

# Contents

List of figures and tables	vii
Notes on contributors	xiii
Acknowledgements	xix
 one	
Labour market policies in the era of European pervasive austerity: a review <i>Sotiria Theodoropoulou</i>	1
Introduction	1
New approaches to labour market policies under the pressures of 'permanent austerity' and the emergence of 'new' social risks	2
Blame avoidance, credit claiming and patterns of policy change	4
New policy agendas	5
Is this time different?	6
Empirical approach and organisation of the book	8
 two	
Structural reforms in Europe: a comparative overview <i>Chiara Agostini and David Natali</i>	15
Introduction	15
Socio-economic reforms in Europe: common path or different strategies?	16
Structural reforms in the European Union: some conceptual clarification	18
Structural reform trends: a cluster-by-cluster overview	20
Concluding remarks	33
Appendix	38
 three	
Income support policies and labour market reforms under austerity in Greece <i>Manos Matsaganis</i>	43
Introduction	43
Income support	45
Active labour market policies	50
Employment protection legislation	56
Conclusion	60
Appendix	65



four	<b>The Italian labour market policy reforms and the economic crisis: coming towards the end of Italian exceptionalism?</b>	69
	<i>Patrik Vesan and Emmanuele Pavoli</i>	
	Introduction	69
	Main aspects of the Italian labour market before and since the onset of the crisis	70
	Changes in the traditional model: from the mid-1990s until the crisis	73
	Towards a new institutional landscape: the 'long jump' of labour market policy reforms during the economic crisis	75
	A fragile and still incomplete path towards a new labour market policy regime	84
five	<b>French employment market policies: dualisation and destabilisation</b>	91
	<i>Hélène Caune and Sotiria Theodoropoulou</i>	
	Introduction	91
	Macroeconomic and labour market background	92
	Labour market policies prior to the crisis: the gradual shift towards dualisation	96
	Labour market policies since 2009: cyclical measures to support young people and flexibilisation reforms	99
	Conclusion: France under austerity and the ambiguous attempt to tackle dualisation	108
six	<b>The German exception: welfare protectionism instead of retrenchment</b>	115
	<i>Werner Eichhorst and Anke Hassel</i>	
	Introduction	115
	Welfare reforms during the 2000s	117
	Germany during the crisis	120
	Welfare reforms since 2010: re-regulation rather than retrenchment policies	125
	Conclusion	137



seven	<b>The Netherlands and the crisis: from activation to 'deficiency compensation'</b> <i>Marcel Hoogenboom</i>	141
	Introduction	141
	The consequences of the crisis and early policy reactions	142
	Reform of the Dutch unemployment provision system and active labour market policies up to the crisis (1980s–2008)	146
	Emergency measures and reform plans (2008–10)	153
	The politics of reform (2010–present)	156
	Conclusion	161
eight	<b>Dualising the Swedish model: insiders and outsiders and labour market policy reform in Sweden: an overview</b> <i>Johan Bo Davidsson</i>	169
	Introduction	169
	Labour market policy reform from the 1990s and onwards	170
	Recent developments: labour market policy and economic crisis	189
	Conclusion	190
nine	<b>No longer 'fit for purpose'? Consolidation and catch-up in Irish labour market policy</b> <i>Fiona Dukelow</i>	197
	Introduction	197
	Setting the context: the economic crisis and its consequences for labour market policy	198
	Mapping key changes in labour market policy	202
	Concluding remarks	219
ten	<b>Retrenchment, conditionality and flexibility – UK labour market policies in the era of austerity</b> <i>Elke Heins and Hayley Bennett</i>	225
	Introduction	225
	The UK crisis context	226
	Unemployment benefits: Jobseeker's Allowance	228
	Employment protection legislation	230
	Active labour market policies	233
	Training and human capital formation	235
	Needs-based social protection for the unemployed	239
	Discussion	240
	Conclusion	244



# Labour market policies in the era of pervasive austerity

eleven	<b>Czechia: political experimentation or incremental reforms?</b> 253 <i>Tomáš Sirovátka</i>	
	Introduction	253
	Economic development during the crisis and related European Union regulations	255
	Labour market policies	256
	Minimum income protection and activation of long-term unemployed and social assistance recipients	264
	Politics of the reforms in labour market-related policies	267
	Conclusion	270
	Appendix	274
twelve	<b>Slovakia: perpetual austerity and growing emphasis on activation</b> 277 <i>Stefan Domonkos</i>	
	Introduction	277
	Macroeconomic and macro-institutional context	278
	Labour market policies during the economic transition and beyond	283
	Conclusions: assessing the impact of EU austerity on labour market policies	298
thirteen	<b>Slovenian labour market policies under austerity: narrowing the gap between the well- and the less well-protected in the labour market?</b> 309 <i>Mirosljub Ignjatović and Maša Filipovič Hrst</i>	
	Introduction	309
	Context and policy changes up to 2010	310
	Labour market policy developments and outcomes since 2010	316
	Conclusion	329
	Appendix	333
fourteen	<b>Conclusions</b> 337 <i>Sotiria Theodoropoulou</i>	
	Introduction	337
	Changes in labour market policies	338
	Increasing and divergent labour market insecurity	354
	Concluding remarks	358
Index		363