

Editorial: Social Policy and Labor Regulation in the course of European Integration

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At least since the *banking crisis* of 2008 devolved into a *demand-driven economic crisis* and, later, a *sovereign debt crisis* (Scharpf 2011), the concept of *crisis* has significantly shaped the discourse on European integration. Thus, the rise in refugee immigration and the controversial debate over the responsibilities of individual EU member states has recently made the term *refugee crisis* common parlance (Pries 2016). And over a decade ago, Dutch and French voters' refusal to accept the EU constitution was interpreted as an early sign of a *legitimacy crisis* (Scharpf 2009), one that recently reappeared in the form of societal resistance to the EU in the wake of its austerity policies, especially in the countries of Southern Europe.

Against this background, the contributions to this issue are aiming to improve our understanding of labor market and social policies in the course of European integration. As a "child of the nation state and industrial revolution" (Leibfried/Obinger 2008: 336), the welfare state represents an institutional framework in which the social and the national overlap. While the parallel processes of globalization and European integration have gradually laid the economic foundations for this framework (e.g. through labor mobility, parallel production or tax competition), sustainable instruments for achieving and maintaining social security have yet to be established on international level. Thus, the solution to social problems remains in the hands of the nation state. If the legitimacy of political system depends on generating and redistributing prosperity (Offe 2006), both policy fields serve as the loci, in which market outcomes have to be adjusted according to public demand.

The contributions to this issue approach this field of research from a range of various angles. In their conceptual text on 'Social Security in Europe' Stefanie Börner and Monika Eigmüller are proposing a diachronic perspective for analysing social policy rescaling in the European Union. Based on the assumption that the emergence of welfare institutions on the national level can only be understood from a longitudinal perspective, the authors argue for a conceptual reframing of research on European social policy. In his paper Christof Roos analyses government positions of Germany, France, and the UK regarding the EU Freedoms of

Movement and Services. Against the backdrop of recent national as well as European restrictions on EU mobility rights and Brexit, he shows that the issue of labor mobility persists a contested issue. In his article on the European minimum wage, Martin Seeliger sheds light on the question of social security from a trade union perspective. The multi-level system of European labor relations constitutes the framework, within which ideas and positions among European labor are negotiated and developed. A particular focus on trade unionists from Sweden, Hungary and Poland illustrates the difficulties political actors encounter when trying to establish common political positions in the process of European integration. This issue's open themed section contains contributions from Klarissa Lueg and Sebastian Büttner, respectively. Klarissa Lueg, in her research paper, analyses European discourses and policies as to English as a common language in a Europeanizing higher education market. Sebastian Büttner, in his book review, comments on the recently published *Brexit: Sociological Responses* (Ed. William Outhwaite). Finally, in his review of recent path-leading contributions on the state and development of capitalism, Hauke Brunkhorst investigates the current state of the art in the German discussion.

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