

Addressing inequalities

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No one-dimensional explanation

No 'silver bullet' for policy

- International competition, technological and demographic changes and sociological and ideational shifts all put pressure on welfare states.
- But differences in national institutions and policies explain large heterogeneity in trajectories.
- Yet, a common trend in advanced EU welfare states w.r.t. non-elderly poverty:
 - More people live in low-work-intensity households
 - Low-work-intensity households experience higher poverty risks
- No silver bullet: *resilient* welfare states have to combine:
 - *enabling* institutions (ECEC, education, life-long learning...: social investment)
 - and
 - *stabilising* institutions (income stability via insurance against shocks; stability in the functional income distribution via collective bargaining etc.: social protection).

No silver bullet for policy

The EU as a holding environment for resilient welfare states

- Basic income *in cash* is trapped in a trilemma of affordability, poverty-reduction and simplicity;
- Basic 'income' *in kind* makes sense (affordable quality ECEC, education, health care)
- Opportunity Credit?
- Role of the EU: holding environment that supports both the *enabling/investment* dimension and the *stabilisation/protection* dimension of welfare states
=> implement European Pillar of Social Rights & completion of EMU

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