European Retirement Week

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Interviews with 14 Dutch & 15 international DC pension funds

Australia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States

- Great variety of communication means and strategies, little consensus
- Lack of engagement is a universal challenge for pension institutions
- Technology, communication, and financial advice can be used as strategies for increasing engagement



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- Share knowledge
- Set explicit communication goals
- Improve evidence-base for communication
- Represent communication in board



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Average rating: 6.8 (1-10) 50% gives a 7 or higher





Groupings of Beliefs, Emotions and Attitudes

Type of response	Beliefs	Emotions	Attitudes
Positive response to system change and	Pensions need to change.	Нарру	Positive, optimistic,
positive expectations	This ensures a fairer distribution of pensions		receptive
	This will positively impact my pension		
Negative expectations	My pension will be further lowered	Angry	Victimized
	In fact, the new rules are not new.	Afraid	
	My pensions were /are entitled to get an	Taunted	
	indexation.		
Negative response to the system change	There is a hidden agenda	Suspicious	We versus the system
	Pension funds profit from the change	Aversion	Distrust
	Government meddles in pensions		
Neutral response to system change and no	I cannot oversee / understand the impact (yet)	Uncertain	Awaiting
expectations (yet)	This is too difficult for me	Confused	

Van Hekken, Hofs, Brüggen, 2021



Key findings

- Very basic knowledge and language level
- Simplicity leads to understanding. Understanding leads to questioning
- People don't want to hear "our" story. "What's in it for me (in €)?"
- Different beliefs about retirement
 - Previous experiences, misconceptions and (sometimes incorrect) interpretations of the information in the text influence reactions
 - Participants are not 'blank' about pensions
- Cross-border workers: added complexity, even more beliefs, that may not transfer to a different country



Pension Communication

- Actuarially and legally correct
- Complete
- Understandable
- Good arguments
- Suitable for unconscious way of processing information? Accounting for behavioral biases and beliefs?
- Tension understandability legal correctness





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