



New directions in social policy

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Easy enough to identify the topics moving towards the top of the international agenda

- Family/child development
- Fertility
- Long-term care
- Disability
- Integration of migrants

But behind these, we may well be at a turning point in terms of philosophy behind social policies

2 agendas have dominated since mid 1990s

Coping with ageing populations

Achievements

- Over-generosity of some provisions reduced
- Sources of retirement income diversified
- Decline in participation rates of older workers stabilised

Still to do

- Transitional arrangements
- Fertility rates

Two agendas have dominated since mid 1990s (cont)

Welfare-to-work

Achievements

- Some forms of benefit dependency down
- Market income inequality stabilised.

Still to do

- Poverty
- Welfare-*in*-work
- Disability, lone parents
- And when WtW fails, we do What?

The emerging ‘paradigm shift’

The family, caring and social well-being

- **Long-term care: role of state and family**
- **Childcare: strong voter support for extended leave provisions and ‘stay at home’ benefits**
- **Supporting carers through the pension system**
- **Family breakdown highlights inconsistencies – in fathers rights; obligations on mothers to work; grandparent rights**
- **What to do when Welfare-to-work has failed.**



Prospects of displacing existing themes

- Governments, voters get tired of hearing same old things
- Economies more robust.
- Touches on genuine issues

But much unfinished business in the two main existing themes.

Bottom line: good candidate for becoming a guiding principle of reform – but I hope not yet....