Social developments in the European Union: state of play 2017

INTRODUCTION AND KEY MESSAGES

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What should you expect from this book?

• **Solutions**
• **Questions**
• **Analysis**
• **Proposals**

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The analytical framework and the narrative

Hypothesis on the future of the EU:

**Further integration**: the 27 advance together towards a closer and deeper union.

**Disintegration**: we should expect other MS to leave the Union or, at any rate, the ambitions of the European project to be downsized.

**Differentiated integration**: a cluster of MS will advance towards further integration in specific policy domains (the others could join later)

The White paper on the Future of the EU

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The present and future of the European Union, between the urgent need for democracy and differentiated integration

Mario Telò

Multi-speed Europe (Differentiated integration): a politico-institutional process where a political avant-garde of countries, a ‘core group’, would advance towards further integration.

Which actors should relaunch the integration process?
Brexit took place in a relatively healthy economic situation, with employment at record levels in the UK.

But

The results of growth were not equally shared by the population: the ‘left behind’

Lessons for (social) Europe: departure from the EU agendas of activation and making work pay, adding to the objective of employment promotion other kinds of objectives such as job quality.
Ch.3 Europe and the migration crisis: migrants’ rights sacrificed on the altar of security?

*Dalila Ghailani*

Lack of **solidarity** between the MS (failure of the refugee resettlement programme)

**Ineffective** EU response

Threatening **refugees’ and migrants’ human rights**:

- ‘hotspots’
- outsourcing approach

**Do we need a common EU asylum policy?**

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Towards a European Pillar of Social Rights: from a preliminary outline to a Commission Recommendation

Sebastiano Sabato and Bart Vanhercke

Focus on the consultation process on the Preliminary outline

Criticisms and proposals from a lively debate:

• Excessive expectations and a narrow understanding of ‘social rights’;
• Legal status and (lack of) competences;
• A declaration of principles: the risk of non-implementation;
• A Social Pillar subordinated to economic and fiscal goals?;
• The risk of unclear formulations and a simple rephrasing of existing rights;
• The coverage of the initial outline of the Social Pillar: missing dimensions;
• The risk of a ‘two-speed’ Europe.
• The role of the social partners;
• What about governance and implementation arrangements?
Ch.4  Towards a European Pillar of Social Rights: from a preliminary outline to a Commission Recommendation

Sebastiano Sabato and Bart Vanhercke

From the Preliminary Outline to the Commission Recommendation

• A fair number of amendments (importantly: from ‘principles’ to ‘rights’)

• What has been the role of the consultation process? To what extent have stakeholders’ opinions been taken into account?
Ch.5 The EU’s economic governance in 2016: beyond austerity?

*Amandine Crespy and Vivien Schmidt*

The notion of **structural reforms**: are we really **beyond austerity**?

A relatively high number of **social investment-oriented CSRs**: is this necessarily good news?

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Ch.6 The relaunch of European social dialogue: what has been achieved up to now?

Christophe Degryse

European and, in most countries, national social dialogue under strain

Sectoral social dialogue at the EU level (lights and shadows):

• Work-life balance (blocked)
• Measures for older workers (progress)
• The digitalization of the economy (the topic of the future)

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Ch.7  Healthcare regulation: an obstacle to cross-border trade in services? On the muffled application of the EU Single Market Strategy and CETA

Rita Baeten

Focus on the Regulation of healthcare providers:

• ‘Services Package’ (several proposals aimed at simplifying procedures for service providers and subjecting regulation in the service sectors to EU scrutiny)

• Healthcare Services Focus Group set up by the European Committee for Standardisation to come up with proposals on an overall approach and methodology towards standardisation in the area of healthcare services.

• Implications for the healthcare sector of recent developments in external trade policies

Key developments under the radar of key stakeholders

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Towards new work-life balance policies for those caring for dependent relatives?

Denis Bouget, Chiara Saraceno and Slavina Spasova

Key policy area, also in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights

- **Striking variation** in the situations and initiatives undertaken across the Member States;

- Reforms are leading to the emergence of **precarious working conditions for caregivers**

- EU policy discourse in this field relates exclusively to **caregivers in employment** (what about the needs of caregivers outside the labour market?)
Ch. 9 An ageing active population in Europe: challenges, policies and practices

*Ramón Peña-Casas*

Focus on:

- **Initiatives and situations in the Member States;**

- **European level:** Framework Agreement on Active Ageing and an Inter-Generational Approach concluded by the social partners in December 2016.
The European Union in 2016: key events
Cécile Barbier

From the beginning of the Dutch Presidency (1\textsuperscript{st} January 2016 )

To the publication of the ETUC resolution on trade union involvement in the European Semester (22\textsuperscript{nd} December 2016)

But, please, have a look at the chronologies of the last years…

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Conclusions

Bart Vanhercke, Sebastiano Sabato and Denis Bouget

- Solutions
- Questions
- Analysis
- Proposals
Thank you for your attention

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