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Geschichte des Sozialstaats in Europa. Von der "sozialen Frage" bis zur Globalisierung,
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BWV. Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag, Berlin 2009, pp 84,

Eberhard Eichenhofer,
50 Jahre nach ihrem Beginn-Neue Regeln für die Koordinierung sozialer Sicherheit. Beiträge zur Sozialpolitik und zum Sozialrecht Band 38,
Erich Schmidt Verlag, Berlin 2009, pp 342

Eberhard Eichenhofer, Professor of Social Security Law at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, is one of the most renowned scholars of the welfare state and social security with a significant number of publications covering both national and European aspects of social security law.

Geschichte der Sozialstaats in Europa, published before the advent of the economic crisis that hit both the USA and Europe, provides a sharp account of the emergence and evolution of the welfare states in Europe. Starting from the Middle-Ages, it then moves to the industrial revolution and the 20th century, while it also analyzes the typology of the European welfare states and their historical roots. On the basis of this evolution, the book proceeds in examining the gradual Europeanisation of national welfare states, highlighting in an insightful way the interaction of different layers during the development of a common European welfare state, i.e., the coordination of social security systems, the social provisions of the European treaties, the principles enshrined in the Charter and the Constitution, the Open Method of Coordination, the legal framework against discrimination, and the social dialogue. Eichenhofer, a fervent supporter of the European integration process and the welfare state, believes in the potential of the European welfare state as it develops on the basis of economic and social challenges and problems.

In *Sozialer Schutz unter den Bedingungen der Globalisierung* Eichenhofer takes a further step forward by examining the formulation of social-inspired social protection institutions beyond Europe. The book begins by examining globalization and economic and social policy and then proceeds by looking into the consequences of globalization on the welfare state and in particular on aspects such as global competition, state autonomy regarding the decision making process and fair competition. The book's central argument is that since international law and human rights have facilitated globalization, its social dimension will once more be formulated through international law. Such process is seen as the only way for national welfare states to retain their social achievements. The 'instruments' to be used in this process include the global adoption of human rights, international labor and social standards and coordination rules. Yet, such process can only take place though profound changes of both international and national rules.

The third book is a volume edited by E. Eichenhofer that presents and assesses the 50-year long experience resulting from the coordination of social security systems. It contains expert contributions presented at the annual conference of the European Institute for Social Security in Berlin in 2008. A summary of the conference key findings has already been published in 'Social Cohesion and Development' 2008/2 issue by D. Tsotsorou. The volume deals with significant legal aspects of the Community *acquis* on the coordination of social security systems (such as pensions, health, family benefits, employment etc.). The chapters bring to light the very positive role of the coordination system, as well as its strengths and weaknesses yet at the same time and as also highlighted in Eichenhofer's introductory chapter all contributors agree on the fact that national systems have been linked in a way that prohibits double insurance and covers existing voids.

All three books are a valuable and well-founded contribution in understanding the process of the transformation of the modern welfare state in world-wide dimension and provide a strong argument in favor of social Europe and social globalization. Obviously, given that they were written before the crisis they are a reflection of a different period. Nevertheless, the main issues identified by the author pertaining to the need to transform national social rules into international ones and the need for establishing a supranational social law are still present. Ultimately, this is the answer so as to maintain welfare, combat unemployment and social dumping and protect employees and citizens throughout the world from the consequences of unrestrained capitalism which threatens to destroy both the human and natural resources of the planet.

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Eleni Prokou,
Adult Education and Lifelong Learning in Europe and in Greece.
Dionicos Publishers, Athens 2009, (in Greek).

The development of adult education and lifelong learning is relatively recent in Greece, for reasons directly related to the development of the Greek social formation. However, in the period after the dictatorship (that is, after the mid-1970s), there has been a sharp increase in the relative activities, mainly because of their funding from the European Union. During the last two decades, there has also been a remarkable production of scientific discourse, which should be attributed to the functioning of a relatively small, albeit active, academic community. The foundation of the Hellenic Open University, and the Hellenic Adult Education Association - in relation to the existence of the first specialists in the field of adult education / lifelong learning in the academia - led to a remarkable growth of research output. The book by Eleni Prokou adds to a series of remarkable discourses in the fields of lifelong learning and adult education in Greece.

It has been almost eighty years since the first reference to the term *lifelong education* appeared in the classic work by B. Yaxlee, *Lifelong Education*, in 1929, and during these years, the term has undergone various differentiations. In fact, the first systematic attempt to conceptualise and give meaning to the term is found in the 1972 Unesco Report, under the title "Learning to Be: The World of Education Today and Tomorrow" (also known as Faure Report). In this report, lifelong education