

CIRCLE

CARE AND INCOME REDISTRIBUTIVE CYCLES IN THE LIVES OF EUROPEANS

IMPACT ON CIVIL SOCIETY AND POLICY

In many EU countries welfare provisions addressed to older people are pay as you go financed and fast population ageing boosts redistribution from the young to the old. However, compensatory mechanisms redistributing resources from the old to the young are often implemented at intra-household level, mainly through inter-vivos transfers and informal care provisions.

CIRCLE focuses on the effects of the ongoing economic and demographic changes on the intergenerational distribution of income and the intra-household informal insurance of care and income risks in Europe.

The results of the project are meant to have an important impact on civil society and policy making by providing new insights for debate on the redesign of the European welfare states.

In particular, the empirical analyses of the project will

- focus on the criticalities related to the individuals' understanding of the welfare state functioning and of reforms, with important consequences on the social cohesion of a country.
- enhance the comprehension of how the welfare state institutions function; a higher understanding can prevent individuals from undertaking improper behaviours addressed to neutralize the effects of the welfare reforms.
- address issues related to soften intergenerational conflicts that might arise and shed light on the redistributive patterns across generations in order to clarify the respective positions implied by the welfare reforms.
- address the gender aspects inherent the comprehension of the reforms as a necessary prerequisite for implementing effective gender policies.
- cover three different European countries – Belgium, Italy and Spain; this comparative perspective will enhance knowledge-based proposals for policy reforms.



SUMMARY

The aim of CIRCLE is to provide new cross-country empirical evidence of the impact of the interaction between the economic and demographic changes and the welfare systems on the distribution of the resources, rights and responsibilities between generations. It explores the effects of these changes on the intergenerational distribution of income and the intra-household informal insurance of care and income risks in Europe.

The analysis takes both redistributive flows into account and covers a variety of EU welfare state models, giving a strong base for generalizing the results and deriving useful policy implications.

Overall, the project highlights the effects of the most relevant reforms of the welfare state implemented in Europe in the last 10 years.

Also, a survey will be run in Belgium, Italy and Spain allowing new empirical research to be conducted on the role of communication, economic and financial literacy, and comprehension of the overall design of the welfare systems, exploiting the cross-country specificity.

<http://circle-cerp.carloalberto.org/>

CONSORTIUM

The consortium includes academics in economics, sociology and social policy from 3 outstanding institutions in Belgium, Italy and Spain.

Leading institution:

Center for Research on Pensions and Welfare Policies – Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin (Italy).

Partners:

Centre for Social Policy – University of Antwerp (Belgium) and University of Alcalá (Spain).

CIRCLE involves distinguished stakeholder organizations in the field of welfare, ageing and financial literacy.

The coordinator is Prof. Elsa Fornero.

