



Presenting_ **NORFACE**

**Welfare States
Futures**

NORFACE
ERA-NET





Contents

- [1. Objectives and outline](#)
- [2. Impact](#)
- [3. Programme coordinator](#)
- [4. Knowledge Exchange](#)
- [5. Funding](#)
- [6. Overview of the research projects](#)

Welfare State Futures is a NORFACE research programme.

New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe (NORFACE) is a partnership of national research funding agencies in Europe dedicated to leading and developing opportunities for scientists in the area of social and behavioural sciences.

NORFACE plays an important part in responding to the grand societal challenges by promoting research of the highest quality, sharing best practices among research funders and especially by making international collaboration between social scientists in Europe possible. From challenges brought on by migration and inequality to preparing for the impact of an aging society, researchers in the social sciences in Europe are looking at the behaviour of individuals and groups, and the dynamics of institutions and societies within Europe to understand and address these societal challenges.

NORFACE offers distinctive opportunities for researchers by developing common research funding instruments, thus opening new roads for facilitating and building high quality transnational networks of research collaboration in the area of social and behavioural science.

Launched in January 2004, the NORFACE network is the result of a successful bid for funding to the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme within the ERA-NET scheme.

Welfare States Futures

The development of welfare systems was one of the defining characteristics of the 20th century, especially in Europe. However, in times of change, it will be important to re-think "the welfare state". The title of the research programme Welfare State Futures emphasizes that the future is not pre-determined. Countries have choices about how to respond to economic and social challenges, and their choices will shape the future of their welfare states.

Research on the welfare state is a well-developed field in social science, based on various theoretical approaches and a long tradition of comparative studies. However, the aim of this programme is to encourage innovative thinking: to stimulate novel research questions, to orient research towards the future, and to bring disciplines together in collective and comparative projects. In these ways, it hopes to foster theoretical, conceptual and methodological innovation.

The purpose of this brochure is to give insight in the objectives, impact, organisation and research projects of the NORFACE Welfare State programme.



1. Objectives and outline

This programme emphasises five main themes: people and the welfare state; inequalities, diversity and welfare states; rethinking the economics of the welfare state; the future politics of the welfare state and shifting responsibilities for welfare.

The Welfare State Futures programme has three major objectives:

- to advance globally excellent theoretical and methodological disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and comparative research on Welfare State Futures which builds synergetically on a pan-European basis,
- to motivate and support excellence and capacity building for research on welfare state futures on a cross-national basis throughout the NORFACE countries, and
- to develop understanding and promote research-based knowledge and insight into Welfare State Futures for issues of societal, practical and policy relevance, with theoretical foundations but worked on jointly with relevant users and experts.

After a two stage assessment procedure of 191 outline proposals and 45 full proposals, 15 projects were funded. These projects started their work in 2015. In these projects and researchers from a wide variety of disciplines are working together across Europe, from Slovenia to Norway and Estonia to Portugal, and will look beyond Europe too. The maximum budget per proposal is € 1.5 million.

2. Impact

The aim of the transnational and interdisciplinary projects is to analyse the societal, economic, political and legal contexts in which the welfare state will develop in the future and to understand better the logic of its evolution. By doing so they enable and encourage multi-disciplinary research and offer a fruitful European approach, with opportunities for comparison.

Researchers are looking at topics ranging from health inequalities, globalisation, families, migration and social security rights, to citizens' support for the welfare state. In these projects, researchers from a wide variety of disciplines are working together across Europe, from Slovenia to Norway and Estonia to Portugal, and will look beyond Europe too.

3. Programme coordinator

Professor Ellen M. Immergut of the Humboldt University Berlin (Germany) has been appointed as Programme Coordinator. The task of a NORFACE Programme Coordinator is to bring together researchers within and outside the programme, to increase the networking, capacity building and impact of the programme.



4. Knowledge exchange

The Welfare State Futures knowledge exchange strategy is designed to ensure a sound coordination of activities, cooperation across research projects and collaboration on issues of knowledge exchange. Engagement with stakeholders outside the network and the public at large is essential to the success of the programme. Also, the knowledge generated through academic research in the Welfare State Futures programme is being made available to audiences beyond the immediate peer community.

The emphasise in the strategy is on three different avenues of networking, communication, and capacity-building: a) the creation of a Project Leader Council to establish lines of communication and establish policies in the project; b) the organisation of a series of thematic workshops that will bring together members of different projects and; c) utilising synergy effects across projects to promote training of young and emerging researchers and the dissemination of research results to both scholars and the public. In order to provide a high-prestige and extremely visible outlet for the scientific production at the highest level, a book series at Oxford University Press will be published, and policy briefs and newsletters regularly distributed.

A specific programme website has been developed and will be maintained to reflect the informational needs of the funded projects and the wider public. The website provides access to documentation and knowledge emerging from the program in an accessible form and provides virtual meetings and collaborative online document facility (Website: <https://welfarestatefutures.org/>).

5. Funding

The programme is funded by 15 NORFACE partners and the European commission.

- The Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
- The Danish Social Science Research Council (DASTI/FSE)
- The Estonian Research Council (ETAG)
- Academy of Finland (AKA)
- Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), France
- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
- The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNÍS)
- The Irish Research Council
- The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
- The Research Council of Norway (RCN)
- National Science Centre (NCN), Poland
- Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal
- The Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS)
- The Swedish Research Council (VR)
- The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), United Kingdom

The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life, and Welfare (Forte) has made an additional contribution to the programme.



6. Overview of the research projects

Fifteen transnational research projects were funded in the NORFACE Research programme Welfare State Futures.

1. [EXCELC: Exploring Comparative Effectiveness and efficiency in Long-term care](#)
Prof. J.E. Forder, University of Kent at Canterbury (United Kingdom)
2. [FACSK: Family complexity and social work. A comparative study of family-based welfare work in different welfare regimes](#)
Prof. S.O.L. Nygren, Umea University (Sweden)
3. [FPRWS: Fairness, personal responsibility and the welfare state](#)
Prof. A.W. Cappelen, NHH Norwegian School of Economics (Norway)
4. [GIWeS: Globalisation, Institutions and the Welfare State](#)
Prof. K.O. Moene, University of Oslo (Norway)
5. [GlobLabWS: Globalisation, Labour Markets, and the Welfare State](#)
Prof. C. Montagna, University of Aberdeen (United Kingdom)
6. [HEALTHDOX The Paradox of Health State Futures](#)
Prof. E.M. Immergut, Humboldt-University Berlin (Germany)
7. [HESTIA Policies and Responses with Regard to Child Abuse and Neglect in England, Germany and the Netherlands: A Comparative Multi-Site Study](#)
Prof. H.W.E. Grietens University of Groningen (The Netherlands)
8. [HiNEWS: Health inequalities in European welfare states](#)
Prof. C. Bambra, University of Durham (United Kingdom)
9. [4Is: Inequalities, Insurance, Incentives and Immigration: Challenges and Solutions for the Welfare State](#)
Prof. E. Mörk, Uppsala University (Sweden)
10. [MIFARE: Migrants' Welfare State Attitudes](#)
Dr M. Lubbers, Radboud University (The Netherlands)
11. [MobileWelfare: European Welfare Systems in Times of Mobility](#)
Prof. H.A.G. de Valk, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (The Netherlands)
12. [TransJudFare: Transnationalisation and the judicialisation of welfare](#)
Prof. S.K. Schmidt, University of Bremen (Germany)

13. TRANSWEL: Mobile Welfare in a Transnational Europe: An Analysis of Portability Regimes of Social Security Rights

Prof. A.A. Amelina, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (Germany)

14. UPWEB: Understanding the practice and developing the concept of welfare bricolage

Prof. J.A. Phillimore, University of Birmingham (United Kingdom)

15. WelfSOC: Welfare State Futures: Our Children's Europe

Prof. P.F. Taylor-Gooby, University of Kent at Canterbury (United Kingdom)

1. EXCELC: Exploring Comparative Effectiveness and efficiency in Long-term care

It is predicted that, in coming years and in many countries, the proportion of people needing long-term care will increase substantially. To meet the social and economic challenges of responding to this increased demand for care, health and care welfare regimes need to focus on the social care services that matter most to people, and deliver these services effectively and efficiently. In this study the researchers of EXCELC compare the effectiveness and efficiency of non-institutional long-term care (e.g. home care) for older adults and their informal carers in Austria, England and Finland.

Central to this goal is the need to accurately measure outcomes and reflect the value of those outcomes. The research team uses a cross-country study to measure outcomes in the field of long-term care. They use a care-related outcome tool, ASCOT, to assess the comparative effectiveness and efficiency of non-institutional long-term care (e.g. home care) for older adults and their informal carers in Austria, England and Finland.

This study strengthens the research base and helps guide policy-makers and practitioners to make outcomes-focused, economically-sound decisions about long-term care. It will also provide useful tools for future evaluations.

Project leader: Prof. J.E. Forder, University of Kent at Canterbury (United Kingdom)

Partners: National Institute for Health and Welfare Helsinki (Finland), London School of Economics and Political Science (United Kingdom) and Vienna University of Economics and Business (Austria)

2. FACSK: Family complexity and social work. A comparative study of family-based welfare work in different welfare regimes

In the era of globalisation, family policies and social care services are at the intersection of increasingly diverse family situations and complex welfare state environments. The FACSK project compares policies and family-based social work in child welfare, drug/alcohol abuse, migrating families and disabilities. The purpose is to analyse how social workers across different contexts understand notions of family and how they describe their own practices and outcomes with families.



This study uses empirical data from eight countries (Norway, Sweden, England, Ireland, Chile, Mexico, Lithuania and Bulgaria) representing four different family policy regimes (de-familialised, partly de-familialised, familialised and re-familialised). Existing data relevant to family policies from Eurostat, the OECD and other databases are used. Additional national statistics and documents detailing the organisational structure of services are collected. Thirty two focus groups (eight countries; four service areas) will be held using semi-structured interviews and case vignettes, engaging researchers from the three university partners of Sweden, Norway and United Kingdom, with co-operation partners in the other five countries.

The project adds to theoretical analyses of welfare regimes, family policy, professional discretion, and contributes methodologically to cross-national research. End-users from policy-makers to social workers benefit from new knowledge about different conceptions of the family and how these impact services provided.

Project leader: Prof. S.O.L. Nygren, Umea University (Sweden)

Partners: University of Stavanger (Norway) and University of Birmingham (United Kingdom)

3. FPRWS: Fairness, personal responsibility and the welfare state

The aim of the [FPRWS project](#) is to analyse how fairness considerations, in particular with respect to personal responsibility, affect the support and effectiveness of welfare policies. The European welfare states are faced with important challenges, in particular related to financial strains on the welfare system, changing migration flows and increasing inequality. Partly as a response to these challenges, there is an increasing focus on personal responsibility.

The research project provides new knowledge about how the welfare states can meet these challenges and how concerns for personal responsibility can be integrated in the design of welfare schemes in a way that is perceived as fair. The project represents a unique research agenda addressing questions that are of fundamental importance for understanding the challenges faced by the European welfare states. This highly topical programme offers a fruitful basis for developing of a European perspective on the futures of the welfare state.

The research project consists of several parts. The first part of the research project studies how people attribute personal responsibility for outcomes and the link between views about personal responsibility and the support for redistributive welfare policies. The second part of the research project studies people's preferences in situations where it is impossible to implement the welfare policies that are seen as most fair. In the last part the researchers study what they refer to as reference dependent social preferences and examine whether such preferences might shed light on cross-country differences in the support for welfare schemes.

Project leader: Prof. A.W. Cappelen, NHH Norwegian School of Economics (Norway)

Partners: University of Bergen (Norway), Tilburg University (The Netherlands) and University of Vienna (Austria)

4. GIWeS: Globalisation, Institutions and the Welfare State

How has twenty-five years of globalisation challenged the European welfare states? The [GIWeS project](#) investigates whether the European welfare state, as we know it, will survive the economic transformation. Will a new common European model emerge and how will it look like? Or will the welfare state in some countries thrive whereas it will decline in others depending on the economies' capacity to adjust to global change? Taking a political economic approach, the project also studies the extent to which the political process is able to bear the demands for institutional change. Are the voters willing to authorise dramatic change?

Focusing on the global changes since 1989, the objective is to produce first class research on how trade, technology and the welfare state interact; on the challenges to national welfare states in an integrated European labour market, and on the political support for reform.

The project is unique in several dimensions: It is comparative, focusing on Austria, Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom, countries that differ in their industry base, skill structure, and welfare institutions. It is relevant, addressing the current crisis, migration and the support for welfare spending. It is dynamic, drawing on unique longitudinal information that allows us to explore long term impacts of global shocks down to the individual firm and the individual worker. It is innovative, linking – for the first time – administrative longitudinal data covering entire populations across countries allowing us to follow individuals across national borders, investigating their choices in work environments and welfare institutions. It is wide-ranging, capturing how globalisation makes competition more dynamic, speeding up innovation, and the process of creative destruction, and how wide-ranging changes may give rise to a new political and economic equilibrium. It is institutional, asking whether the European welfare state survives the transformation, and what will happen to its different incarnations such as the Scandinavian, the German and the British model. It is spot on all five themes of the call, organized around international research groups in London, Linz and Oslo, with additional partners. It is enlightening, adding unique and novel insight into the interplay of the welfare state and economic prosperity in Europe.

Project leader: Prof. K.O. Moene, University of Oslo (Norway)

Partners: University College London (United Kingdom), Ragnar Frisch Centre for Economic Research (Norway) and Johannes Kepler University of Linz (Austria)

5. GlobLabWS: Globalisation, Labour Markets, and the Welfare State

The [GlobLabWS project](#) focuses on the interaction between the welfare state, globalisation and labour market institutions in determining a country's aggregate performance.

Current research on these issues tends to suffer from a “micro-macro dichotomy” that is only too common in economics. On the one hand, the effects of welfare state policies on labour markets have often been studied at a micro economic level. On the other hand, many studies of the economy-wide labour market effects of globalisation focus on adjustments that occur across industrial sectors. GlobLabWS aims to overcome this dichotomy. Evidence suggests that countries' aggregate

performance is very much influenced by micro economic adjustments that occur at the industry level across individual firms and workers. The premise of the research is that only by capturing nuanced interactions between the micro economic and macro economic adjustments that result from globalisation shall we be able to gain a better understanding of the role of welfare state policies in countering the labour market and income inequality effects of globalisation, thus addressing some of today's most pressing policy dilemmas.

The results advance research on welfare state futures and shed light on the relative effectiveness of different welfare state models in countering the labour market and income inequality effects of globalisation and on whether welfare state policies can contribute to explaining inter-country differences in aggregate labour market outcomes and productivity.

Project leader: Prof. C. Montagna, University of Aberdeen (United Kingdom)

Partners: Kiel Institute for the World Economy (Germany) and Lund University (Sweden)

6. HEALTHDOX The Paradox of Health State Futures

HEALTHDOX aims to explore future trajectories of European health politics and policies through an investigation of the impact of recent health reforms on health inequalities, health expenditures, and public attitudes towards both the health system and the welfare state. At its broadest level, the project poses the question of whether there is a paradox of health state futures. Europeanisation and globalisation processes may be putting National Health Service types of health systems under increasing pressure to converge to the Continental health insurance model. But, paradoxically, National Health Services may be the type of health system best suited both to cope with the rising health costs associated with population aging, and to regenerate public support for the welfare state amongst increasingly diverse populations.

HEALTHDOX investigates health policy developments from 1990 to the present in Europe. The project focuses on Estonia, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden, but the comparative policy investigation includes nearly every country of the European Union and Switzerland. The impact of these policy changes are analysed using quantitative data found in both national and international sources. The team is comprised of qualitative and quantitative researchers from the fields of Political Science and Sociology, whose combined expertise includes health politics, health policy, demography, migration, comparative and European politics, and the politics and sociology of the welfare state. The comparative and transnational design of the project assures insights into health inequalities, the meaning of the welfare state for individuals, and the future politics of the welfare state, as well as to provide health policy-makers with important feedback on their policies.

Project leader: Prof. E.M. Immergut, Humboldt-University Berlin (Germany)

Partners: Tartu University (Estonia), Southampton University (United Kingdom), University of Lisbon (Portugal), Uppsala University and University of Gothenburg (Sweden) and Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)

7. HESTIA Policies and Responses with Regard to Child Abuse and Neglect in England, Germany and the Netherlands: A Comparative Multi-Site Study

The [HESTIA project](#) aims to discover the nature and impact of variations in child protection systems through a comparison of three quite different welfare states: England, Germany, and the Netherlands. It includes a comparative analysis of child protection policy and empirical studies of child protection practice. Findings from the policy analysis will underpin the empirical phase, which will compare state responses to child maltreatment notifications and parent perspectives on professional intervention in different welfare states. HESTIA compares:

- the ways child protection measures are negotiated, legitimized and perceived (by professionals and parents),
- their impact on children (e.g. protection/re-abuse; removal from home),
- the relationship between national policy, thresholds for intervention and social justice, and
- rhetoric in child protection policy and practice, locating this within the wider child welfare policy framework in each country.

The study also compares wider assumptions about the role of the state in family life, (including those regarding the rights of parents) and the ways different welfare states seek to balance children's rights to protection (under the UNCRC) and parents' rights to family life (under the Human Rights Act). Through this comparative analysis, the HESTIA project generates new insights into child protection policy and practice, and so have a significant impact on future developments in child welfare in Europe.

Project leader: Prof. H.W.E. Grietens, University of Groningen (The Netherlands)

Partners: University of York (United Kingdom) and German Youth Institute (Germany)

8. HiNEWS: Health inequalities in European welfare states

The existence of social inequalities in health is well established. The welfare state (social policy, healthcare, public health policy) can play an important role in mediating the effects of the social determinants of health; however, comparative studies have shown that health inequalities are actually amongst the largest in generous and inclusive welfare states.

The [HiNEWS project](#) focuses on the following question: why do social inequalities in health persist in European welfare states and what can be done to reduce them? Expected outcomes and the impact of this project include the refinement, testing and development of social inequalities in health theory, the identification of policies and interventions with the potential of reducing health inequalities, and a new policy agenda on how health inequalities can be reduced most effectively.

HiNEWS consists of six interrelated work packages delivered across three project phases. In the first phase, the pathways are theoretically elaborated, whereby welfare states and healthcare systems influence the etiology and reduction of social inequalities in health. In the second phase, these pathways are explored and tested using morbidity and mortality indicators. Evidence review methods are used to examine the effects of macro policy interventions in reducing health inequalities. In the third phase, the researchers combine the work packages to produce country specific policy toolkits. The project thus impacts on both the academic and policy spheres. A variety of cutting edge data sources at the micro and macro level are used and state-of-the-art statistical techniques will be employed, such as counterfactual policy analyses and multilevel models.

Project leader: Prof. C. Bambra, University of Durham (United Kingdom)

Partners: Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway), Queen Mary University of London (United Kingdom) and University Siegen (Germany)

9. 4Is: Inequalities, Insurance, Incentives and Immigration: Challenges and Solutions for the Welfare State

The **4Is project** examines how recent challenges, such as increased economic uncertainty and ethnic diversity, have affected inequality and support for the welfare state in European countries. 4Is also investigates the work incentives embedded in the existing tax- and benefit systems and how these affect individuals' behavior, both in the short and in the long run. This information is a crucial input to governments' decisions on how to finance the welfare system and redistribute income while maintaining incentives to work and avoiding poverty traps.

The project is divided into three strands. The researchers first measure inequality developments using multidimensional and lifetime perspectives, and assess how different EU tax and benefit systems reduce economic vulnerability. Second, they investigate support for redistribution, asking how ethnic diversity affects people's support for the welfare state and, using methods from experimental psychology, examining the determinants of redistributive attitudes for different groups. Third, they investigate the work incentives embedded in the existing tax and benefit systems and how these affect individuals' behaviour, both in the short and in the long run, taking into account issues like the complexity of the tax design.

The research produces academically meritorious publications and highly policy relevant guidance on reforms to the redistributive side of the welfare state. The research uses comparative micro data across European countries and detailed register data from individual countries. The project unites economists, political scientists, sociologists and psychologists with extensive experience advising governments and the EC on policy design.

Project leader: Prof. E. Mörk, Uppsala University (Sweden)

Partners: University of Essex (United Kingdom), University of Tampere and University of Turku (Finland)

10. MIFARE: Migrants' Welfare State Attitudes

The **MIFARE project** is among the first to focus on migrants' attitudes towards the welfare state. In Europe, the field of research on welfare state attitudes has ignored the perspective of migrants almost completely. Due to migrants' socialization in different welfare regimes, and their often disadvantaged socio-economic positions, the migrant perspective provides a unique opportunity to test the central theories in the field on the role of self-interest, group-loyalty and of socialization in different welfare regimes.

MIFARE aims to study migrants' welfare state attitudes, and explain differences across migrant groups, as well as differences compared to the overall public opinion in the country of origin and the host country. With this innovative focus the researchers answer questions that cut across the call's themes of "People and the welfare state", "Inequalities and diversity" and "Future politics". They rely on existing cross-national datasets such as the ISSP. However, they also propose a harmonised and unique data collection among migrants in the destination countries Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. The members of the research team have expertise on data collection among migrants, on public opinion research, and expertise on welfare state attitudes in particular. The unique focus on migrants provides both the academic community and policy makers with insights on new groups in society.

Project leader: Dr M. Lubbers, Radboud University (The Netherlands)

Partners: University of Konstanz (Germany) and Aalborg University (Denmark)

11. MobileWelfare: European Welfare Systems in Times of Mobility

The [MobileWelfare project](#) aims to understand the role of welfare systems in destination and origin countries for migration patterns within and towards Europe. Welfare states were developed and associated with the nation state, explaining why provisions remain predominantly linked to nationality and residency. The project moves beyond prior studies on the contested existence of welfare magnets and the presumed threat of (low-skilled) migration to the viability of welfare state benefits. A receiving country bias has caused research to neglect the important role of welfare regimes in origin countries on migration aspirations and decisions. Furthermore, little empirical knowledge of the effects of transferability of welfare entitlements on mobility in Europe exists.

To fill these gaps and understand how growing levels of mobility intersect with existing welfare regimes across Europe, MobileWelfare addresses three research questions: How and to what extent do welfare systems affect mobility patterns in Europe? To what extent and how do perceptions of access to welfare arrangements in origin and destination countries shape migration decisions? What role does transferability of welfare accounts play in mobility across Europe? The project combines macro and micro perspectives, and applies a mixed-methods approach of innovative analysis of existing statistics and migration data added with new primary data collection via case studies in seven countries. It goes beyond reductionist categorisations of receiving and sending countries by considering all case study countries simultaneously as origins and destinations.

Project leader: Prof. H.A.G. de Valk, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (The Netherlands)

Partners: University of Oxford (United Kingdom), University of Lisbon (Portugal) and University of Warsaw (Poland)

12. TransJudFare: Transnationalisation and the judicialisation of welfare

[TransJudFare](#) deals with two challenges for welfare states in the European Union (EU): the transnationalisation of citizenship and welfare rights and the judicialisation of politics. European case law significantly broadens the eligibility of non-economically active EU nationals to non-contributory welfare services. Yet while these rights and their potential are widely discussed, there has been no systematic study of their actual impact on member states' welfare states, the gap that this project aims to fill.

TransJudFare focuses on social assistance measures and study grants and asks how member states respond to European case law at the level of lower courts, the administration, and the legislature. Teams of political scientists and lawyers in four member states map changes in five western EU member states according to a unified approach, joining forces in the analyses along different dimensions. Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are chosen as they are all targeted by migration flows but differ in important respects such as welfare state type and judicial system.



WILL WORK
FOR
FOOD

By mapping and explaining reactions to case law, TransJudFare enriches the political science literature on Europeanisation, and law scholars' analyses of the workings of the integrated European court system. It gives a systematic account of the relevance of judicialisation and EU citizenship rights for member states' welfare state reforms. TransJudFare cuts across several core themes outlined in the Welfare State Futures call, addressing the question of social citizenship, increased heterogeneity among EU member states, the new politics of the welfare state, and potential shifts of welfare responsibility to the European level.

Project leader: Prof. S.K. Schmidt, University of Bremen (Germany)

Partners: University of Salzburg (Austria), VU University Amsterdam (The Netherlands) and University of Copenhagen (Denmark)

13. TRANSWEL: Mobile Welfare in a Transnational Europe: An Analysis of Portability Regimes of Social Security Rights

Approaching EU enlargements as transnational events, the [TRANSWEL project](#) examines transnational European welfare. It focuses on the portability of social security rights in the enlarged European Union; that is, the rights to health insurance and to unemployment, retirement and family-related benefits. The project involves a comparative analysis, which traces the migrations of regularly and irregularly employed migrants and their family members and the portability of their social security rights between four pairs of countries: Hungary-Austria, Bulgaria-Germany, Poland-United Kingdom and Estonia-Sweden.

The main outcome will be a typology of transnational portability regimes derived from the comparative analysis of four research objectives for the respective pairs of countries. First, the project examines legal regulations on the portability of social security rights. Second, it analyses a variety of mobile EU citizens' practices of portability, including limitations to portability they may involve. Third, the project reconstructs discourses of belonging incorporated into portability regulations to determine how they shape individuals' access to social security. Fourth, it provides insights into individuals' inequality experiences resulting from limitations to portability. Building on a transnational comparison of the four pairs of countries, the project then reconstructs variations in the portability of social security rights.

Project leader: Prof. A.A. Amelina, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (Germany)

Partners: University of Bath (United Kingdom), Södertörn University Stockholm (Sweden) and University of Vienna (Austria)

14. UPWEB: Understanding the practice and developing the concept of welfare bricolage

The [UPWEB project](#) reconceptualises welfare theory through responding to the question of how all residents living in super diverse neighbourhoods access healthcare. Such a focus is pertinent given increasing population complexity, heterogeneity and pace of change under globalisation, and the subsequent need to rethink welfare design, alongside issues of engagement, approachability and effectiveness.

Using innovative techniques including street-mapping, community research and a mobile phone “app” alongside a neighbourhood survey, UPWEB explores the multiple approaches that residents living in super diverse neighbourhoods use to meet their health needs, encompassing the perspectives of service users and providers. UPWEB generates new theoretical and practical insights through the development of models of welfare bricolage: the practice by which individuals combine formal, informal and virtual health services across public, private and third sectors in an attempt to meet need. A comparative/sequential approach is used to interrogate local welfare states across eight deprived and upwardly mobile super diverse neighbourhoods in four different national welfare states (United Kingdom, Portugal, Germany and Sweden) each with different welfare, health and migration regimes. By focusing on key features of super diverse neighbourhoods where residents are differentiated according to faith, income (including socio-economic status), age, gender and legal status, the project delivers new insights with societal, practical and policy relevance. The study illuminates inequalities and diversity in respect of individuals’ relationship with healthcare, different modes of provision, and responsibilities for welfare allocation.

Project leader: Prof. J.A. Phillimore, University of Birmingham (United Kingdom)

Partners: Uppsala University (Sweden), University of Bremen (Germany) and University of Minho Braga (Portugal)

15. WelfSOC: Welfare State Futures: Our Children’s Europe

How European welfare states will develop is hard to predict. People’s current aspirations, ideas and assumptions will be important drivers of change and persistence and of the extent to which conflict and solidarity surround change. The [WelfSOC project](#) uses innovative methods (deliberative democratic forums, a qualitative cross-national focus group survey) to develop understanding of people’s aspirations for the Europe their children will inhabit. The interactive and discursive methods proposed deal directly with people’s ideas, but are rarely used in comparative welfare studies.

The project is essentially forward-looking. It contributes to theoretical work on the main cleavages and solidarities driving social policy in different European welfare states and to more practical consideration of the parameters of acceptable policy change. It supplies new findings relevant to the politics and sociology of welfare and provides data for reanalysis and as a base-line in future studies. The team has led major cross-national projects and will press home findings in national and EU-level policy debate.

Project leader: Prof. P.F. Taylor-Gooby, University of Kent at Canterbury (United Kingdom)

Partners: Aalborg University (Denmark), University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), NOVA – Norwegian Social Research (Norway) and Humboldt University Berlin (Germany)

For additional information and further detail about this NORFACE programme and its projects, please see the [NORFACE Welfare State Future programme website](#):

Contact us

For further information on the NORFACE Network and its research programmes, please contact:

NORFACE Network Co-ordination Office

Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

E-mail: norface@nwo.nl

Postal address: PO Box 93461

NL-2509 AL The Hague

The Netherlands

Visitors address:

Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indië 300

NL-2593 CE The Hague

The Netherlands

This brochure is part of the series Presenting NORFACE.

Other available brochures are:

Presenting NORFACE: **About NORFACE**

Presenting NORFACE: **Re-emergence of Religion as a Social Force in Europe?**

Presenting NORFACE: **Migration in Europe – Social, Economic, Cultural and policy Dynamics**

2017

NORFACE
ERA-NET

