Changing European Employment and Welfare Regimes
The influence of the open method of coordination on national reforms

Edited by
Martin Heidenreich
and Jonathan Zeitlin

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK
Contents

List of illustrations ix
Acknowledgements x
List of contributors xi
List of abbreviations xiii

Introduction 1
MARTIN HEIDENREICH AND JONATHAN ZEITLIN

1 The Open Method of Coordination: a pathway to the gradual transformation of national employment and welfare regimes? 10
MARTIN HEIDENREICH

2 Neither convergence nor frozen paths: bounded learning, international diffusion of reforms, and the Open Method of Coordination 37
JELLE VISSER

3 Unemployment protection reform in Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, and the UK: policy learning through open coordination 61
MINNA VAN GERVEN AND MIEKE BECKERS

4 The Open Method of Coordination and domestic social policy making in Belgium and France: window dressing, one-way impact, or reciprocal influence? 84
MARIE-PIERRE HAMEL AND BART VANHERCKE

5 Joining the European Employment Strategy: Europeanization of labour market policy making in the Baltic states 112
KERSTIN JACOBSSON AND CHARLOTTE WEST

6 Soft Europeanization? The differential influence of the European Employment Strategy in Belgium, Spain, and Sweden 134
MARIELY LÓPEZ-SANTANA
Contents

7 North, South, East, West: the implementation of the European Employment Strategy in Denmark, the UK, Spain, and Poland 154
MIKKEL MAILAND

8 The micro-politics of the Open Method of Coordination: NGOs and the social inclusion process in Sweden 173
KERSTIN JACOBSSON AND HÅKAN JOHANSSON

9 Europeanization of domestic employment and welfare regimes: the German, French, and Italian experiences 192
JENNY PREUNKERT AND SASCHA ZIRRA

10 The Open Method of Coordination and reform of national social and employment policies: influences, mechanisms, effects 214
JONATHAN ZEITLIN

Index 246