

# The Europeanization of 'Employment-Friendly' Welfare States

## Research questions

What is the use of EU policies?

How does European integration influence national social policies?

Does Europe matter in national welfare state reforms?

Which European resources are used?

Who is using Europe (what kind of actors and what is their role with respect to the reforms)?

What are the usages of European resources?

## Constructing a common research framework

Does European integration influence national social policies? **This project focuses on the relationship between European integration and its outputs on national institutional and political settings.**

The most recent literature has shown that the EU is an important variable to understand recent welfare state changes, but it remains relatively unclear on how precisely Europe does matter. Our project is aimed explicitly at exploring and specifying what are the political mechanisms through which the EU plays a role in domestic social policy changes.

We contend here that **the best way to understand how the EU can influence domestic politics is to look at the way national actors are making use of EU resources and constraints.**

The main finding is that **European resources have been crucial in several domestic welfare state reforms.** All the countries analyzed have gone through some changes and in all the reform processes Europe has been somehow part of the picture. However, what comparative research shows is that there are many different pictures in the photo album of the Europeanization of welfare state reforms. European resources are translated and mediated differently in each country according to the domestic institutional and historical context and to the interests of the actors that have been able to use them. Hence, what emerges is **an image of diversity which questions the often supposed or observed convergence process.**

## Main research findings

Different welfare states, different adaptation to the EU

- Scandinavian WS: limited change and usages but importance of showing compliance with EU rules
- Anglo-saxon WS: limited change and neglect, EU as a target rather than source of influence
- Continental WS: shaping the EU policy agenda and using EU to pursue domestically-shaped policy agendas
- Southern European WS: significant change in the 90s, usage of Europe to avoid blame linked to unpopular reforms and exploit all EU resources
- Central/Eastern European WS: significant change, Europe as a legitimating reference
- Candidate countries WS: significant change, usage of Europe to frame and legitimate national reforms

Four main types of usages of Europe

- Legitimizing usage (EU as a means to legitimize national reforms)
- Positive strategic usage (EU instruments used by national actors to pursue own political agenda)
- Cognitive usage (EU model as a substantive guideline for framing national reforms)
- Negative usage (EU used as a negative reference – misfit and euro-scepticism)

## Publication outputs

***The EU and the Domestic Politics of Welfare State Reforms. Europa Europae.*** Edited by Paolo R. Graziano, Sophie Jacquot, Bruno Palier  
Palgrave Macmillan, 2011 (Work and welfare in Europe series)

"The usages of Europe in national employment-friendly welfare state reforms" by Paolo R. Graziano, Sophie Jacquot and Bruno Palier  
"Social Europe in Action: The Evolution of EU Policies and Resources" by Hélène Caune, Sophie Jacquot and Bruno Palier  
"Boasting the national model. The EU and Welfare State Reforms in France" by Hélène Caune, Sophie Jacquot and Bruno Palier  
"Learning or teaching? Germany and its complex historical relationship with the EU" by Patrizia Aurich and Anne Schüttpelz  
"The activation turn in the Netherlands: 'home'grown or steered by Europe?" by Willibrord de Graaf and Rik van Berkel  
"Usages of 'Europe' in Welfare Policies in Greece, 1981-2010" by Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos  
"Eppur si muoveva....' The Italian Trajectory of Recent Welfare Reforms: from 'Rescued by Europe' to Euro-Skepticism" by Paolo Graziano and Matteo Jessoula  
"A Compass or a Spear? The partisan usage of Europe in Portuguese Employment-Friendly Reforms" by Sotirios Zartaloudis  
"The EU and Czech instrumentalism in employment and social inclusion strategy" by Tomáš Sirovátka  
"Sweden: the Reluctant Rule Follower" by Åsa Casula Vifell  
"Europeanization and Welfare State Change in the UK: Another Case of 'Fog over the Channel'?" by Jonathan Hopkin and Christa van Wijnbergen  
"Social Security Reform in Turkey: Different usages of Europe in shaping the national welfare reform" by Cem Utku Duyulmus  
"Europa, Europae: the many faces of social Europe" by Paolo R. Graziano, Sophie Jacquot and Bruno Palier

**"Letting Europe In. The Domestic Usages of Europe in Reconciliation Policies".** Edited by Paolo R. Graziano, Sophie Jacquot, Bruno Palier  
Special issue of the *European Journal of Social Security*, vol. 13, n° 1, March 2011

"Domestic Reconciliation Policies and the Usages of Europe" by Paolo R. Graziano, Sophie Jacquot and Bruno Palier  
"A Means to a Changing End. European Resources: the EU and the Reconciliation of Paid Work and Private Life" by Sophie Jacquot, Clemence Ledoux And Bruno Palier  
"The Dark Side of the (Pink) Moon. The Role of Europe in the Recent Evolution of Italian Conciliation Policies" by Paolo R. Graziano And Ilaria Madama  
"The Europeanization of Reconciliation Policies in France: Boasting... but Learning" by Sophie Jacquot, Clemence Ledoux And Bruno Palier  
"De-constructing the Familist Welfare State in Spain. Towards Reconciliation Through Europe?" by Sergio González Begega, Ana M. Guillén Rodríguez and Nuria Moreno-Manzanaro García  
"When Soft Law overshadows other European Resources: Portuguese Reconciliation Policies and Usages of Europe" by Sotirios Zartaloudis  
"Finnish Policies for Reconciling Work and Family and the Usages of Europe" by Kirsi Eräranta  
"Familialism in Flux: Role of Europe and Reconciliation in Hungary" by Anil Duman And Anna Horvath  
"Reconciliation Policy in the Czech Republic and the EU: from Neglect to Rejection" by Tomáš Sirovátka and Helena Tomešová Bartáková  
"Tackling Low Female Labour Force Participation in Turkey: Continuity and Change in the Social Policy Environment with the EU Membership Process" by Cem Utku Duyulmus



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WP04  
Towards  
employment-friendly  
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