

Frank Vandembroucke, Social Investment as a Policy Platform: a European Argument, in: Anton Hemerijck (ed.), *The Uses of Social Investment*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. 319-327.

ABSTRACT

This contribution argues for a truly reciprocal social investment pact for Europe: member states should be committed to policies that respond to the need for social investment; simultaneously, member states' efforts in this direction – notably efforts by member states in a difficult budgetary context – should be supported in a tangible way. Social investment is a policy perspective that should be based on a broad consensus between people who may entertain certain disagreements on the level of their empirical and/or normative understanding of the social world. For that reason, the expression of an 'overlapping consensus' is used for delineating social investment advocacy. Data on education spending show that we are far removed from a social investment perspective at the EU level. This underscores that social investment advocates need clear thinking about the role the EU has to play in social investment progress.

KEYWORDS

Social investment, European Union, education, overlapping consensus