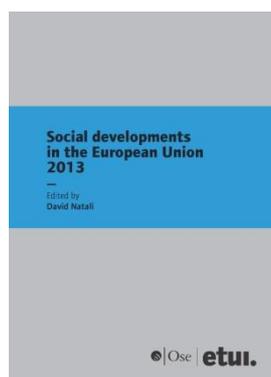


New publication

# Social developments in the European Union 2013

Edited by David Natali



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To order copies, please  
contact Liselotte Borre:  
+32 2 224 04 70;  
[lborre@etui.org](mailto:lborre@etui.org)  
[www.etui.org](http://www.etui.org)

The year preceding the European elections has been a crucial period for the European Union, marked by growing anti-EU sentiment and the difficult implementation of its overhauled socio-economic governance. After years of in-depth innovation and hopes of revamping the E(M)U social dimension, European institutions have debated how to exit the recession and relaunch the integration project. While most member states have continued to pursue punitive austerity programmes . at a time when 27 million Europeans are unemployed and a quarter of the EU population is at risk of poverty . most stakeholders and policymakers agree on the need for an EU-driven growth strategy.

This new edition of Social developments in the European Union, covering trends and events in 2013, provides key insights from analysts and scholars. Critically assessing the last few years of EU economic governance, contributors have developed a set of guidelines for a reinforced EU social protection and investment plan. The proposals for a pan-European unemployment insurance scheme and an EU minimum income scheme are analysed, along with a renewed focus on the gender dimension of European social policies. Beyond economic and social governance, this volume critically reviews national reforms of labour market policies. While the condition of the European economy continues to look gloomy, the institutional and policy reforms proposed here represent an opportunity to open up a new way forward for Europe.

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