

Title of the project:	WELFAIR Intergenerational fairness and the welfare state in the age of inequality, demographic transformation, and technological change
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Web:	-
Area:	Social services, care & wellbeing, social investment, policy assessment

What?

The WELFAIR project (Intergenerational Justice and the Welfare State in the Era of Inequality, Demographic Transformation and Technological Change) addresses the urgent challenge of intergenerational equity in a Europe marked by inequality, technological disruption and demographic change.

It is an interdisciplinary research that seeks to understand and measure justice between generations. It combines political philosophy with economics and social sciences to analyze how the welfare state redistributes risks and opportunities throughout life.

Who?

The project is coordinated by Anton Hemerijck and Fabian Mushovel (**European University Institute**) and has a consortium of 14 European institutions from countries such as Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium and the United Kingdom. **Margarita León** is the IP of Work Package 6 and the team from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

Why?

To respond to the three major challenges that put the European social model under strain: increasing inequality, the impact of artificial intelligence on the labour market, and demographic aging. The ultimate goal is to propose reforms that make the welfare state more legitimate, fair, and sustainable for current and future generations.

How?

A plural methodology is used that includes the creation of the first **Intergenerational Justice Index** (IFI) to measure well-being in a multidimensional way (education, housing, health, etc.). The project combines massive data analysis,

survey experiments to evaluate citizens' opinions and co-creation workshops with social and political agents to design an "Action Plan" for social investment policies. The study has a European scope, analyzing and comparing data from several EU member states to offer recommendations that can be applied at both national and community levels.

Specifically, the UAB team, led by Margarita León, carries out the following functions and responsibilities:

- Leadership of Work Package 6 (WP6): Dedicated to "Demographic Change". This task extends over the 4 years of the project.
- Mapping demographic trends in Europe: Development of a comparative and harmonized database on fertility, aging and family structures in EU countries since 2000.
- Qualitative tracking of political processes: Creation of a database of social policy reforms and the study of innovative cases to understand how policy complementarities work in practice.

When?

The project begins in September 2026 and ends in August 2030 and is part of the 2025 Horizon Europe call for European funds.