New publication

Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2015

Edited by
David Natali and Bart Vanhercke

The sixteen edition of Social policy in the European Union: state of play has a triple ambition. First, it provides easily accessible information to a wide audience about recent developments in both EU and domestic social policymaking. Second, the volume provides a more analytical reading, embedding the key developments of the year 2014 in the most recent academic discourses. Third, the forward-looking perspective of the book aims to provide stakeholders and policymakers with specific tools that allow them to discern new opportunities to influence policymaking.

In contrast to recent years, 2014 started off with a distinct atmosphere of hope in the EU, with a renewed emphasis on the need for investments to grow. However, more recent developments have demonstrated that these ‘results’ are in fact only possibilities today and not yet realities. Increased social and economic divergence and rising tensions between the EU’s North and South imply that a strengthening of the status quo, a retreat, or even a fatal blow are also distinct possibilities for the EU’s future.

In this 2015 edition of Social policy in the European Union: state of play, the authors tackle the topics of the state of EU politics after the parliamentary elections, the socialisation of the European Semester, methods of political protest, the Juncker investment plan, the EU’s contradictory education investment and rising tensions between the EU’s North and South imply that a strengthening of the status quo, a retreat, or even a fatal blow are also distinct possibilities for the EU’s future.

Table of contents

Introduction
David Natali, Bart Vanhercke and Riley Johnson
The EU and the social legacy of the crisis: piecemeal adjustment or room for a paradigm shift?

Vivien Schmidt
Changing the policies, politics, and processes of the Eurozone in crisis: will this time be different?

Jonathan Zeilllin and Bart Vanhercke
Economic governance in Europe 2020: socialising the European semester against the odds?

Richard Hyman
Austeritarianism in Europe: what options for resistance?

Marti Myant
The European Commission’s investment plan: a critical appraisal and some alternatives

Chiara Agostini and David Natali
The EU’s ambivalent involvement in education and training policies

Furio Stamati and Rita Baeten
Varieties of healthcare reform: understanding EU leverage

Dalila Ghailani and Aida Ponce del Castillo
The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): converging interests and diverging opinions

David Natali
Future prospects - The EU’s political dilemma and the role of trade unions in solving these

Cécile Barbier
Chronology 2014 - Key events in European policy

To order copies, please
Contact: Veerle Raes
+32 2 224 05 06; vraes@etui.org

The ETUI receives financial support from the European Union. The European Union cannot be held responsible for any use made of the information contained in this publication.