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### **Stream: Welfare state attitudes and economic crisis**

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The Welfare State (WS) as a model, as well as each particular welfare programme, can be supported or rejected on a variety of reasons. Literature on attitudes towards the WS soon classified these motivations either as “self-interest” or “ideology”, being it unclear which one is more important to understand general support to social policies. This paper analyses if the economic crisis has modified the determinants of welfare attitudes or, in other words, if people support state intervention on welfare for the same reasons now than when we were living under a brighter economic situation.

Starting with “self-interest”, two hypotheses will be addressed: a) as already occurred in the 90’s (Andersen et al., 1999), the crisis can have the effect of polarising opinions across social classes because the poor need more from the state but, at the same time, middle and upper-middle classes find it more difficult (and hence less acceptable) to pay the cost of the WS; b) Or, on the contrary, the generalization of insecurity feelings may turn support for state intervention on welfare more evenly distributed across the social structure.

Regarding the ideology factor, we will analyse it from two sides. On the one hand, we will see if the crisis has made right-wing people more “statist” than before or, even, similar to left-wing people in their support for the WS. On the other hand, we will go beyond political ideology to evaluate changes in certain social values that have shown a relationship with welfare attitudes: economic egalitarianism, cultural egalitarianism (tolerance), benevolence (social trust), tradition and conformity.

As databases we use the first (2002) and last (2008) waves of the European Social Survey, including data for all countries that participated in both waves (17 countries).