New Governance in European Social Policy

The Open Method of Coordination

Milena Büchs School of Social Sciences University of Southampton, UK



Contents

Lis	t of Boxes, Figures and Tables	ix
List of Abbreviations Acknowledgements		x
		xii
1	Introduction: New Governance and the Dilemma of	
	European Union Social Policy	1
	The OMC's governance character	3
	The OMC as a response to the dilemma of European	
	social policy	6
	Organization of the book	13
Pa	rt I The Open Method of Coordination	17
2	Conceptualizing the OMC	19
	'Influence' in OMC research	20
	Theorizing the OMC's influence and effectiveness	22
	'Invited dutifulness'	26
	Defining the OMC agenda	27
	Typology of responses	31
	Framework for analysing member state responses	33
3	The 'Third Way' in European Social Policy	39
	The 'third way'	40
	The 'European Social Model'	42
	The policy content of the Open Methods	
	of Coordination	44
Pa	Part II Member State Responses	
4	Institutions and Actors	59
	'Goodness of fit'	59
	Political system and actor constellations	64
	Social partners and NGOs	65
	NAP production	67
	Relationship to the EU	69

5	The European Employment Strategy in Germany	
	and the United Kingdom	72
	Labour market policy development in Germany and the UK	72
	Responses to the EES	79
	Explaining variation	89
Pa	rt III Evaluation	95
6	Effectiveness	97
	Evaluation framework	97
	The OMC's effectiveness	100
7	Legitimacy	130
	Democratic quality of OMC processes	131
	Legitimacy of the OMC	140
8	Conclusion	152
	Social Europe and the OMC	152
	'Invited dutifulness' and its problems	155
	Reforming the OMC?	157
Aŗ	Appendix	
	List of interviews	161
	Overview: Policy actors' positions and ways in	
	which they refer to the EES	163
No	Notes	
Re	References	
In	Index	