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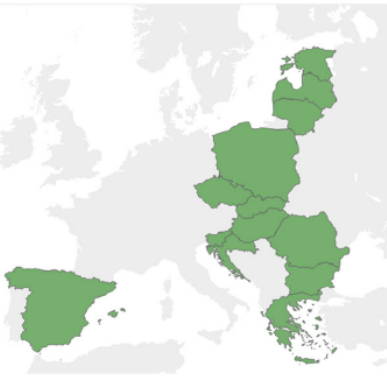
The European social citizenship and the future of the welfare state and social protection in Europe

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Eu Social Cit
European Social Citizenship

Social investment strategies in the EU countries

All-in strategy	Stripped-down strategy	Sprouting-up strategy
		
<p>- High expenditure in all main areas of social investment</p>	<p>- Medium overall expenditure in main areas of social investment</p>	<p>- Low/medium overall expenditure in main areas of social investment</p>
<p>- Medium/high coverage</p>	<p>- Low/medium coverage</p>	<p>- Medium/high coverage</p>
<p>- Best performers in all single areas of expenditure throughout the life course</p>	<p>- Social investment orientation towards later ages, especially through school and university</p>	<p>- Social investment orientation towards early ages rather than later in life</p>

Social investment strategies in the EU countries

All-in strategy	Stripped-down strategy	Sprouting-up strategy
- On average, high expenditure for childcare services vs parental leaves	- Low expenditure for childcare services and parental leave benefits	- On average, higher parental leave in-cash expenditure vs childcare services
- Universal approach to Family & Children policies: free of charge access; legal entitlement; support for both single and dual-earner households	- Mean-tested approach to Family & Children policies: preference of family benefits over childcare and no legal entitlement to ECEC; support for single-earner household	- Mixed approach to Family & Children policies: preference of family benefits over childcare in majority of member states and no legal entitlement to ECEC (with exception of Baltic countries)
- Universal approach to Tertiary Education: tuition free; well-developed system to support students enrolled	- Mixed approach to Tertiary Education: tuition free in some member states; low support to students enrolled in tertiary education	- Means-tested approach to Tertiary Education: tuition fee and low support to students enrolled in tertiary education
- Universal approach to Work-age policies: ALMPs for both unemployed and employed; stringent activation policies	- Means-tested approach to Work-age policies and ALMP only for jobseekers	- Mixed approach to Work-age policies

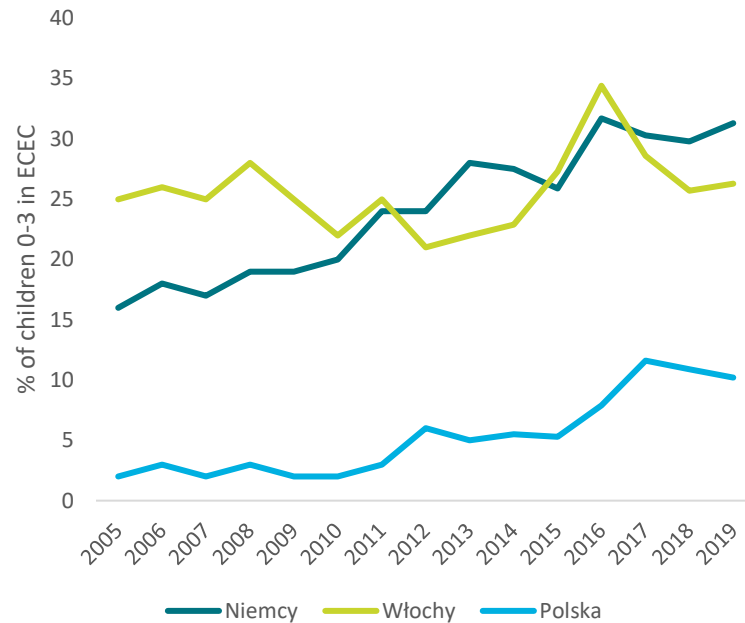
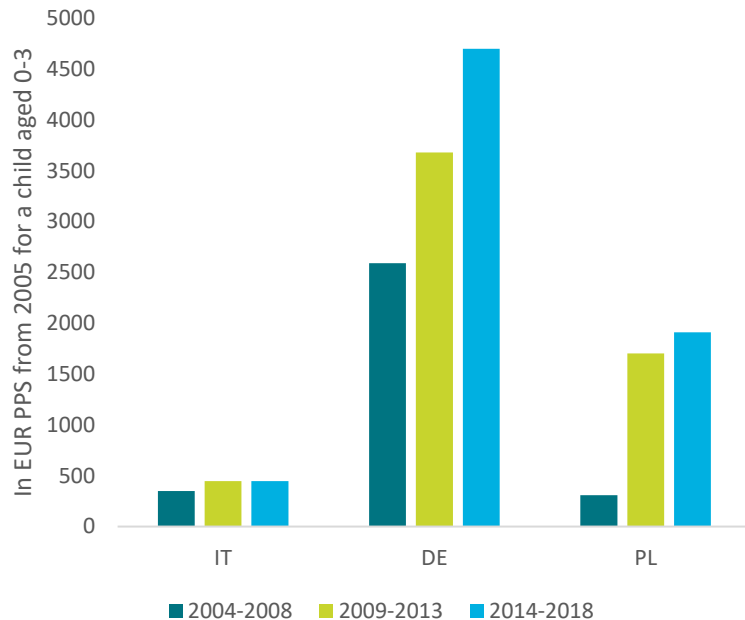
The future of the welfare state: the role of power resources

- Access to social rights is dependent on the available power resources:
 - Normative
 - Instrumental
 - Enforcement
- HLG recommendations indicate the need to reinforce the power resources that support access to social rights and welfare state in the life course

Power resources in ECEC

- Children's rights to affordable early childhood education and quality care:
 - article 24 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
 - article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
 - Article 16 of the European Social Charter (ESC)
- Access to power resources (normative and instrumental) related to childcare can empower people to cope with the social and labour market risks
- IT:
 - no right to ECEC for children below age 3
 - the mix of private and public provision tends to be associated with higher cost of parents, and reduced access
- the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) represents a unique opportunity for EU Member States to expand their offer of early childhood education and care (ECEC)
- The analyses of the country-level data provides evidence that in the case of smaller children (below 3 years old), the better access (coverage) to formal care is associated with the lower gender employment gap

Expenditure and outcomes: DE, IT and PL



Creating a springboard for the young generation: Work-Life Balance Directive

- Importance to compliment the normative resources with instrumental ones:
 - easily accessible (digital) application procedures
 - information targeted at workers (also through union representatives or HR departments)
 - targeted information campaigns

Four junctors of social protection coverage

- Clear, user-friendly information about rights and obligations relating to social protection, both by providing such information to the public, as well as reaching out to raise awareness of social entitlements
 - Information is particularly important as the increasing complexity of schemes and rules and the transitions between different employment status and contracts forms, existing in many European countries, tend to inhibit the possibility of taking informed decisions
- Transparent procedures related to claim-making:
 - simple, if not automatic, application procedures
 - simple administrative and organisational structures
 - personalised guidance and consuelling
- Acquisition of benefits: accessible and simple administration
- Junction of equality bodies, social partners, and civil society organisations

Need to cover the „white spots“

- European households most dependent on the welfare state are increasingly at-risk-of-poverty
 - this seems, at least in part, related with the weakening of social protection
- The ability of the EPSR Action Plan to reach its poverty goal is important:
 - There are much less of power resources related to social protection and minimum incomes, than gender equality
 - This can be detrimental for the achievement of the European social targets

EU policies focused on workers

- In the realm of normative resources overall, 17 regulations, 57 directives, and 2 decisions were adopted over the past 20 years in the social domain.
- Most of the initiatives fall under three categories that are related to this HLG recommendation:
 - Health and safety at the workplace (19),
 - Organisation of work and working condition (21), and
 - Labour mobility (15).
- This is also complimented by normative resources
 - i.e.EURES network of employment services
 - European Labour Authority
 - Eurofund, Cedefop...

The potential role of the EU in the future of social rights (EUSOCIALCIT project)

- The trajectory of European economic and social policy has demonstrated that social policy convergence does not happen automatically but requires decisive political action
- The convergence versus divergence deserves more attention across the EU and across time as it can give important insights into the future of European social citizenship, welfare state and social protection
- The EU can act as a ‘supporter’ of the social policies deployed in the Member States: budgetary resources, cognitive resources, guidance (OMC)
- The EU could act as a direct provider of social policy outputs to citizens, even if the EU does not currently play such a role.
 - An example would be a European basic income that is directly distributed to citizens.

The future of the welfare state in Europe

- Europe stands at a crossroads (again).
- In light of unprecedented changes, resulting from the megatrends, the question arises, if there is a need for new consensus for the future of the social protection and the welfare state in the European Union.
- The resource-based approach can provide:
 - a framework based on the concept of the European social citizenship
 - the appropriate use of the mix of power (normative, instrumental, and enforcement) resources that would enable to grant social rights to European citizens, and enable these rights to be effectively executed

