

**Hannes Androsch Prize 2011
Awarded to Markus Knell
4. May 2011,
Festsaal of the Austrian Academy of Sciences**

**Adress of Hannes Androsch
Sponsor of the Hannes Androsch Foundation**

(The spoken word applies!)

This evening is a very special occasion for me, personally, and is so for a number of reasons. But first, I would like to offer my most heartfelt thanks to all those who have contributed to the success of this evening. My very special thanks I extend to the Presidium and the members of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In addition, my gratitude is due to all those who have been involved with my foundation, in successfully organizing the international competition and the process of awarding the prize.

It gives me a deep sense of gratification that the topic of the competition struck a chord in the world-wide scientific community. This can be seen from the fact that 17 submissions, of outstanding quality, were received. These came from a wide range of countries.

The Board of my foundation went to great lengths, to ensure that the awarding of the prize, scrupulously followed objective procedures of fairness and internationally valid rules.

It was no light task for the Commission of Experts from the Austrian Academy of Sciences, to draw-up a short list of papers from the numerous submissions. More challenging still was the task of the international Group of Experts, who received this short-list in a completely anonymous form. They were charged with the responsibility of evaluating these works in terms of their scientific originality, as well as on the basis of their relevance for economic and social policy. Arguably the easiest task of all was performed by the board of my foundation, which was obliged to confirm the verdict of the international Group of Experts. I would like to take this opportunity, officially to congratulate Markus Knell, on his wonderful achievement in being the declared winner of this competition. I would also like to congratulate, and thank, all the other authors, who submitted entries. Many of these are outstanding by any standard, and we fully appreciate the effort and commitment they invested in researching such an important topic.

Dear guests, the award-winning work of Markus Knell is already available before you, in a special edition we have prepared for this occasion. This has only been made possible through the untiring and extraordinary efforts of Ilse Gatterbauer, the General Secretary of the foundation. In the name of all here present, I would like to thank her for her efforts.

It is our intention to publish the study by Markus Knell, as the first publication in a new scientific series of the foundation. This series will bear the title "Studia Socia Oeconimia". We shall also invite all the other authors, whose studies were placed on the short list, to allow us to publish their work in this series as well. We are currently seeking an internationally renowned publisher for this series.

The numerous submissions to the theme of the competition bear eloquent testimony to its current importance and relevance. The topic promises to become even more pressing in the future, unless we can soon produce models which are capable of addressing our future needs. These models must incorporate future developments in society as well as other foreseeable changes. Knell shows that the pay-as-you-go system, whose imminent demise has often been proclaimed, can still function as a sustainable foundation for our pension system, providing we can make appropriate adjustments to certain social parameters. At present, a growing number of young people are concerned about their future, and the apparent inadequacy of the State-guaranteed pension system in assuring their financial security in old-age. This makes it all the more important to counteract this concern, by providing a clearly viable, future-oriented, pension system.

This prize, which we are awarding for the first time today, is intended to foster discussion in the area of social policy, and not remain confined to academic circles solely. This is very much in the spirit of the objectives which are enshrined in the articles of association of the foundation. The goal is to identify social problems and to seek appropriate solutions, which will serve the needs of national and international social harmony and the interests of peace. In this endeavor, dear guests, I would ask you to continue your valued support for the efforts of the foundation.

I sincerely hope that this study by Markus Knell will reach a wide audience and stimulate a great deal of public discussion. In the future, his carefully worked-out thesis should provide a foundation for a sustainable model of our pension system.

Once more, I would like to thank everyone involved in this worthwhile project and for your efforts in ensuring its success.

Dear Markus Knell, I would like to congratulate you on your magnificent achievement in providing such a valuable contribution to this important topic. I wish you every success in the future, not least in the new challenge you face as a soon-to-be father.

All the best!