

## Older People and the Recession Seminar Series 2010

### **Three CARDI cross border events exploring aspects of ageing in a time of financial constraint**

CARDI (the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland) is launching a seminar series entitled ***Older People and the Recession***. It will examine crucial issues of concern for researchers, policy-makers and older people themselves about the impact of the recession in Ireland, North and South. Topics will include income and pensions; work and retirement; and ageing in a rural setting.

The seminars will showcase findings from four CARDI funded research projects, feature contributions from experts in each of the three areas and explore the implications for policy and practice affecting older people. The research findings are extremely timely in light of the recession resulting in plummeting values of pensions and savings for older people, job losses and budget cuts that will affect services for older people in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland for the coming decade.

#### ***Inequalities in Old Age - Old New or New Debate?*** **20 October 2010, Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin**

The first seminar will explore the impact of the economic downturn on pensions and assess income inequalities within the older population. Dr Paddy Hillyard, Emeritus Professor, Queen's University Belfast and Dr Demi Patsios, Policy Research Consultant will launch CARDI funded research on Inequalities, Pensions and the Recession. It will also mark the launch of research commissioned by CARDI on Theories of Ageing, authored by Dr Virpi Timonen and Dr Maria Pierce, Trinity College Dublin.

#### ***Living Longer - Working Longer*** **10 November 2010, Clifton House, Belfast**

The recession has also impacted on the older worker and the second event in the series aims to open up new debates on working and ageing as state pension ages are set to rise sharply both north and south. It will examine the myths, realities, challenges and opportunities relating to longer working lives and the extent to which workplaces are friendly to older workers.

#### ***An age old problem - where now for rural services?*** **9-10 December 2010, NUI Galway**

The third event in the series will focus on ageing in rural Ireland. It will examine services for older rural dwellers as the recession and budget cuts bite. The seminar will feature findings from CARDI funded research project led by Dr Aoife Ahern, University College Dublin exploring rural transport for older people and Dr Kieran Walsh, NUI Galway, on rural health.

**All the seminars are free but it is essential to book. Draft programmes for the events are listed below and at [www.cardi.ie](http://www.cardi.ie) ; where you can also register. Please indicate which seminar(s) you would like to attend on the booking form. For more information please email [info@cardi.ie](mailto:info@cardi.ie) or telephone 0044 (0) 28 9069 0066.**

## Seminar 1 - Programme

### 'Inequalities in old age - old news or new debate?'

Wednesday 20 October 2010

Level 6, Hogan Stand, Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin

[\(click here for venue and transport guide\)](#)

- 9.45am Opening Registration - Tea & Coffee
- 10.15 Welcome by Dr Roger O'Sullivan, Director, CARDI
- 10.25 **Session 1** - Chaired by Mr Robin Webster, Chief Executive Officer, Age Action Ireland.
- 10.30 Setting the Scene - *Theories of Ageing: Lenses for Understanding, Signposts for Reforming Social Protection in Old Age* by Dr Virpi Timonen, Director of SPARC and Dr Maria Pierce, Research Fellow, Trinity College Dublin.
- 11.00 Discussion
- 11.15 *Inequalities, Pensions and the Recession* by Professor Paddy Hillyard, Emeritus Professor of Social Policy, Queen's University Belfast and Dr Demi Patsios, Policy Research Consultant, Dr Francesca Lundström, Research Consultant.
- 12.00 *How Pensions Tax Policy Favours the Highest Earners in Ireland* by Professor Gerard Hughes, Visiting Professor, Trinity College Dublin.
- 12.20 Discussion
- 12.50 Lunch
- 1.55 **Session 2** - Chaired by Ms Patricia Conboy, Project Director, Older and Bolder.
- 2.00 *Pensions and Older Women* by Dr Aine Ní Léime, Programme Co-ordinator, ICSG (Irish Centre for Social Gerontology), NUI Galway.
- 2.20 *Government Strategy on Pensions* by Dr Orlaigh Quinn, Assistant Secretary, Department of Social Protection, Pensions Policy Section, Dublin.
- 2.50 Discussion
- 3.20 Closing remarks
- 3.30 Close