

# COMBATING POVERTY IN EUROPE

Active Inclusion in a Multi-Level and Multi-Actor Context

Edited by **Rune Halvorsen** and **Bjørn Hvinden**, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Norway

*'This book provides an extensive and comparative account of how governments go about combating poverty and social exclusion in Europe. Contributions to the volume display robust theoretical anchorage to ground the analysis of the complexities of both multi-level and multi-actor governance, while the perspectives and experiences of target groups are also assessed. Research results elicit enduring problematic aspects that are not likely to disappear when full economic recovery takes place and constitute a must-read for all those interested in how to fight social inequality.'*

– Ana M. Guillén, University of Oviedo, Spain

*'The authors of this book have succeeded in developing a new and original approach to the study of combating poverty and social exclusion. Using a framework that combines insights from multi-level and network governance theory, the book analyses and compares the governance arrangements that European countries introduced in the context of active inclusion policies, and evaluates why these arrangements work or fail – an ambitious and very relevant project!'*

– Rik van Berkel, Utrecht School of Governance, the Netherlands

Discovering methods to combat poverty and social exclusion has now become a major political challenge in Europe. *Combating Poverty in Europe* offers an original and timely analysis of how this challenge is met by actors at European, national and subnational levels.

Building on a European study comparing Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden and the UK, this book provides new insights into the processes and mechanisms that promote or hinder interaction between the increasingly multi-layered European system for responding to poverty and social exclusion in EU member states. The contributors present systematic and comparative analyses of social policy design, institutional frameworks and delivery practices from a multi-level governance perspective.

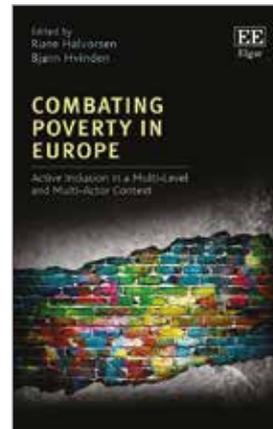
Original and diverse, this book will appeal to researchers and scholars in comparative social policy, as well as policy officials in the EU, national government and anti-poverty NGOs.

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2016 256 pp Hardback 978 1 78471 217 4 ~~£80.00~~ **£52.00** (UK/RoW) / April 2016 ~~\$125.00~~ **\$81.25** (N/S America)

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