

# Europeanization of Employment & Social Policy



There are three important steps in terms of the Europeanization of Social Policies:

1. Single Market Act 1986

2. Treaty of Amsterdam of June 1997 and 'soft' law mechanism designed to coordinate the employment and social policies of the EU Member States.

3. The EU Eastern Enlargement (2005)

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### 1. Single Market Act 1986:

-entered into force on 1 July 1987- revised the Treaties of Rome in order to complete the internal market.

Henceforth, European citizenship can move as freely around Europe for working, living and studying. Thus, the coordination of social security systems aims at facilitating the free movement of citizens in the EU.

**As a result social rights for the EU citizens are largely Europeanized.**

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2. Treaty of Amsterdam of June 1997 and 'soft' law mechanism designed to coordinate the employment and social policies of the EU Member States.

There are two soft law mechanisms:

1. The 'open method of coordination' (OMC) aims to spread best practices and achieve greater convergence towards the main EU goals. The employment title is perceived as the original model of the open method coordination, encapsulated in Article 148.

2. The European Employment Strategy (EES) is a 'soft' law mechanism (decided at Luxembourg job summit at 1997) aims to coordinate the national employment policies of the EU Member States. While the objectives, priorities and targets are agreed at EU level, the national governments are fully responsible for formulating and implementing the necessary policies.

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## 3. The EU Eastern Enlargement (2005)

- When the 12 new member states from Eastern European are admitted to the EU, they were poorer and they had different social protection schemes. So EU social policy became an indispensable tool both for social integration and for balancing economic integration.
- The preparation for full membership of the EES via Joint Action Plans proved to be a helpful instrument to ensure a smooth integration of the new Member States. Candidate countries had the opportunity to adjust their institutions and policies to the EES, thus allowing the full implementation of the Employment Title of the Treaty from accession.

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## Dynamics of Europeanization of Employment & Social Policy in the Context of Enlargement



The main problem in the Europeanization literature is how to examine whether domestic changes have been caused by EU-level factors rather than global or domestic dynamics (Haverland, 2006).

The following indicators, which can be derived from EES, will help to make this distinction:

1. Implementation of Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs)
2. The level of social expenditures as a percentage of GDP
3. Characteristics of unemployment benefits
4. Analyze by “Progress Reports”