

Citizens' attitudes towards Social Europe: A cross-national and multidimensional perspective

Proposal for CRONOS-2 - Single measurement on one wave

Sharon Baute* - University of Amsterdam

Frank Vandenbroucke - University of Amsterdam

Tijs Laenen - KU Leuven

*Principal Applicant

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow

Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR)

Postbus 15578

1001 NB Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Tel: 0032477667441

Email: s.m.baute@uva.nl

Relevance and Rationale

The rapid digitalisation, the proliferation of nonstandard work and the transition towards a green economy are fundamentally changing labour markets and creating new social risks. In this context, it is of great academic and societal relevance to understand citizens' preferences towards the future directions of social policies, as well as the role Europe should play in this. Do different social strata among European citizens support the idea of a 'Social Europe'? What are its constitutive elements and is there a shared vision between the populations of different European countries?

A rapidly growing literature analyses public support for European solidarity (Bauhr and Charron, 2020; Baute and Meuleman, 2020; Genschel and Hemerijck, 2018; Gerhards and Lengfeld, 2013; Koos and Leuffen, 2020; Kuhn et al., 2020). However, our understanding of public support for Social Europe is seriously constrained by a lack of clarity regarding conceptualization and measurement. Previous studies focus on only one policy instrument at a time or are based on single country data.

This module enables the next great leap in our understanding of this topical question by taking a cross-national and multidimensional approach. Our measurement integrates and refines four theoretical dimensions of Social Europe from the literature (Baute et al., 2018; Ferrera, 2014; Vandenbroucke, 2020). First, it includes the development of a *European social citizenship*, whereby social rights are granted to EU citizens as an integral component of their EU citizenship and hence decouples rights from national territories (Ferrera, 2005; Magnusson and Stråth, 2004). Second, it includes the *harmonization* of national social policies, to facilitate convergence in social standards across Europe (Falkner, 2016; Scharpf, 2002). In its most extreme form, harmonization involves the unification of social policy systems, as would be the case for example in a European basic income (Van Parijs & Vanderborght, 2017). Third, it includes multi-level *redistribution*, which implies the sharing of financial resources with the aim

to reduce social and economic inequalities between countries, regions and individuals (Allen, 2010; Crum, 2011). Fourth, it includes *risk-pooling*, which implies budgetary assistance to countries when they are in need (Dullien, 2014; Vandenbroucke, 2020). The module measures support for each of these dimensions of Social Europe. In addition, it proposes a new perspective on inequality in Europe by measuring for the first time the concept of '*European relative deprivation*'. While scholars have argued that Europeans increasingly compare their living standards with other Europeans instead of their fellow nationals (Beckfield, 2019; Heidenreich, 2016), it becomes crucial to understand whether this creates new social conflict over who should receive what and why.

In the light of current societal trends, and even more so in the context of COVID-19, we strongly believe that this module is of high relevance beyond academic audiences. For policymakers and other political stakeholders (e.g. trade unions), this module is a valuable source of information to assess the democratic legitimacy of (EU) social policies. This module will provide a better understanding of the potential conflict lines within as well as between European countries. The fact that the new Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, expressed her ambition to translate the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights into concrete policies, indicates that there is a strong demand for the type of research which we propose to conduct. The module is also relevant for countries outside the EU, who can contribute to Social Europe through ratifying bilateral and multilateral agreements with the EU regarding the coordination and harmonization of social policy for example. Furthermore, this module is of wider relevance since it can provide deeper insight into the origins of rising populism in Europe.

Suitability for the CRONOS-2

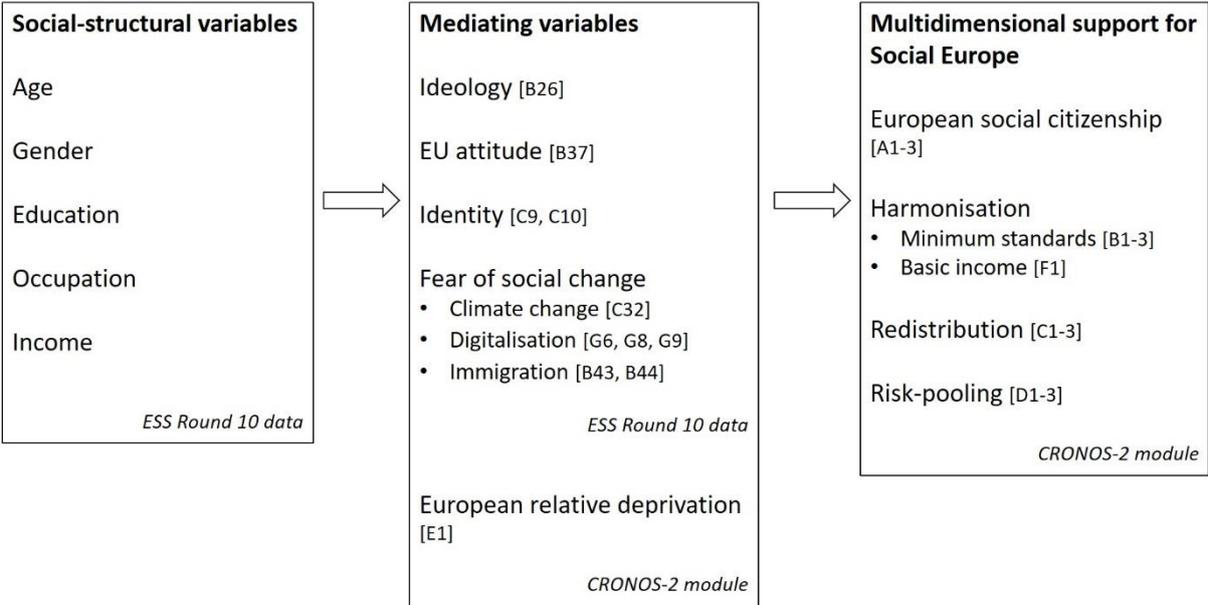
Because of three main reasons, CRONOS-2 is an ideal instrument to collect these data. First, the *thematic emphases* of the ESS project make this survey an ideal vehicle to include the instrument proposed here. Linking our module to the main Round 10 ESS data allows extensive research into the drivers of citizens' attitudes towards Social Europe. Our theoretical expectations can be empirically tested by means of fine-grained questioning of citizens' socio-economic status and their social, political and cultural attitudes in the ESS. Figure 1 gives a detailed overview of how we aim to connect the module to the ESS Round 10 data. We theorize that social-structural variables influence people's ideology, EU support, identity, fear of social changes and perceived European relative deprivation, which in turn shape their support for Social Europe. This framework aims to reveal the underlying mechanisms that explain why different socio-economic groups hold diverging attitudes towards Social Europe.

Second, this module is designed to grasp the attitudes of the *general population*, instead of targeting specific subgroups (elites, voters or trade union members). From a theoretical and methodological perspective, probability-based sampling of the general population is preferred to address our research questions. The ESS sampling strategy has the additional advantage that it includes 15+ adolescents who are not yet eligible to vote. This group is typically excluded in (national) election studies, while they can be expected to hold specific views on Social Europe, since they may perceive their future life chances more gloomy in the context of rising (youth) unemployment. In addition, the participating CRONOS-2 countries represent diverse types of welfare states, maximizing the likelihood to observe cross-national variation in public attitudes. In the UK and Iceland, the data will provide unique insights on Social Europe from an EU-outsider perspective.

Third, the *design* of CRONOS-2 – a single measurement of 15 items in one wave - is perfectly fitted to include our multidimensional measurement of support for Social Europe. We propose 13 standardised closed survey items and 1 vignette experiment, taking into account that the

latter takes more time to answer. We believe that our items are very suitable to be fielded among a follow-up of ‘onliners’, since previous (non-probability based) cross-national *online* surveys have successfully questioned attitudes towards European solidarity, including more complex questions about new policy proposals (e.g. Vandenbroucke et al., 2018; Ferrera et al., 2019). Response bias in CRONOS-2 will be corrected for by applying weights.

Figure 1. Conceptual model



Research team

Dr. Baute, Prof. Vandenbroucke and dr. Laenen have demonstrable expertise on Social Europe. Baute has widely published on the topic and has been awarded an MSCA Individual Fellowship funded by the European Commission to investigate attitudes towards Social Europe. Vandenbroucke is principle investigator of the H2020 programme ‘The Future of European Social Citizenship’ and was closely involved in the development of the social dimension in the EU’s Lisbon Strategy 2000 as Minister of Social Security, Health Insurance, Pensions and Employment in the Belgian Federal Government. Laenen is a recognized expert on the social legitimacy of basic income. We expect our complementary research and policy expertise to be a strong asset to the development of the module and ensure close cooperation.

The team has extensive experience with designing, implementing and analyzing large-scale surveys. Baute coordinated the fieldwork for the ESS in Belgium (2018) and the Belgian National Election Study (2014), Vandenbroucke led the European Unemployment Risk-Sharing survey (2018), a conjoint survey experiment conducted in thirteen EU countries, and Laenen coordinates the BABEL survey on basic income. The applicants have an extensive track record of publications based on data from the ESS and other surveys (see CVs). Moreover, they have previously developed measurement instruments of key concepts of this module (e.g. Baute et al., 2018, Vandenbroucke et al., 2018). The module will be developed in collaboration with external researchers who support the team: Prof. Bart Meuleman (KU Leuven), Prof. Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen (University of Bern) and Prof. Wim van Oorschot (KU Leuven).

Feasibility of implementation

Table 1 presents for each concept the proposed operationalisation that translates the abstract social policy principles and instruments in concise items that are suitable for a general population survey. Various items are slightly revised versions of already validated instruments (e.g. Baute et al., 2018). We are keen to develop and revise any of the items in consultation with the ESS ERIC HQ and NCs.

- First, the concept of **European social citizenship** is measured by a three-item Likert-scale on support for the coordination of social security systems across Europe. It implies that social benefits and services are no longer restricted to nationals and can be taken up by people residing outside of the state's territory. We intentionally integrate the perspective of incoming migration (i.e. granting social benefits) as well as outgoing migration (i.e. receiving social benefits) in our measurement. While previous surveys have exclusively focussed on the first perspective, we argue that a dual approach on the implications of EU mobility is essential to fully grasp support for European social citizenship.
- Second, support for **harmonisation** is measured by two instruments. First, we include three items that propose different degrees of social policy harmonisation between European countries. These range from complete national autonomy to a 'one-size-fits-all' model. While previous surveys have failed to integrate different degrees of harmonisation, support may be precisely contingent on it. Second, we include a vignette experiment to assess support for a *European basic income* as a policy proposal to facilitate harmonization (see Table 2).¹ This experiment is based on the basic income item included in the ESS8 and experimentally manipulates the policy design. This has the advantage that it allows to isolate and compare the causal impact of different policy dimensions on the level of support for basic income (see Stadelmann-Steffen and Dermont, 2019). The design randomly varies with respect to six policy dimensions that are relevant within the actual debate. One of these is the governance level, allowing us to compare support for a European basic income versus a national basic income.
- Third, our measurement of **redistribution** departs from the idea that inequality in Europe is multi-layered. Hence, we propose three items which measure support for reducing social-economic inequalities between countries, regions and individuals across Europe. Note that the latter is more far-reaching than redistribution within countries and is particularly relevant in the context of labour mobility and migration. One item concerns redistribution in the light of the European Green Deal, which aims to compensate those countries that are affected most by the transition towards the green economy.
- Fourth, **risk-pooling** is measured by three items that tap into support for European assistance programmes that would support participating in need. The rationale behind these risk-pooling programs is that, through re-insurance, they allow redistribution from countries with low to those with high risk and hence cushion economic shocks. We distinguish three causes of need (unemployment, health crisis and natural disaster). This enables us to gain unique insights into citizens' deservingness perceptions about recipient countries.

¹ To ensure that respondents do not have to switch between different modes of questions, we choose to conclude with the vignette experiment (see F1).

- Fifth, **European relative deprivation** is captured by citizens' perceived life chances in a European instead of a national context. It comprises the first measurement of perceptions of relative deprivation in relation to fellow Europeans as reference group.

Our main anticipated methodological challenge lies in the translation of the theoretical concepts into short and understandable questions for the general population, including those groups with very little interest in, or knowledge of (European) politics. We use two different strategies to overcome this difficulty.

First, we build on previously *validated measurements*. The team has already tested the equivalence of key concepts across different subgroups, by testing whether high and low educated people understand Social Europe in a similar way (Baute et al., 2018). This was confirmed, providing sufficient ground for meaningful comparisons of responses of groups with different levels of knowledge. Second, we rely on *multi-item scales* to obtain more accurate measurements of the concepts. This allows to account for measurement error that can be easily modelled in the data analyses (e.g. confirmatory factor analysis, structural equation modelling). With respect to the vignette experiment, a series of cognitive interviews were conducted by Laenen in preparation of a similar experiment in the Belgian National Election Study to ensure that ordinary citizens are able to understand, and respond to, the vignettes.

Finally, we will develop equivalent questions to be fielded in countries outside the EU (Iceland and the UK). In most cases this can be achieved by slightly modifying the question wordings; replacing 'EU' by 'Europe(an)' and 'member states' by 'European countries'. We do not expect the different timeframes of the CRONOS-2 data collection to pose challenges for the implementation or analysis of the module.

Table 1. Operationalisation of the concepts of attitudes towards Social Europe.

Concept	Item	Question wording	Source
European social citizenship	A1	EU citizens who reside in [country] should receive the same social benefits as [nationality].	REScEU 2019, BNES 2014
	A2	The EU should make it easier for [nationality] to receive social benefits in other member states.	New
	A3	EU citizens that work in [country] should not receive child allowances if their family is living in another member state.	New
Harmonisation	B1	There should be a binding EU standard which sets the minimum level of unemployment benefits in each member state.	BNES 2014, modified
	B2	There should be a European tax system to which all EU citizens contribute to fund social benefits and services.	New
	B3	The EU should not interfere with national choices regarding social protection.	REScEU 2019, modified
	F1	[Basic income vignette – see Table 2]	BNES, modified
Redistribution	C1	The EU should do more to support people living in poorer regions, even if this means that wealthier regions would have to pay more.	REScEU 2019, modified
	C2	The EU should support public investments in climate-neutral economies, even if this means that wealthier countries would have to pay more.	New
	C3	The EU should take measures to reduce income differences between all EU citizens.	BNES 2014, TESS 2016, modified
Risk-pooling	D1	There should be a permanent European system that provides financial support to member states which experience a significant increase in <i>unemployment</i> .	YouGov 2018, EURS 2018, modified
	D2	There should be a permanent European system that provides financial support to member states which experience a <i>health crisis</i> .	New
	D3	There should be a permanent European system that provides financial support to member states which experience a <i>natural disaster</i> .	YouGov 2018, modified
European relative deprivation	E1	If you compare yourself with other people in Europe, do you feel that you have or have had greater or lesser chances?	New

Notes: For Iceland and UK: replace 'EU' by 'Europe/European' and 'member states' by 'European countries'.

BNES: Belgian National Election Study. REScEU: Reconciling Economic and Social Europe Mass Survey. TESS: Transnational European Solidarity Survey.

EURS: European Unemployment Risk-Sharing Survey.

European social citizenship

A. We would like to ask your opinion on whether EU citizens should have access to social benefits in [country]. By EU citizens we mean people who have come to [country] from other EU member states and live here. Social benefits compensate citizens for a loss of income in case a social risk occurs, such as illness, unemployment or old-age. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

A1 EU citizens who reside in [country] should receive the same social benefits as [nationality].

A2 The EU should make it easier for [nationality] to receive social benefits in other member states.

A3 EU citizens that work in [country] should not receive child allowances if their family is living in another member state.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Agree strongly |
| 2 | Agree |
| 3 | Neither agree, nor disagree |
| 4 | Disagree |
| 5 | Disagree strongly |

Harmonization

B. We are now going to present some policy measures that the European Union could take to harmonise social policies across European countries. These measures are adjusted to the cost of living in each country. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

B1 There should be a binding EU standard which sets the minimum level of unemployment benefits in each member state.

B2 There should be a European tax system to which all EU citizens contribute to fund social benefits and services.

B3 The EU should not interfere with national choices regarding social protection.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Agree strongly |
| 2 | Agree |
| 3 | Neither agree, nor disagree |
| 4 | Disagree |
| 5 | Disagree strongly |

Redistribution

C. There are social-economic differences between countries, regions and citizens in Europe. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

C1 The EU should do more to support people living in poorer regions, even if this means that wealthier regions would have to pay more.

C2 The EU should support public investments in climate-neutral economies, even if this means that wealthier countries would have to pay more.

C3 The EU should take measures to reduce income differences between all EU citizens.

- 1 Agree strongly
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neither agree, nor disagree
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Disagree strongly

Risk-pooling

D. We would like to hear your opinion about support for new European programmes which provides financial support to participating countries in need. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

D1 There should be a permanent European system that provides financial support to member states which experience *a significant increase in unemployment*.

D2 There should be a permanent European system that provides financial support to member states which experience *a health crisis*.

D3 There should be a permanent European system that provides financial support to member states which experience *a natural disaster*.

- 1 Agree strongly
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neither agree, nor disagree
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Disagree strongly

European relative deprivation

E1. Not everyone has equal chances to get ahead in life. If you compare yourself with other people in Europe, do you feel that you have or have had greater or lesser chances?

- 1 Much less chances
- 2 Less chances
- 3 Equal chances as other Europeans
- 4 Better chances
- 5 Much better chances

Examples vignette:

(1) In some countries there is a debate about whether or not to implement a basic income. In a moment, I will ask you to what extent you are pro or contra this basic income. First I will give you some more information on what we understand by a basic income.

A basic income encompasses the following characteristics:

- The European Union pays a monthly income to all residents, on the condition they have lived in Europe for a couple of years.
- The amount is equal to the average minimum income in Europe.
- The basic income is diminished with the money people earn by working or in another way
- People who are not working are not obliged to search for a paid job
- The basic income replaces several other social benefits, including pensions
- The basic income is paid by taxes

To what extent are you in favour or against the implementation of this type of basic income in Europe?

(2) In some countries there is a debate about whether or not to implement a basic income. In a moment, I will ask you to what extent you are pro or contra this basic income. First I will give you some more information on what we understand by a basic income.

A basic income encompasses the following characteristics:

- Together with the European Union, the UK government pays a monthly income to all residents, including migrants who have just arrived in the country
- The amount is equal to the average income in the United Kingdom
- People receive the basic income on top of the money they earn by working or in another way
- People who are not working are obliged to search for a paid job
- The basic income replaces no other social benefits
- The basic income is paid by taxes

To what extent are you in favour or against the implementation of this type of basic income in Europe?

(3) In some countries there is a debate about whether or not to implement a basic income. In a moment, I will ask you to what extent you are pro or contra this basic income. First I will give you some more information on what we understand by a basic income.

A basic income encompasses the following characteristics:

- The UK government pays a monthly income to all residents, including migrants who have just arrived in the country
- The amount is equal to the average income in the United Kingdom
- People receive the basic income on top of the money they earn by working or in another way
- People who are not working are obliged to search for a paid job
- The basic income replaces no other social benefits
- The basic income is paid by taxes

To what extent are you in favour or against the implementation of this type of basic income in the United Kingdom?

Dissemination

In addition to publishing an ESS Topline Report, we plan to disseminate the findings from the CRONOS-2 module in various ways. To reach out to the scientific community, we will publish in high-impact journals (e.g. the Journal of European Social Policy) and present our work at well-established international conferences (e.g. the Annual ESPAnet Conference, ESA). We are currently applying for additional funding to support analysis and dissemination of this module. If these applications are successful, the CRONOS-2 module will be used as an integral part of a Senior Postdoctoral Fellowship funded by the Flemish Research Council (FWO 2021-2024, applicant: dr. Baute), and a MSCA Individual Fellowship at Tilburg University (2021-2023, applicant: dr. Laenen).

To reach our second main target audience, policymakers involved in (EU) social policymaking, we will produce thematic policy briefs that contain concrete policy recommendations based on the module results. These will mainly be distributed through online platforms and newsletters (e.g. EUVisions, VoxEU, the European Social Observatory), active participation in professional and political conferences and through Prof. Vandenbroucke's contacts with political parties, social security administrations, trade unions and European thinktanks (e.g. CEPS, Notre Europe Institut Jacques Delors). Finally, to reach out to the general public, we will regularly send out press releases to news agencies and communicate our findings through social media channels and personal websites.

Bibliography

- Allen D (2010) The Structural Funds and Cohesion Policy: Extending the Bargain to Meet New Challenges. In: Wallace H, Pollack MA, and Young A (eds) *Policy-Making in the European Union*. 6th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 229–252.
- Bauhr M and Charron N (2020) The EU as a savior and a saint? Corruption and public support for redistribution. *Journal of European Public Policy* 27(4): 509–527.
- Baute, S and Meuleman, B (2020) Public attitudes towards a European minimum income benefit: How (perceived) welfare state performance and expectations shape popular support. *Journal of European Social Policy*, doi: 10.1177/0958928720904320
- Baute S, Meuleman B, Abts K, et al. (2018) Measuring Attitudes Towards Social Europe: A Multidimensional Approach. *Social Indicators Research* 137(1): 353–378.
- Beckfield J (2019) *Unequal Europe: Regional Integration and the Rise of European Inequality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Crum B (2011) *What do we owe the Poles (or the Greeks)? Three emerging Duties of Transnational Social Justice in the European Union*. RECON Online Working Paper 2011/35. Oslo. Available at: www.reconproject.eu/projectweb/portalproject/RECONWorkingPapers.html.
- Dullien, S. (2014) *A European Unemployment Benefit Scheme: How To Provide More Stability for the Eurozone* (Gütersloh: Bertelsman).
- Falkner, G (2016) The European Union's Social Dimension. In: Cini M, and Borragán N (eds) *European Union Politics*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 269–280.
- Ferrera M (2005) *The Boundaries of Welfare: European Integration and the New Spatial Politics of Social Protection*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Ferrera M (2014) Social Europe and its Components in the Midst of the Crisis: A Conclusion. *West European Politics* 37(4): 825–843.
- Ferrera M, et al. (2019) REScEU mass survey on integration and solidarity (wave II). Master questionnaire. Milan: University of Milan.
- Genschel, P and Hemerijck, A (2018) Solidarity in Europe. Policy Brief Sociaal of Transnational Governance (EUI), issue 2018/01.
- Gerhards J, Lengfeld H (2013) European Integration, Equality Rights and People's Beliefs: Evidence from Germany. *European Sociological Review* 29(1): 19–31.
- Heidenreich M (2016) *Exploring Inequality in Europe: Diverging Income and Employment Opportunities in the Crisis*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Koos, S and Leuffen, D (2020) Beds or bonds? Conditional solidarity in the coronavirus crisis. Policy Paper 01/July 2020, Universität Konstanz.
- Kuhn T, Nicoli F and Vandenbroucke F (2020) Economic ideology, EU support and preferences for European unemployment insurance: Results of a conjoint experiment in 13 EU member states. *Journal of European Public Policy* 27(2): 208–226.
- Magnusson L and Stråth B (2004) *A European Social Citizenship? Preconditions for Future Policies from a Historical Perspective*. Brussels: Peter Lang.
- Scharpf, F (2002) The European Social Model: Coping with the Challenges of Diversity. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 40(2), 645-670.
- Stadelmann-steffen, I and Dermont, C (2019) Citizens' opinions about basic income proposals compared: A conjoint analysis of Finland and Switzerland. *Journal of Social Policy*, 49(2): 383–403.
- Van Parijs, P, & Vanderborght, Y (2017) *Basic income: A Radical Proposal for a Free Society and a Sane Economy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Vandenbroucke F, Burgoon B, Kuhn T, et al. (2018) *Risk Sharing When Unemployment Hits: How Policy Design Influences Citizen Support For European Unemployment Risk Sharing*. AISSR Policy Report, Amsterdam.

Dr. Sharon Baute

University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Current and past positions

- 2019 – 2021 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, University of Amsterdam
Visiting scholar at Università degli Studi di Milano
- 2018 – 2019 National Coordinating Team member for the European Social Survey - Belgium
- 2018 – 2019 Postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven
- 2013 – 2018 Doctoral researcher at the Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven
- 2012 – 2013 Junior Researcher at the Department of Sociology, Ghent University

Education

- 2013 – 2018 PhD in Social Sciences, KU Leuven
- 2011 – 2012 Master of Science in Sociology, Ghent University
- 2008 – 2011 Bachelor of Science in Sociology, Ghent University

Ongoing grants

- 2019 – 2021 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship funded by the European Commission for EUSOCDIV (€ 187,572)

Selected invited talks

- 'Public support for Social Europe: A basis for political action?'. Invited by the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, in the framework of the German Presidency of the European Council 2020. Berlin, 9th December 2019. Link to the publication in the Edited Volume: <https://eu2020-reader.bmas.de/en>
- 'Social and Fiscal Policies for a Fair Green Transition'. Podcast by the Jean Monnet OpenEUdebate network, in collaboration with Ernest Urtasun and Ricard Bellera. 17th June, 2020. Link to the episode: <https://europe-after-coronavirus.simplecast.com>

Curriculum Vitae

- 'Public opinion towards Social Europe'. Invited by Belgian Federal Public Service Social Security. Brussels, 11th July 2019.

Selected publications (for full list click [here](#))

- Baute, S., Meuleman, B. (2020). Public attitudes towards a European minimum income benefit: How (perceived) welfare state performance and expectations shape popular support. *Journal of European Social Policy*, doi: 10.1177/0958928720904320
- Baute, S., Abts, K., Meuleman, B. (2019). Public support for European solidarity: Between Euroscepticism and EU agenda preferences? *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 57(3), 533-550.
- Baute, S., Meuleman, B., Abts, K., Swyngedouw, M. (2018). Measuring attitudes towards Social Europe: A multidimensional approach. *Social Indicators Research*, 137(1), 353-378.
- Baute, S., Meuleman, B., Abts, K., Swyngedouw, M. (2018). European integration as a threat to social security: Another source of Euroscepticism? *European Union Politics*, 19(2), 209-232.
- Baute, S., Meuleman, B., Abts, K., Swyngedouw, M. (2018). Welfare state attitudes and support for Social Europe: Spillover or obstacle? *Journal of Social Policy*, 48(1), 127-145.

Prof. Frank Vandenbroucke

University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Current and selected past positions

2019 – current	University Professor at the University of Amsterdam
2009 – current	‘Herman Deleeck Chair’, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Antwerp
2012 – 2015	Professor at KU Leuven, Faculty of Economics and Business
2011 – 2015	‘Den Uyl Chair’ at the University of Amsterdam, Graduate School of Social Sciences
2004 – 2009	Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish Government, Flemish Minister for Employment, Education and Training
2003 – 2004	Minister for Employment and Pensions in the Belgian Government
1999 – 2003	Minister for Social Affairs and Pensions in the Belgian Government
1994 – 1995	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Belgian Government

Education

1996 – 1999	D.Phil., Faculty of Social Studies, Oxford University, UK
1981 – 1982	M.Phil. in Economics, Cambridge, UK
1973 – 1978	Master in Economics, KU Leuven

Honours and Awards

Minister of State in Belgium (since 2009)

Memberships (selection)

- Member of the Governing Board of ACES Europe (Amsterdam Centre for European Studies)
- Member of Net-SILC3

Curriculum Vitae

- Member of the Board of Trustees of 'Friends of Europe'
- Member of the Expert Group on Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion (European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; group has been dissolved)
- Chair of the Academic Council on Pension Policy (Belgian Government, Minister of Pensions)
- Member of the Advisory Group to the Social Situation Monitor (i.e. the SSM for the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) (contract ended)

Selected publications (for full list click [here](#))

- Kuhn, T., Nicoli, F. and Vandenbroucke, F. (2020). Economic Ideology, EU Support and Preferences for European Unemployment Insurance: Results of a Conjoint Experiment in 13 EU Member States, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 27(2), 208-226.
- Vandenbroucke, F., Bernard, C., & De Baere, G. (2017). *A European Social Union After the Crisis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Vandenbroucke, F. (2017). Social Investment as a Policy Platform: A European Argument, in: Anton Hemerijck (ed.), *The Uses of Social Investment*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. 319-327.
- Vandenbroucke, F. (2017). Risk Reduction, Risk Sharing and Moral Hazard: A Vaccination Metaphor, *Intereconomics*, 52(3), 154-159.
- Verbist, G., Diris, R., Vandenbroucke, F. (2019). Solidarity between Generations in Extended Families: Old-Age Income as a Way Out of Child Poverty? *European Sociological Review*, 36(2), 317–332.

Dr. Tijs Laenen
KU Leuven, Belgium

Current and past positions

- 2020 – 2023 Coordinator of the BABEL project at the Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven (Belgium)
See: <https://babel-project.be/>
- Spring 2018 Visiting scholar at the Centre for Comparative Welfare State Research, Aalborg University (Denmark)
- 2019 – 2020 Postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven (Belgium)
- 2015 – 2019 Doctoral researcher at the Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven (Belgium)

Education

- 08/11/2020 PhD in the Social Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences, KU Leuven (Belgium)
- 15/02/2018 Postgraduate in European Social Security at the Institute for Social Law, KU Leuven (Belgium)
- 04/07/2015 Master in Social Work and Social Policy at the Faculty of Social Sciences, KU Leuven (Belgium)
- 06/02/2013 Professional Bachelor in Social Work at the Thomas More University of Applied Sciences (Belgium)

Grants and awards

- 2019 Postdoctoral Mandate funded by KU Leuven Internal Funds (grant n° PDM/19/023). The grant finances a one-year postdoc fellowship and is explicitly aimed at giving young researchers the opportunity to further develop their research career.
- 2017 Grant for a Long Stay Abroad funded by the Flemish Research Council FWO (grant n° V400718N). The grant supports researchers who will stay abroad for a longer period to perform advanced research.
- 2017 JESP/ESPAnet Doctoral Researcher Prize. This prize is a highly prestigious recognition for young, promising scholars in the social policy

discipline and is awarded annually by the Journal of European Social Policy (JESP) and the Network for European Social Policy Analysis (ESPAnet) to the best paper presented by a doctoral researcher at any of the ESPAnet conferences, workshops or seminars.

Selected publications (for full list click [here](#))

- Laenen, T., Meuleman, B., & van Oorschot, W. (Eds.) (2020). *Welfare State Legitimacy in Times of Crisis and Austerity: Between Continuity and Change*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing. This book is fully based on data from Rounds 4 and 8 of the ESS. Please click on the following link for the professional video that was made to promote the book to a broader audience:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OpqVgUJS08>.
- Chrisp, J., Laenen, T., & van Oorschot, W. (forthcoming). The Social Legitimacy of Basic Income: A Multidimensional and Cross-National Perspective. A Special Issue in the *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy*.
- Laenen, T. (2018). Do institutions matter? The interplay between income benefit design, popular perceptions, and the social legitimacy of targeted welfare. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 28(1), 4-17.
- Laenen, T. (2020). *Welfare Deservingness and Welfare Policy. Popular Deservingness Opinions and their Interaction with Welfare State Policies*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing. Please click on the following link for the professional video that was made to promote the book to a broader audience:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUZfOmhRlq8&t>.
- Laenen, T., & Meuleman, B. (2019). Public support for the social rights and social obligations of the unemployed: Two sides of the same coin? *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 28(4), 454-467.