

## Measuring the new welfare regimes

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New welfare regimes are replacing the old welfare states. With different timing and speed new welfare regimes are being constructed that are composed of both public and private schemes, often well integrated. Their welfare entitlements are distributed unevenly across the population in all countries. People differ in how much they pay in taxes and receive in benefits from public and private schemes. The empirical quest is to convey the combined package of public and private schemes and its distribution across different socio-economic groups. Conventionally, welfare state scholars have used measures of social citizenship in comparative studies are indicators based on institutional information on the accessibility and generosity of benefits in stylised cases, typically using a single person or male breadwinner household earning the same as an average production worker as its starting point. Whilst defending the institutional approach we argue that the conventional measures are limited in two aspects. First, they measure benefit generosity in ways that do not always capture the meaning of key theoretical concepts nor of the changing empirical reality. Second, observations based on these measures do not always mean the same in different contexts, i.e. over time and space. In this paper we discuss and illustrate how such limitations of conventional measures may be addressed by turning them into profiles of welfare entitlements. Profiles of social citizenship involves careful examination of how various socio-economic groups are treated differently with regard to the entitlements they possess. With an illustrative application on old age pensions in five European countries we wish to suggest how profiles of welfare entitlements may address the dual challenge of content validation and of establishing comparability over time and space.