON WOMENS' EMPLOYMENT BY THE INSTITUTE OF EMPLOYMENT RESEARCH

In Germany the major amount of women with children is staying home the first years after their babies were born and afterwards is mostly working parttime, while the majority of fathers is working full time, also the first three years of their childrens' lifes (Research of the Federal Statistical Office). Therefor the Institute of Employment Research (IAB) published a paper on the general attitude of women in Germany between 18 and 60 towards outside family child care and when they believe mothers can return to work. The aim is to improve the financial situation of families as well as the financial independence of women. According to their paper, women between 18 and 60 in Germany believe, mothers should be able to stay home with their children the first three years and then should only have to work part time at least until their children reach the age of six. From that age on, most women find, mothers could return to a fulltime job. There is a slight discrepancy between women from Eastern and Western Germany. While in Western Germany women rather grant children a little more time at home with their mothers, in Eastern Germany they are willing to have children taken care off outisde the family several months earlier.

FIFTH GOVERNMENTAL REPORT ON POVERTY AND WEALTH

As the German Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS) announces, the German Federal Cabinet has interpreted the Federal Government of Germany's report on poverty and wealth. The report analyses the living conditions in Germany as well as the labour, income and educational situation, health and the housing conditions in differnet phases of life. The report's focus is on peoples' labor income, which for the majority of people is the main income.

The report proofs an altogether positive development of the social situation in Germany. Economic stabilty and a steady economic growth have contributed to the highest employment and lowest unemployment rate since the German reunification. Since the mid of the last decade the number of people with jobs with obligatory social security insurance has risen by six million. In the same time the number of unemployment was cut in half, the unemployment rate of juveniles has declined by 60 per cent.

The national income has risen clearly and since 2005 the wage income has risen stronger than profits of self-employed and property-income.But during the period of the report's preperation the wage income could not fully catch up its backlog of the many previous years. Also the real wages have increased noticably, most of all for low qualification jobs.

 Taking a general look at the distribution of income, existing inequalities are clearly being reduced by taxes and transfers. During the time of the report's preperation the population with average income was staying stable, as well as the part that is threatened by poverty due to low incomes. The latter has risen slightly in the finals of the report's composition. In the beginning of the former decade though the income was clearly more evenly spread than today. In comparison to other countries the inequality of asset allocation is staying high in Germany.

In Germany 44 per cent of the people have the feeling, the share of poor people has increased strongly, while 40 per cent believe, it has risen slightly and 8 per cent believe, it has been staying the same. About the share of rich people, 31 per cent believe it has risen strongly, 39 per cent believe it has risen slightly and 16 per cent think, it must be the same. 2021 people took part in the survey.

LABOR SITUATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN GERMANY

The Institute of Employment Research (IAB) is monitoring the situation of immigrants on the labor market in Germany and reports a rise of the employment rate by 0.4 percentage points for non EU citizens and by 1.7 for EU citizens compared to the previous year.

The unemployment rate of non EU citizens rised as well by 0.3 percentage points but is rather referred to the strong increase of migrants from foreign countries in war situations. The unemployment rate of EU-citizens declined by 0.8 percentage points. According to the IAB it is likely that the positive development is going to continue. They see the reason in the lower employment figures of non EU-citizens in the long procedure of the asylem proceedures and the mostly lower education. They also believe that the future development depends on the quality of the lessons to learn German, the quality of the following education, the quality of the work of the job agents and the willingness of the market to accept the new employees.

In a further report the IAB noted that immigrants with origin in the non European countries who arrived one or two years ago have an employment rate of 10 per cent, the ones who arrived three years ago 22 per cent and the ones from four years ago 31 per cent. These numbers confirm the experiences from previous decades and if the development continues the same way, an employemnt rate of 50 per cent after five years is to be expected. The above mentioned criteria are necessary conditions for this kind development though.

FIRST RESULTS AFTER INTRODUCING MINIMUM WAGES

In the beginning of 2015 minimum wages of 8.50 Euro per hour were introduced in Germany. The Institute of Employment Research (IAB) now published the firts results of their observation of the labor market in the last two years. According to their report there was a sudden strong decline of so called mini jobs with low wages and no social security benefits at first the minimum wage was introduced. This effect was weakened though by the emergence of additional jobs with minimum wages and social security benefits. Since the minimum wage was introduced, about twice as many mini jobs where transfered into jobs with social security than the previous years. Some mini jobs simply disappeared nevertheless. And in some companies the working hours were reduced in a way that minimum wages were fulfilled but no social security benefits had to be paid. The new jobs with minimum wages and social security that have their origin in minijobs, turned out to be no less stable then other jobs.

FEDERAL SOCIAL COURT SETS NEW INDICATORS FOR REAL SELF-EMPLOYMENT

As the Association of Self-employed and Founders of Germany (VGSD) confirmed, the Federal Social Court decided, that one major indicator whether somebody is really self-employed or alternativly, only pseudo self-employed, which is illegal in Germany, is the income the self-employed receives for his or her work. Since self-employed have to bare the expanses for their own social security benefits themselves, their income must be higher compared to the wages of people who are permanently employed by the same company, since the company is obliged to pay the social security benefits on top of wages.