



# Social Policy in the European Union

*1st edition*

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Macmillan International Higher Education

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Ebook	9781137495150	\$40.99
Paperback	9780230223509	\$47.99
Hardcover	9780230223493	\$113.99

Social policy has become an increasingly prominent component of the European Union's policy-making responsibilities. Today, for example, a highly developed body of law regulates equal treatment in social security and co-ordinates national security schemes; national health services have opened up to patients and service providers from other states; and rules govern the translation of educational and vocational certificates across member states. This state of affairs is all the more remarkable given the relatively limited resources at the EU's disposal and the initial intentions of its founders. During negotiations for the Treaty of Rome in the 1950s, social policy was viewed as the exclusive provenance of the member states. There were to be provisions to facilitate labour mobility within the common market, but until the 1970s social policy making at the EU-level was modest. However, plans for the internal market moved social policy on the EU's decision-making agenda. The Social Chapter was adopted in 1989, and the Single European Act expanded EU competencies in social policy. The...

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## FEATURES

- A comprehensive and sophisticated introduction to social and welfare policy in the European Union
- Uptodate coverage of recent developments in the field, including the effects of the sovereign debt crisis on policy
- Uses both European integration theory and theory on the welfare state to examine how EU initiatives impact the member states, and states' responses to EU social policy