

Contemporary Social Policy in the E.U.

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Lecture 6

The ‘Europeanisation’ of social policy

Additional sources:

Tavora, I. ‘The southern European social model: familialism and the high rates of female employment in Portugal’, in *Journal of European Social Policy*, Vol. 22, No. 1, February 2012, pp. 63-76.

Palier, B. (ed.) ‘A Long Goodbye to Bismarck? The Politics of Welfare Reform in Continental Europe’, (Book Review Symposium) in *Journal of European Social Policy*, Vol. 22, No. 1, February 2012, pp.90- 101.

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‘Europeanisation’ of social policy

- E.U. ‘single social policy areas’?
- E.U. policies affect:
 - policy style;
 - general problem solving approach;
 - policy instruments employed;
 - policy standards set

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- Europeanisation of :
 - pressure groups
 - interest groups
 - epistemic communities

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4 processes of ‘Europeanisation’ of policy:

- a) ‘bottom-up’ (national state – E.U.)
- b) ‘top-down’ (E.U. – national state)
- c) ‘horizontal’ (State – State)
- d) ‘round-about’ (national state – E.U. – national state)

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‘Europeanisation’ based on underlying E.U. principles and ‘core values’:

- social progress;
- high levels of employment;
- social protection;
- raising living standards and quality of life;
- promoting social cohesion and social justice

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‘Europeanisation’

= overarching E.U. core values and principles, within which individual policies are shaped and formulated, and diversity and ‘mutual recognition’ acknowledged, particularly in implementation