

Economic Morality in Europe: Market Society & Citizenship

Abstract:

This module will build on existing comparative work and is designed to investigate the normative and moral culture of markets and consumption in European countries. It will establish how the 'economic morality' of market/consumer society develops in Europe under the pressure of globalisation, neo-liberal market policies and transition to market economies. The module will examine both the victimisation of consumers by large- and small-scale fraud and unfair practices, and their own involvement as offenders in an array of illegal, 'unethical' and 'shady' practices in different spheres of consumption (including government services). It establishes a conceptual framework for these phenomena, especially in terms of trust and confidence in business and state/government institutions, and general normative patterns. The module will provide cross-national information on consumer victimisation and offending, fear of victimisation and intentions to offend in the market place for the first time, hence establishing essential data of policy concern for business, government agencies and related bodies, and NGOs, such as consumer associations.

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