At a glance
What Think Tanks are thinking
18 September 2015

Welfare systems and labour markets

The welfare systems and labour markets of EU member states have been under severe stress during the recent recession which has seen high unemployment and increased poverty rates. In response, many countries have launched structural reforms in these areas in an attempt to promote economic growth and reduce the persistently high unemployment as well as to lower the pressure on public finances from ageing populations. Social protection and inclusion is a priority for the European Union. In its Europe 2020 strategy, the European Commission sets targets to lift at least 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion and to increase employment of the population aged 20-64 to 75%.

This note offers a selection of recent studies by some of the major think tanks and research institutes analysing the state of welfare system and labour markets in the EU as well as reforms needed to overhaul them.

Improvement during crisis years? Poverty and housing conditions across the EU
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, September 2015

Beyond the “guest worker” agreement: Portability of pensions and health insurance for pensioners in the migration corridors
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, August 2015

Are student workers a threat or a solution?
Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), July 2015

Extending working lives: A comparative analysis of how governments influence lifelong learning
CEPS, July 2015

Social dumping at work: uses and abuses of the posted work framework in the EU
European Trade Union Institute, July 2015

The social reality of Europe after the crisis
Foundation for European Progressive Studies, Policy Network, June 2015

Social housing in Europe
Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies, June 2015

What to do with the Working Time Directive? Revision or abolition
Centrum für Europäische Politik, June 2015

It’s our job: Reforming Europe’s labour markets
Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, May 2015

European employers’ perspectives on long-term unemployment, recruitment and public employment services
Institute for Public Policy Research, May 2015

Creating a Union with a "human face": A European unemployment insurance
Instituto Affari Internazionali, May 2015

The case for a European unemployment benefit scheme
CEPS, May 2015

Free movement of persons: The mirage of social security schemes
College of Europe, May 2015
How to deal with inequality welfare system challenges and European responses
Institut für Weltwirtschaft Kiel, May 2015

The impact of living and working longer on pension income in five European countries: Estonia, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands and Poland CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research, May 2015

Scaling social impact in Europe Bertelsmann Stiftung, May 2015

Family support in graying societies: How Americans, Germans and Italians are coping with an aging population Pew Research Center, May 2015

One year after the Youth Guarantee: Policy fatigue or signs of action? European Policy Centre, May 2015


Wie sozial ist die EU? Eine Perspektive für die soziale Dimension Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, April 2015

Labour mobility in Europe: An untapped resource? CEPS, March 2015

Unequal Europe: Recommendations for a more caring EU Friends of Europe, March 2015

Poor and under pressure: The social impact of Europe's fiscal consolidation Bruegel, March 2015

Bringing power back in: A review of the literature on the role of business in welfare state politics Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung, March 2015

Fostering social cohesion: The missing link in the EU's exit strategy from the crisis EPC, March 2015

Employee progression in European labour markets Institute for Public Policy Research, February 2015

Transnational flexibility and ‘shareholder capitalism’: A case for extending EWC competences to cover flexibility European Trade Union Institute, February 2015

Poverty and inequalities on the rise: Just social models needed as the solution! Caritas Europa, February 2015

Reinsurance of national unemployment benefit schemes CEPS, January 2015

Políticas activas de empleo: Una panorámica Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada, January 2015

Self-employment in Europe Institute for Public Policy Research, January 2015

European social dialogue: 30 years of experience and progress, what future? Notre Europe-Jacques Delors Institute, January 2015

An unemployment insurance scheme for the euro area: A simulation exercise of two options CEPS, December 2014

Employment, mobility and social investment: Three key issues for post-crisis social Europe Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute, November 2014

Contours of a European minimum wage policy Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, October 2014

Mobile Beschäftigung: Aktivitäten und Projekte gewerkschaftlicher und gewerkschaftsnaher Organisationen gegenüber mobilen Beschäftigten in ausgewählten europäischen Staaten Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, October 2014

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