

Stream #3

Providing Social Security for Older People: Interactions of Different Social Policies, their Drivers and Outcomes

Conveners:

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In the last decades, demographic ageing has been discussed as one of the main developments affecting European societies and their welfare states. The share of people aged 65 and older has increased from 16% in 2004 to 22% in 2024 (Eurostat 2025) and will continue to rise in the future. This development does not only present a challenge for public pension systems, but given the increasing number of older people with long-term care (LTC) needs, also for the LTC and health systems as well as related social assistance systems. Moreover, the growing group of older people is highly heterogeneous in their social risks related to health conditions, the need for LTC and their ability to participate in social life, and welfare states differ in the ways and the extent to which they address these social risks.

We pick up the suggestion of Yerkes et al. (2022) to pay more attention to the interaction of multiple social policy fields. Although there are recent studies which analyse the interaction of different policy fields (e.g. Eggers et al. 2025 for LTC and pension policy or Luczak 2025 for LTC and housing), research is still mainly oriented towards studying single fields of social policy. This stream aims at bringing together researchers who carry out combined analyses of different policy fields with the focus on social policies that affect the living conditions and social security of older people.

We invite theoretical and empirical papers that focus on the interaction of different social policies affecting the living conditions and social security of older people. We welcome single country studies and comparative papers. Possible topics are:

- Theoretical approaches to analyse the interaction of different social policies, e.g. social risks, life course perspective, social investment, active ageing or capabilities approach;

- Institutional complementarities, logics, synergies and isomorphism between different social policies related to old-age security:
- Outcomes of the interaction of different social policies on older people, e.g. regarding gender inequalities, unmet care needs, social isolation or poverty risks;
- Intergenerational solidarity and resource flows (e.g. in form of money, time or informal care) between family members;
- Approaches to explain country differences in the interaction of different social policies;

Effects of policy reforms on the interaction of different social policies and the living conditions of older people.