Introduction

This Guide comprises two inter-related sections: sources on European (predominantly European Union) welfare and those with a broader geographical remit addressing the different systems across the world. The division largely follows the growth in the teaching of ‘international and comparative social policy’ in the United Kingdom. Initially, interests were in comparing UK provision with its European neighbours and the United States in cross-national studies. While there is continued interest in these geographical areas and this method of comparison, broader conceptual concerns (discussed in Part X of the Companion) have led to increased attention being given to the impact of transnational and supranational organisations on welfare provision as well as the role of social policies in socio-economic development in, for instance, Africa, Asia, China, Latin America and Russia.

Sources on the European Union

Intergovernmental Sources: Websites

- Cordis (http://cordis.europa.eu/home_en.html)
  Cordis is the European Commission’s ‘primary public repository and portal to disseminate information on all EU-funded research projects’. Social policy coverage includes: education and training; employment issues; the environment, and healthcare. It publishes: briefings; reports; and report summaries.

- European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (www.euro.centre.org)
  The European Centre is a UN-affiliated organisation researching many different aspects of social policy, including: ageing; civil society and volunteering; education, families and human capital; healthcare; income, poverty and social inclusion; labour markets; pensions and social security, and tax and benefits. It publishes: policy briefings; reports; and book synopses.

- European Commission (www.ec.europa.eu)
  This site provides detailed synopses of the legislation and social policies of the European Union including those on: children’s rights; criminal justice; disabilities; diversity and non-discrimination; education and training; health; pensions; poverty; social inclusion; and social protection. These are published as: commission directives; country profiles; policy strategies; programmes; and reports.

- European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (www.eurofound.europa.eu)
  Eurofound is an EU agency ‘whose role is to provide knowledge in the area of social and work-related policies’. Its current research areas include: increasing labour-market participation and combating unemployment; improving working conditions; developing industrial relations; and improving standards of living and cohesion. It publishes: a newsletter (Eurofound News); reports; and report summaries.

- European Observatory on Homelessness (www.feantsaresearch.org)
Supported by the European Commission, this site focuses on homelessness and housing exclusion in the EU. It publishes the *European Journal of Homelessness*, research reports and statistical data.

- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies ([www.euro.who.int](http://www.euro.who.int))
  This site ‘supports and promotes evidence-based health policy-making through analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe’. It publishes: country-based reports; a newsletter; observatory studies; policy briefings; and a quarterly magazine providing a forum for debate on health policy in Europe.

- Eurostat ([ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat))
  Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union. It provides national and regional data, and analyses of a wide range of policy-relevant topics, including: the economy; education; fiscal trends; health; housing; income and living conditions; labour markets, unemployment and migration; and poverty and social exclusion. It publishes its research in books, news releases, pocketbooks, reports and yearbooks.

- Eurydice ([eacea.ec.europa.eu](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu))
  This network is part of the European Union’s Educational, Audiovisual and Cultural Exchange Agency. It supports and facilitates cooperation in the fields of education and culture, training and lifelong learning by undertaking research and providing information on education systems and policies across 33 European countries. It publishes: profiles of national education systems; national and comparative studies; and key statistical data. It also hosts the Eurypedia site, which is described as ‘an encyclopaedia on national education systems’ that consists of: national profiles; over 5000 articles; news on the latest reforms; and information organised by topic and educational level.

- UN Economic Commission for Europe ([www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org))
  This is a statistical database with time-series data on 56 countries (geographical Europe plus the United States). Its ‘Gender Statistics’ field provides indicators on: population; families and households; education; health; and work and the economy. Some of its statistics are in read-only formats, but there are also reports accessible from the site and downloadable free as PDF files.

❖ Non-governmental Sources: Academic Journals

- *Comparative European Politics*
- *Discover Society*
- *European Journal of Criminology*
- *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*
- *European Journal of Homelessness*
- *European Journal on Housing Policy*
- *European Journal of Social Security*
- *European Journal of Social Work*
- *European Societies*
- *Housing Studies*
- *Journal of European Social Policy*
- *Journal of European Public Policy*
- *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy*
- *Policy and Politics*
- *Policy and Society*
- *Politics and Policy*
Non-governmental Sources: Websites

- **Academic Network of European Disability Experts** ([www.disability-europe.net](http://www.disability-europe.net))
  Created by the European Commission, ANED aims ‘to establish and maintain a pan-European network in the disability field that will support policy development in collaboration with the Commission’s Disability Unit’. It covers: accessibility; disability benefits; education and training; employment; EU law and policy; health; independent living; political participation; social protection; and statistical indicators. It publishes: activity reports and statistics.

- **Age Platform Europe** ([www.age-platform.eu](http://www.age-platform.eu))
  Age Platform is a European network whose purpose is to promote the interests of older and retired people. It focuses on a range of policy issues including: active ageing; elder abuse; employment of older workers; health concerns; pensions; and social protection. It publishes: brochures; guidelines; handbooks; and reports.

- **Consortium of European Data Archives** ([www.cessda.net](http://www.cessda.net))
  Cessda collects social and economic data from 15 European countries with the general aim of promoting evidence-based social research. It is stored as national data and, although the range and quality of information varies, it can include: large-scale Government surveys; census data; attitudinal surveys; qualitative studies; and business microdata.

- **European Disability Forum** ([www.edf-feph.org](http://www.edf-feph.org))
  EDF is a non-governmental organisation that represents the interests of Europeans with disabilities. Its concerns centre on advancing disabled people’s rights, e.g. those of access, participation, education and work. Operating largely within the framework of the EU’s disability strategy, it monitors initiatives, advances changes and proposes legislation. It publishes: strategy statements; initiative assessments; and responses to EU proposals.

- **European Network for Social Policy Analysis** ([https://blogg.hioa.no/espanet](https://blogg.hioa.no/espanet))
  Espanet is an association of academics involved or interested in the analysis of social policy in Europe. It organises annual conferences, summer schools and doctoral workshops.

- **European Trade Union Institute** ([www.etui.org](http://www.etui.org))
  The policy-relevant social research undertaken by ETUI is linked to its concerns with employment and the labour market. Its current areas of interest are: the challenges of the economic crisis for social policies; cross-border labour mobility patterns within Europe; education and welfare; health and safety; precarious employment; and pensions. It publishes its research in books; guides; policy briefs; reports; and working papers. It also hosts an online catalogue of ETUI publications at Labourline ([www.labourline.org](http://www.labourline.org)).

- **Mannheim Centre for European Social Research** ([www.mzes.uni-mannheim.de](http://www.mzes.uni-mannheim.de))
  The Mannheim Centre is a leading European academic social research centre with interests in the economy; education; ethnic inequalities; gender disparities; globalisation; healthcare; pensions; and population. It publishes: articles; conference presentations; monographs; research reports; and working papers – many of them in English.
Migration Policy Unit (www.migrationpolicy.org)
MPI is an independent thinktank dedicated to the analysis of migration and refugee policies at local, national and international levels, including a strong section on the EU. It covers a number of areas including: border security; employment and the economy; immigrant integration; immigration policy and law; international governance; migrant education; and refugee and asylum policy. It publishes: books; factsheets; policy briefings; reports; and an online journal (The Migration Information Source).

Policy Network (www.policy-network.net)
Policy Network is an ‘international think-tank and research institute’ whose aim is to promote ‘the best progressive thinking on the major social and economic challenges of the 21st century’. Current research themes include: progressive capitalism and inclusive prosperity; social policy and changing welfare states; and the future of the EU. It publishes: books; essays; research reports; and opinion pieces.

Social Europe (https://www.socialeurope.eu)
Social Europe is a digital media publisher working in cooperation with universities and thinktanks to address economic, social and political issues facing the European Union. It publishes: books; occasional papers; podcasts of discussions; reports; and research essays.

Social Policy Research Unit (www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru)
The research interests of this university centre focus on: adults, older people and carers; children and families; health; and welfare and employment in both UK and European contexts. Its analyses are published in books and journal articles (synopses and publication details are presented on the website), research works and research reports.

Sources on International Welfare Systems

Intergovernmental Sources: Websites

International Labour Office (www.ilo.org)
The ILO provides data and analyses on social policy topics linked to employment, including: equality of opportunity and treatment; social protection; and employment strategies. Its reports are accessible on the website. It also hosts the LABORSTA database, which has labour statistics for over 200 countries and territories covering: household income and expenditure; economically active populations; unemployment and employment characteristics (including working hours; wages; labour costs; and consumer prices).

International Monetary Fund (www.imf.org)
The IMF is an intergovernmental organisation working to: foster global monetary cooperation; secure financial stability; facilitate international trade; promote high employment and sustainable economic growth; and reduce poverty around the world. As part of its supporting research programme, it monitors a range of social and poverty indicators and conducts a number of national and regional socio-economic analyses. These are published in country-specific reports, discussion notes, factsheets, fiscal and financial analyses and working papers.

International Social Security Association (https://www.issa.int/en)
This web portal of the International Labour Organization provides news, information and data analyses on social security worldwide. Its observatory provides country profiles and a database of major reforms in social protection schemes. It publishes: annual reviews; guidelines; policy...
briefings; and trends reports. It also hosts the online version of *International Social Security Review*.

- **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (www.oecd.org)**
  The mission of the OECD is to ‘promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world’. These policies are based on extensive research in a range of social policy-relevant areas such as: the economy; education; employment; the environment; health; insurance and pensions; and social and welfare issues. It publishes its analyses in: annual reviews and outlooks, OECD journals and working papers. It also hosts a statistics portal with country-specific data on a variety of indicators in: demography; employment; and expenditure on education, health and pensions.

  UNICEF is the international charity working for children’s rights, their survival, development and protection. It publishes a number of factsheets, reports and reviews on these topics.

- **UNdata (data.un.org)**
  This website offers access to 33 United Nations and UN-linked databases. They cover a range of international policy issues, including: children and well-being; crime; education; employment; the environment; gender; health; population; and refugees. They are presented in both country-specific and transnational statistical analyses and reports.

  HDR seeks to promote human well-being by advancing policymaking geared to reducing poverty, expanding access to education and fostering sustainable development. It publishes: blogs (HDDialogue); country profiles; country reports; and HDR reports.

- **United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (www.unrisd.org)**
  UNRISD is an agency that carries out research on the social dimensions of contemporary problems affecting economic development. It publishes: book summaries; policy briefings; and project reports on ageing, demography, gender, globalisation, healthcare, social care and social protection.

- **World Bank (www.worldbank.org)**
  The World Bank offers financial and technical assistance to developing countries for capital programmes. Its primary goal is the reduction in poverty through sustainable economic and social development. Its website has a ‘data catalogue’, which lists datasets, preformatted tables and reports on a wide range of policy-related topics including: economic policy, education, gender, health, labour, social protection and urban development.

- **World Development Indicators (www.data.worldbank.org)**
  Produced yearly by the World Bank, this annual report contains tables with quantitative indicators for over 200 countries on issues such as: economy and trade; public expenditure; demography; education; gender; health; poverty; and social protection. The underlying databases are accessible through the website.

  The World Factbook is a public information source developed by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States. The website contains datasets on some 200 countries covering topics such as: demography, education, health, labour force and unemployment rates, as well as a host of broader economic indicators. Its data run from 1981 and are updated every two weeks.
• World Health Organization (www.who.int)
  WHO is the public health arm of the UN. It monitors disease outbreaks and assesses the
  performance and effectiveness of health systems around the globe. It publishes: world health
  reports; country-specific statistics; a mental health atlas; a monthly bulletin; and a world health
  survey.

❖ Non-governmental Sources: Academic Journals

• Asian Journal of Social Policy
• Compare: Journal of Comparative and International Education
• Discover Society
• Global Crime
• Global Economic Review
• Global Social Policy
• Global Society
• Housing Studies
• International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice
• International Journal of Comparative Sociology
• International Journal of Health Services
• International Journal of Housing Policy
• International Migration Review
• International Journal of Social Economics
• International Social Science Journal
• International Social Security Review
• International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy
• Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis
• Journal of Developing Societies
• Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy
• Journal of Social Policy
• Policy and Politics
• Social Policy and Administration
• Social Policy and Society
• Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State and Society
• Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations
• Work Organisation, Labour and Globalisation

❖ Non-governmental Sources: Websites

• Centre for Global Development (www.cgdev.org)
  This is an independent American research centre working to reduce global poverty and
  inequality. Its interests include: capital flows/financial crises; debt relief; economic growth;
  education; global health policy; globalisation; inequalities; and poverty. Its publications include:
  books; CGD notes; essays; policy papers; reports; speeches; and working papers.

• Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (www.crop.org)
  CROP is a research programme of the International Social Science Council and hosted by the
  University of Bergen. It coordinates and facilitates global research on poverty, which it publishes
  in the form of books (with Zed Books); briefing papers; and a CROP newsletter.
- **E-Library for Global Welfare** ([www.globalwelfarelibrary.org](http://www.globalwelfarelibrary.org))
  The library offers a searchable collection of online resources for international and comparative policy analysis. Among other topics, it covers: demography and migration; education; health; social care; social protection; and work and employment.

- **Global Policy Forum** ([www.globalpolicy.org](http://www.globalpolicy.org))
  GPF is ‘an international policy watchdog that monitors the work of the United Nations and scrutinises global policymaking’. Among its special concerns are social and economic policy and, within this area: financing for sustainable development; global taxes; income inequalities; and poverty and development. It publishes: discussion papers; reports; and working papers.

- **International and Comparative Social Policy Group** ([www.social-policy.org.uk](http://www.social-policy.org.uk))
  ICSPG is a special-interest group of the UK’s Social Policy Association. Its website provides a resource database and offers links to the sites of a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.

- **International Council on Social Welfare** ([www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org))
  ICSW is an international non-governmental organisation involved in ‘social development, social welfare and social justice’. It undertakes international research in such fields as: community participation; economic development; education; health services; housing; human rights and social protection. It publishes: annual reports; a newsletter; policy papers; and a global policy digest (which also appears in the *Global Social Policy* journal).

- **International Inequalities Institute** ([www.lse.ac.uk/InternationalInequalities](http://www.lse.ac.uk/InternationalInequalities))
  III provides an interdisciplinary forum for analysing inequalities and includes programmes of research on their causes, consequences and the possibility of their mitigation or curtailment. Publications include: books and working papers, and via the associated Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion: briefings; CASEpapers; and reports.

- **Migration Policy Unit** ([www.migrationpolicy.org](http://www.migrationpolicy.org))
  MPI is an independent thinktank dedicated to the analysis of migration and refugee policies at local, national and international levels. It covers a number of areas including: border security; employment and the economy; immigrant integration; immigration policy and law; international governance; migrant education; and refugee and asylum policy. It publishes: books; factsheets; policy briefings; reports; and an online journal (*The Migration Information Source*).

- **NationMaster** ([www.nationmaster.com](http://www.nationmaster.com))
  This is a worldwide data source providing comparable macrodata in fields such as: the economy; education; health; immigration; industry; and labour. The data are presented in tables, graphs and scatter plots.

- **Oxfam** ([policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk](http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk))
  Within its general remit of alleviating poverty across the world, Oxfam undertakes research on numerous dimensions of poverty and a number of linked issues, including: benefits, education, gender divisions, healthcare, housing and communities, migrant workers, pensions and social care. This research has been published in: blogs; case studies; policy papers; and research reports.

- **Save the Children** ([www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org))
Save the Children is an international charity that looks to improve the welfare of children by reducing child poverty, providing education, enabling better access to healthcare, protecting children from exploitation and saving children’s lives when disaster strikes. It undertakes activities in over 120 countries. It publishes policy blogs and research reports.

- Townsend Centre for International Poverty (www.bristol.ac.uk/poverty)
  The Townsend Centre is dedicated ‘to multidisciplinary research on poverty in both the industrialised and developing world’ and the pursuit of practical solutions. It publishes: book summaries; regional poverty studies; research briefings; and surveys.

- UCL Institute of Health Equity (www.instituteofhealthequity.org)
  Launched in 2011, the Institute is dedicated to tackling inequalities in health by: building a high quality evidence base, advising and learning from practice and influencing global, national and local health policies. It publishes: articles; book chapters; presentations; and reports.

- World Wealth and Income Database (www.wid.world)
  Provides basic information on income, wealth, savings, prices and population.