



Happy new year?

While we would like to wish you the best for the new year, recent events in the international and European environment are worrying rather than comforting. Volatile financial cracks, bankruptcies and frauds area leading to alarm and insecurity, with some forecasting a recession in the US. These international upheavals are combined with national long-term trends such as the ageing populations in many countries, the development of service-intensive economies and changes in social protection and organisation of the labour market.

In Europe, the Commission has proposed a compromise around the notion of internal and external flexicurity and its extension throughout the European countries, that has not been without criticism. The Newsletter presents some documents on this debate and provides an overview of the reports that aim to consolidate economic and social policy. However, in the name of the principles of free movement, the European Court of Justice has recently (in the [Viking](#) and [Laval](#) cases), provided another message which is clearly in favour of commodification of the labour market. These decisions can lead to a depletion of the 'European Social Model'. If it is to be preserved, Europe's political direction needs to be redefined and investment needs to be made by the EU and member states to develop sustainable social protection and solidarity for the future.

In this Newsletter, [Giuliano Bonoli](#), professor in social sciences, reminds us of the main social welfare's aims on well-being, drawing on his comparative knowledge and with special reference to the Swiss case.

The Nordic welfare states are often seen as a model by the other European countries. But what will be the consequences of the ECJ on these systems? Will we re-discover, as in the early eighties or nineties, the threat of retrenchment or dismantlement of the national social welfare states? The Annual Conference of RECWOWE organised in Oslo (10-14 June 2008) will focus its plenary sessions on the new challenges of the Nordic social model vis-à-vis European decisions and international challenges.

In this Newsletter No.2, you will also find some other [news on the activities](#) of RECWOWE.

Denis BOUGET

CONTENT

[1 - INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH](#)

Giuliano Bonoli, Professor of Social Policy at the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP)

[2 – NEWS FROM THE NETWORK](#)

Conferences/Workshops

Activities

Other News from the Network

**Presenting partner Institutes:
University of Oviedo**

[3 – EUROPEAN NEWS](#)

The social dimension of the Reform Treaty

2010: European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

Opportunities, access and solidarity call for contributions from stakeholders

Employment Policy: Growth, Jobs, Flexicurity and Job Mobility

[4 - NEW PUBLICATIONS](#)

Network Members' publications in the area of work and welfare

Other publications in the area of work and welfare



Executive Manager: Amélie Guisseau
Maison des Sciences de l'Homme
Ange Guépin, Nantes, France
amelie.guisseau@univ-nantes.fr
Tel: +33.(0)2/40 20 65 05
Fax: +33.(0)2/40 20 65 01

Website: <http://recwowe.eu/>

This newsletter has been written by Caroline de la Porte, Irene A. Glinos and Ana Guillén.
Editorial has been written by Denis Bouget.

LAYOUT AND WEBMASTER:

Valérie Cotulelli and Renaud Smoes

Subscribe to the mailing list [here](#)



1 - INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

GIULIANO BONOLI, PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL POLICY AT THE SWISS GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (IDHEAP)

by Caroline de La Porte



Giuliano BONOLI,
Member of RECWOWE,
Strand 1 - Tensions
between Flexibility and
Security
Partner 4 - Swiss
Graduate School of
Public Administration

As announced in the first edition of the RECWOWE newsletter, Professor Giuliano Bonoli ([IDHEAP](#)/Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration, Partner in RECWOWE) has received the prestigious Latsis award, awarded yearly by the [Swiss National Science Foundation](#) for outstanding scientific achievement for the researchers under the age of 40.

In this interview, Professor Giuliano Bonoli tells us about his own work and how he views the key challenges for the future reform of welfare states, in particular around the work-welfare nexus, which is central to the RECWOWE network.

Question – How do you assess the future challenges of work and welfare, in particular pensions and child-care policies, as well as employment and labour market policies for the active population?

I identify three main challenges that need to be addressed simultaneously in order to develop a harmonious economic, social and cultural balance in European societies. The first and most obvious is population ageing, which is easy to quantify in terms of its impact on the financial sustainability of public finances and the future inter-generational structure of the population, with an increasing proportion of older people and a decreasing proportion younger people. The second is multi-culturalisation of European societies, where there are two possible outcomes: harmonious

integration of immigrant populations in welfare, social and labour market institutions or (partial or complete) exclusion from these institutions, accompanied by inter-cultural conflict. All European societies should strive towards the former, that is harmonious integration and co-existence of various cultural groups, rather than the latter that would result in a more segmented and conflictual political attitude and social reality. The third is a smooth and well-functioning labour market, with a high level of full-time quality employment for all categories of citizens, together with policies for facilitating the combination of work and family life. If this third challenge is met, then it should impact the other challenges – population ageing and multi-culturalisation – in a positive way.

Question – How do you assess the relative importance of past institutional legacy, political interests and new ideas in the reform of welfare states?

It is difficult to assess their relative importance since all three are important in different contexts at different points in time. But in general, institutional legacy is always the starting point and determines the salience of the various challenges. On that basis, ideas promoted by strong political entrepreneurs when the situation is favourable can partially contribute to changing the institutional legacy of the system. Often, political entrepreneurs work behind the scenes and political actors seek to take credit for the development of new policies. In Germany, for example, Angela Merkel supports the development of childcare institutions that are underdeveloped in Germany that has a conservative welfare state heritage. In Switzerland, the trends are similar, where the idea of development of childcare institutions has recently received political support. If there is a sustained and consistent support for the development of childcare

institutions, then this should contribute to the smooth functioning of labour markets.

Question – In the regard of the discussion above, what are the key features and challenges of the Swiss welfare state?

The Swiss welfare state can best be qualified as a liberal-conservative insurance-based welfare state, where the employment rate is high. Switzerland has a very low unemployment rate, at only 3%. Its liberal features are protection against unemployment (weak), health care, that is a peculiar private-public mix and the three pillar pension system. Its conservative features are related to the family and the attitude towards women in society and in the labour market. The combination of these characteristics in the Swiss welfare state has created unique challenges. The first important challenge concerns employment rates and labour market participation, where the main challenge is to develop full labour market integration of women. While women generally have a high level of employment, the full-time equivalent employment rate is quite low. Women tend to work only a few hours per week and the proportion of women who work full time is low, mainly because of the extreme shortage of child-care services. This is one of the major challenges in Switzerland.

Switzerland lacks childcare services, though it is difficult to say how much. A recent study found that there are between 30,000 to 50,000 missing child care places for children in the 1 to 5 years age group. In fact, in the current context of extreme shortage, the size of the demand for childcare is arguably underestimated. When parents are confronted with the situation of enrolling their child in a day care institution with a waiting list of 1,000 children, then they are immediately discouraged and seek alternative solutions. This means that many parents do not even explore the possibility of enrolling their child in a day care institution, which has falsified the actual demand for adequate and affordable childcare institutions among the active population.

The second major challenge in Switzerland is that of the development of a harmonious multi-cultural society. In Switzerland, there is a big percentage of the population that is foreign born, and there have been constant waves of migration. The foreign born citizens of Switzerland are relatively well integrated in all areas of the labour market. But at the moment, there is trouble to accept multiculturalism in Switzerland. During the last elections, the Swiss People's party became the biggest party, with some 30% of the votes. The party's discourse is anti-Europe and in particular anti-foreigners, emphasizing criminality among foreigners. It is a standard right-wing xenophobic party of the type that has increased in power in many European countries during the 2000s.

If child-care services could be further developed, then it would be possible for all categories of citizens - whether foreign born or of Swiss origin - to become well integrated in the labour market. Women in particular would benefit from this development and the expectation is that it would result in the development of a harmonious multi-cultural society in Switzerland.

Question – From which models and arenas has the Swiss welfare state drawn direct or indirect lessons for reform?

Switzerland is not an EU member and has historically been an inward looking country, and the tradition of lesson drawing has been nested in the Swiss federal structure rather than lesson-drawing from abroad. The federal level has a well-established practice of looking to various solutions that are developed at cantonal level and to use these as sources of inspiration for the development of solutions at federal level. This includes all policy areas, including those that are located in the work-welfare nexus.

Recently, Switzerland has also been looking abroad for lesson drawing about policy development. In particular the federal office of social insurance has looked to other countries in addressing the issues related to the misuse of the invalidity scheme. It has particularly looked to the Netherlands and

Germany for the solutions adopted in those countries.

In general, the German speaking part of the country tends to look to Germany for examples and the French speaking part of the country is more likely to look to France for examples. Switzerland has also looked to the Nordic countries in the reform of various components of the insurance-based social protection system.

Question – Has the Swiss welfare state provides examples of best practice for reform in other countries?

The liberal part of the Swiss welfare state has acted as a source of inspiration for countries that would like to render part of the social protection systems in their country more liberal. Switzerland (including its pensions and health care models) has the reputation of being well governed and successful. Recently, Germany has drawn inspiration from the Three-pillar pension system during various phases of reform of the pension system. In the past, Thatcher looked to the Swiss health insurance system (that is compulsory but run by private companies) as a source of inspiration when she sought to privatize the National Health Service in the UK. However, that idea was subsequently abandoned.

Question – How successful do you think recent reforms have been in confronting the key challenge of population ageing?

Well, I think that the main reforms that have been implemented have dealt with the symptoms and not with the causes. In this respect, the process of curtailing pensions in Germany, France and Italy - where the problem of population ageing has been particularly acute - has been successful from the perspective of public finances. But, these are not solutions to the main problem and from an equity perspective these reforms have further accentuated inequalities among those who can afford to pay for private pensions and those who would be excluded.

As we have already discussed, the solution to welfare state reform should address three main issues: first, labour markets should work well and fully integrate all categories of citizens on an equal basis; second, the policies and attitude towards immigrants should be integrative and not hostile; third, family policies should be conducive to the development of an adequate work-family life balance.

Question – What do you think the main achievements of RECOWE have been up to now?

Well, I have been around for a while in the area of social policy and what struck me during the [annual meeting in Warsaw](#) was the number of researchers who I had not met before. I have been positively surprised to discover new colleagues - from eastern Europe in particular and also from disciplines and sub-disciplines that do not usually work together. It has been extremely positive and will allow for researchers to develop projects together in the future.

Question – What do you see as the future opportunities of the RECOWE network, both for research and policy development?

I think that all researchers addressing issues related to reform of work and welfare policies do envisage how their research could contribute to new solutions. In the area of activation and active labour market policies, which is dealt with in the strand that I work in, the research questions and agenda are tightly linked to ideas about policy development. It is important to ensure knowledge exchange among academics and also between academics and policy-makers.

Recent publication:

An outstanding recent publication by Professor Giuliano Bonoli on this topic is "Time Matters: Postindustrialisation, New Social Risks and Welfare State Adaptation in Advanced Industrial Democracies", *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol.40, No.5, 2007, pp.495-520.



2 – NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

- **The Politics of Recalibration: Welfare Reforms in the Wider Europe, 5-7 June 2008, University of Bologna-Forli (Italy)**

Starting from the broad concept of welfare state “recalibration”, the conference deals with key issues related to the “New politics” related first, to new social risks, such as how to develop work and family reconciliation and how to confront single parenthood. A second issue is related to the division of risks and protection across groups, notably gender, occupational groups and generations. Finally, the conference addresses the issue of understanding the interaction between the EU and national (and/or sub-national) governments, civil society and other actors in the development and the provision of welfare and the promotion of employment. The various issues can be divided into politics of functional, distributive and institutional recalibration. The focus will be on social policy (health care, pensions, social inclusion), employment policy and education in different welfare regimes in both eastern and western Europe. The aim is to study process, change, and policy outcomes. This initiative is supported by the Italian [ESPAnet Association](#) and sponsored by the Rivista Italiana di Politiche Pubbliche (Italian Review of Public Policy).

More information [here](#)

Contact: [David Natali](#)

Deadline for submitting abstracts: 15/02/2008

- **Workshop: Tensions in Care Work in European Welfare States, April, Tampere (Finland)**

This workshop is designed to develop a focused dialogue around the issue of care work. This will result in a comprehensive state of the art report on the issue.

Contact: [Anneli Anttonen](#) and [Brigit Pfau-Effinger](#)

- **Seminar: Labour market and social protection policies for immigrants June 2008, Oviedo (Spain)**

The seminar seeks to stimulate a dialogue about the problems and policies related to social protection and labour market integration of immigrants. The seminar endeavours to develop a comparative dimension by involving experts on immigration policy from different countries.

Contact: [Ana Guillén](#)

- **3rd RECWOWE Conference 10-14 June 2008, Oslo (Norway)**

The third annual RECWOWE conference will take place in Oslo, from Tuesday the 10th to Saturday the 14th of June 2008. It is co-organised by the two Norwegian research institutes [SNF](#) and [NOVA](#). The endeavour is that it should be a “Work in progress” conference. It should provide possibilities for presenting but also for discussing on-going academic work that we are undertaking the main RECWOWE strands. It should also assess the various activities developed under RECWOWE. The plenary session will focus on discussing the capacity of the Nordic welfare state model to confront the main challenges in work and welfare. The programme of the Oslo conference should be finalized in the spring time and will be posted on the [RECWOWE website](#). More news on the conference will be provided in the next issue of the RECWOWE newsletter. Please send your proposals to [Amélie Guisseau](#) who has just launched an initiative to develop the programme of the conference, according to the main strands.

ACTIVITIES

– Short-term scientific missions for PhD researchers

A new call for short-term scientific missions (STSM) has just been launched under the Training Activities Centre ([TACwowe](#)) of RECOWOE. In the period between April 2008 and March 2009, RECOWOE can financially support up to four PhD researchers who wish to spend up to four weeks at another RECOWOE partner organisation. The deadline for applications is 29th February 2008.

Prospective students should send:

- a short outline of their PhD project (max 2 pages);
- a plan of what they intend to do during their stay at the host RECOWOE partner;
- a letter of support from the supervisor at their home university;
- from their prospective host RECOWOE partner: a letter of invitation, stating the person responsible and the training support available during the visit.

Please send the application and information requested above to TAC: [Jochen Clasen](#)

Deadline: 29/02/2008

– [DIACwowe](#) (Dialogue Centre), debate on flexicurity

Pascale Vielle (Partner No.13 - Université Catholique de Louvain) will present the key ideas of her paper on Flexicurity with the members of the [Platform of European Social NGOs](#) on 20 February 2008.

Download the [paper](#) (PDF)

OTHER NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

– New executive Manager in RECOWOE

Since 1st January, Amélie Guisseau has replaced David Imbert as the Executive Manager of RECOWOE. She has a Master degree of management of European projects (2007). Already last year, she worked with David on the management of RECOWOE. She notably helped the coordinator to create the Web site, to prepare the Warsaw Conference and to ensure that the different reports and questionnaires we sent to the Commission in November 2007.

– RECOWOE seminar series, University of Oviedo

Thanks to RECOWOE, the University of Oviedo has been able to launch a seminar series, that has made work and welfare issues a central issue of the Sociology Department.

For more information, contact Professor [Ana Guillén](#) (University of Oviedo).

Also see presentation of the [RECOWOE team](#) in the presentation of the University of Oviedo.

– [DIACwowe](#), inaugural meeting

An inaugural meeting was organised to establish dialogue between the civil society and academic communities. The RECOWOE network was presented by Bruno Palier, and representatives of civil society used their as an opportunity to voice their ideas about the development of collaboration, but also conflictual interests and approaches in the research, policy-making and civil society communities. Representatives from the European civil society networks – [Social Platform](#), European Transregional Network for Social Inclusion ([RETIS](#)), European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless ([FEANTSA](#)), [CARITAS Europe](#), European Anti Poverty Network ([EAPN](#)), Institut de la protection sociale européenne ([IPSE](#)) – all participated actively in the meeting. Also the European Trade Union Institute ([ETUI-REHS](#)) that hosted the meeting insisted on the need to develop collaboration through medium and longer term developments. In this light all the participants were pleased that RECOWOE could help to develop such a relationship.



PRESENTING PARTNER INSTITUTES

- **Social Cohesion and Public Policy Research Group, Area of Sociology (Department of Applied Economics), School of Economics and Business Administration, University of Oviedo (partner No.07)**



Universidad
de Oviedo

The University of Oviedo celebrate its 400th anniversary this year, as its teaching activities began in 1608.

Nowadays, around 33,500 national and international students attend the [University of Oviedo](#), whose expertise in teaching and research is recognised in various fields: social and legal sciences, humanities, experimental sciences, medicine and technology.

Sociology has been present as a consolidated academic discipline in the University of Oviedo since the beginning of the XXth Century. The Area of Sociology has 21 permanent academic members. It offers a multi-disciplinary PhD Programme on Economy and Sociology of Globalization, which has been distinguished with a Quality Award by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Education and receives international students from a wide range of European and American countries. It also co-organizes a Master's Degree on Public Policy Analysis.

The Social Cohesion and Public Policy Research Group, although based in the Area of Sociology, integrates a flexible and international team of researchers and lecturers coming from very different disciplines (Sociology, Political Science, Economy and Psychology). The interest of the group focuses mainly on comparative studies in four thematic areas: social protection and public policy analysis; industrial relations; economic sociology; and gender studies. Besides its involvement in RECOWWE, current research in these topics is conducted through different national and international projects. Of special interest is the comparative project on in-work poverty, directed by Rodolfo Gutiérrez. Recent publications by members of the team include articles in outstanding journals (including *Journal of European Social Policy*, *Social Policy*

& Administration, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Public Management Review*, *European Societies*, *European Sociological Review*) and edited volumes (Routledge, Policy Press, Palgrave, Edward Elgar).

Activity within RECOWWE in Oviedo includes the preparation of two books, in Spanish and in English, gathering state-of-the-art results attained within Strand 3 ([see the box](#)) to date. An international seminar was organized in April 2007, with the purpose of discussing draft versions of state-of-the-art papers to be presented at the annual conference in Warsaw (June 2007). It was also used to diffuse the network activities within Spain through a press conference. Oviedo also hosts a monthly seminar series involving key international experts. The seminar was initiated by Paul Osterman (Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Sloan School) in early November 2007. More recently, the team has organised (in collaboration with the Economic and Social Council of Asturias and DIACwowe) a two day meeting between the academic community in RECOWWE and the Spanish social partners and policy-makers. Further information on this latter activity will be soon available on the network's website.

ACTIVITIES IN RECOWWE

Ana Guillén Rodríguez is co-coordinator of [Strand 3](#) (Quantity and quality of job). Members of the Oviedo team also participate in other RECOWWE working packages, including [DIACwowe](#) (Dialogue Centre) and [PUDISCwowe](#) (Publication Centre) at present.

WP03: Rodolfo Gutiérrez Palacios, Judith Clifton, Antonio García Izquierdo, Isabel García Espejo, Antonio García Izquierdo, Silvia Gómez Ansón, Sergio González Begega, María González Menéndez Marta Ibáñez Pascual, Amparo Novo Díaz, Holm-Detlev Köhler, Javier Mato Díaz.

Task 03.11: Working Poor in the European Union: A Comparative Approach

Task 03.12: Getting in Touch with the Social Partners

Task 03.13: Changes in Job Quality and Work Orientations. A Comparative Perspective

Task 03.15: Bilingual Book Edition

WP04: Ana Guillén Rodríguez, Rodolfo Gutiérrez Palacios, Sergio González Begega

Task 04.13: The Europeanisation of Employment Friendly National Welfare State Reform

WP07: Hans-Peter van den Broek

Task 07.12: Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities between Labour and Welfare



3 – EUROPEAN NEWS

– The social dimension of the Reform Treaty

The Reform Treaty, adopted at the Lisbon Summit in December 2007 represents, according to experts, an interim solution to render the Union more functional. It includes institutional reform and excludes what was Part 3 of the Constitutional Treaty, about policies of the Union.

In social policy, the Lisbon Treaty does not affect the current division of competencies between the Union and its Member States, where Member States retain full sovereignty in welfare state policies. But, the Reform Treaty does include an article that defines the social principles that should underlie all decisions of the EU. These are to strive towards full employment and social progress, to promote social justice and protection and to combat social exclusion and discrimination (Article 2). The Charter on Fundamental Social Rights is included as a protocol, rather than being fully integrated into the Treaty, although it remains legally binding for Member States that have not opted out (United Kingdom, Poland).

To read a more in-depth analysis, download [No.35](#) of the newsletter **Tomorrow Europe**, written by [Cécile Barbier](#).

– 2010: European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

The Commission has proposed that 2010 should be the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, [COM \(2007\) 797](#) final of 12 December 2007). Much preparatory work has already been carried out. In particular, stakeholders have already been consulted and their views have been taken into account. Focal themes have been identified, building on the policy issues developed under the Open Method of Coordination in social inclusion. These are: child poverty and intergenerational transmission of poverty, an inclusive labour

market, access to education and training, the gendered dimension of poverty, access to basic services, the need to overcome discrimination against ethnic immigrants, the need to address the needs of disabled people and other vulnerable groups.

– Opportunities, access and solidarity call for contributions from stakeholders

In November, the Commission published a communication "Opportunities, access and solidarity: towards a new social vision for 21st century Europe" ([COM \(2007\) 726](#) final of 20 November 2007) in order to launch ideas about a social vision for Europe for the 21st century. This communication builds on a discussion paper from the Bureau of European Policy Advisers and the results of the Eurobarometer poll. It intends to stimulate a debate among stakeholders, the Member States and other EU institutions. The main proposal is to develop a "life chances" social vision for Europe that should include investments in youth, lifelong career development, public health, gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination, mobility and civic participation, culture and dialogue. The endeavour of the EU is to develop a broad policy framework that should be relevant for all EU Member States. The consultation is open until the 15th of February.

Send email with contribution to:
SG-Social-Reality@ec.europa.eu

– Employment Policy: Growth, Jobs, Flexicurity and Job Mobility

Several Community documents have recently been published around the issue of a growth-oriented employment policy. All of these documents confirm recent tendencies, where the quantity of jobs is emphasized rather than the quality of jobs (security, decent pay) and where the position and rights of employers on the labour market are strengthened while those of employees are weakened. These trends are most notably reflected in the common principles on flexibility were adopted

by the [Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council](#) on the basis of the Commission Communication (Towards More and better jobs through flexibility and security, [COM \(2007\) 359](#) final of 27 June 2007). The main policy focus in the Commission's Employment in Europe Report of 2007 (Key Messages from the Employment in Europe 2007 Report, [COM \(2007\) 733](#) final of 23 October 2007) was also on flexicurity, notably "external" flexicurity (hiring and firing) also "internal" flexicurity (flexible arrangements in the workplace but also need for constant skills upgrading). The report also emphasized the "life-cycle approach to work" and the evolution of labour income share.

Another Communication on job mobility focused on encouraging more mobility between jobs and between regions (Mobility, an instrument for more and better jobs: The European Job Mobility Action Plan (2007-2010), [COM \(2007\) 773](#) final of 6 December 2007). But it did not mention all of the problems related to lowering of standards and wage

levels that have become issues since the 2004 enlargement, where companies have established themselves in eastern Europe and have thereby found ways to employ workers from the new Member States with lower wages [see the Viking ([C-438/05](#)) and Laval ([C-341/05](#)) cases].

The Commission's Community Lisbon Programme (Proposal for a Community Lisbon Programme 2008-2010, [COM \(2007\) 804](#) final of 11 December 2007) - perceived as the Commission's programme rather than a programme that should be integrated into Member States policies – emphasized the need to demonstrate considerable Community-level value added with policies of the Member States and to show significant impacts on growth and jobs. On another note, regarding problems related to strengthening job security for precarious workers, no agreement was reached on the other legislative proposals on working time or temporary agencies.

4 – NEW PUBLICATIONS

NETWORK MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS IN THE AREA OF WORK AND WELFARE

- **Policy Paper on Flexicurity (Flexicurity: Redefining the security of European citizens), Pascale Vielle, professor of Social Law at the Université catholique de Louvain**

In this incisive policy paper, Pascale Vielle argues that the security dimension of the Commission's conception of flexicurity is inadequate as it mainly proposes policies linked to rendering the labour market policy flexible, but not so much on ensuring the development of security for individuals.

Download the [policy paper](#)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS IN THE AREA OF WORK AND WELFARE



New Governance in European Social Policy The Open Method of Coordination

Milena Büchs, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, 2007
224 pages

The European Union is widely regarded as premised on an imbalance between market-making and market-correcting provisions, potentially weakening national welfare systems and the political legitimacy of the European project. However, a stronger role for the EU in social policy faces considerable difficulties. The Open Method of Coordination (OMC) represents a new governance approach to European social policy and was adopted in the late 1990s. It seeks to provide a 'middle-way' solution to the dilemma of European social policy in which the EU adopts a stronger role in coordinating member states' social policies while member states formally retain their authority in social policy.

New Governance in European Social Policy explores the effectiveness and legitimacy of a new policy tool in European social policy, the Open Method of Coordination (OMC). It analyses the tensions within the OMC's goals and instruments, develops an explanation of its functioning and applies a multifaceted framework for its evaluation.

Milena Büchs is Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Southampton, UK

[To order...](#)

Download [introduction and table of contents](#)



Social Policy and International Interventions in South Eastern Europe,
Bob Deacon and Paul Stubbs,
Edward Elgar, Cheltenham,
2007, 272 pages

This comprehensive and engaging volume investigates the role of international actors in the making of social policy in South East Europe. Introductory chapters on transnationalism and Europeanisation are followed by a series of nine linked case studies depicting research undertaken within the region. The book charts the variable influence that international actors such as formal organisations, non-governmental organisations, consulting companies and individual transnational policy entrepreneurs have on key policy issues, including pensions, social protection, labour markets, and health. The authors conclude that welfare settlements are a complex product of historical and institutional legacies, the neo-liberal interventions of the World Bank, the emerging impact of the EU, and the crowded international arena resulting from war and post-war reconstruction agendas.

The book includes national chapters on countries where fairly little is known about social policy developments during the last decade, particularly how the role of domestic actors combine with other international actors in the development of social policy.

One chapter focuses on the role of the role of the EU in this area (N. Lendvai). The national chapters are on Slovenia (M. Novak and K. Rihard Bajuk), Bulgaria and Romania (D.A. Sotiropoulos and L. Pop), Croatia (P. Stubbs

and S. Zrinščak), Turkey (B. Yakut-Cakar), Macedonia (M. Gerovska Mitev), Bosnia and Herzegovina (.A. Maglajlic Holicek and E.K. Rašidagic), Serbia (M. Arandarenko and P. Golicin), Albania (A. Ymeraj) and Kosovo (F. Cocozzelli).

Some contributors are members of the RECWOWE network.

Read more or purchase the book [...](#)