

Families in Economically Hard Times

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Families in Economically Hard Times: Experiences and Coping Strategies in Europe

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List of Abbreviations

ADLs	Activities of Daily Living
A-MDS	Adapted Material Deprivation Scale
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing method
CEE	Central-Eastern Europe
CES-D	Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression scale
DF	Depressive Feelings
DI	Depression Index
ERC	European Research Council
ESA	Employment Support Allowance
EU	European Union
Eurostat	European Statistics
EU-SILC	European Union survey of Social Inequality and Living Conditions
EVS	European Values Study
FBS	Food Budget Standard
FSC	Family Social Capital
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HBAI	Households Below Average Income
HRS	Health and Retirement Study
IADL	Instrumental Activities of Daily Living
IMD	Index of Material Deprivation
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISTAT	Italian National Institute of Statistics
JSA	Jobseeker's Allowance
LCFS	Living Costs and Food Survey
MD	Material Deprivation

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MIS	Minimum Income Standard
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PiP	Personal Independence Payment
PRS	Parenting-Related Stress scale
SC	Social Capital
SD	Standard Deviation
SHARE	Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe
UK	United Kingdom
UNECE	United Nations European Commission of Economics
WWII	Second World War

About the Contributors

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Preface

The edited collection *Families in Economically Hard Times: Experiences and Coping Strategies in Europe* was initiated by the members of the European Sociological Association's Research Network 'Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives' (ESA RN13). The editors invited researchers to contribute their papers presented at sociological conferences, and also invited prominent authors who work on corresponding themes.

The book provides readers with novel knowledge on experiences and behaviour strategies of European families during the decade after the global economic crisis at the beginning of the twenty-first century. The research studies provide answers to the questions: how challenges emerging in an economically hard context influenced the way of life of European families? Which known and unusual behaviour strategies are specific to families of various configurations in solving vital issues caused by the latest economic crises? Research results focus on material deprivation, functional solidarity and practices concerning co-residence, sharing of money and food acquisition.

Authors from six countries (Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Spain, Switzerland and the UK) present original research results by developing and applying innovative theoretical and methodical approaches for a deeper understanding of phenomena. The most promising papers that best correspond with the book's aims, and give an integrated vision, are included in the collection. The editors of the book express special gratitude to Benedicte Brahic, Donatella Bramanti, Berit Brandth, Esther Dermott, Jacques-Antoine Gauthier, Detlev Lück and Claude Martin whose valuable comments enabled to significantly improve the quality of the book's content.

The main benefits of the book are the following: the novelty of findings, innovative research approaches and, finally, international dimension in terms of countries represented and compared in the empirical analyses. The editors hope that this edited collection will be a useful reading for researchers, teachers, students, professionals and others who are interested in scientific knowledge on the family in economically hard times.

Vida Česnuitytė & Gerardo Meil
Book editors