

European models of social legislation

The 'British' Model

Used by the UK and Ireland, this model tends to have a welfare state of average size, but less comprehensive than those in Scandinavia; in fact, they have more poverty and higher inequality. However, they guarantee universal single **payer** health-care, redistribute **income** and guarantee an income at subsistence level.

The Continental European Model

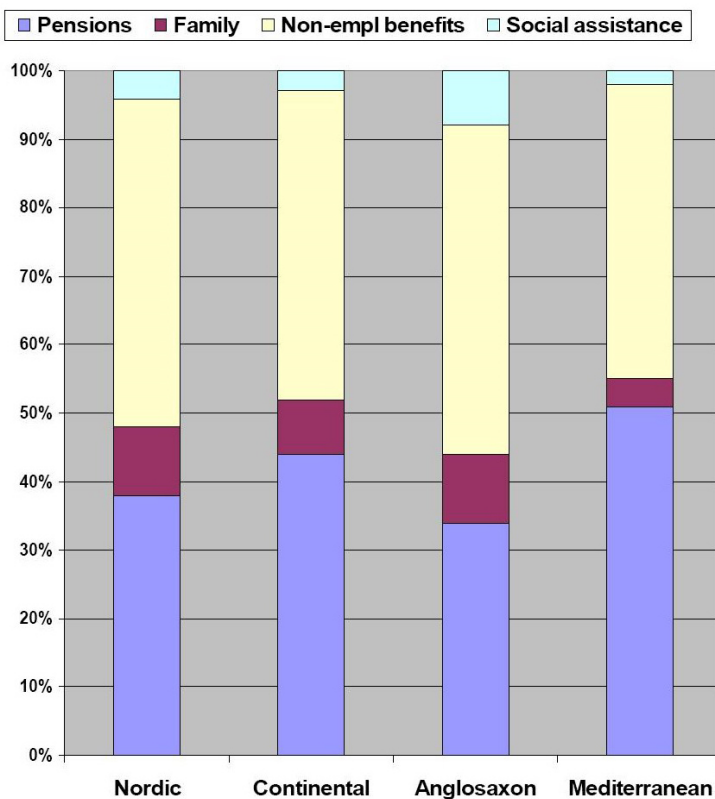
Used by Austria, France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg, the Continental model has **strict** rules on job protection and a large amount of regulations in **industry**. Generous insurance-based **unemployment benefits** and a well-**funded** welfare state are used to reduce poverty and provide high-quality health-care.

The Mediterranean Model

Used by Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, the **Mediterranean** model is similar to the Continental model. It focuses on generous state-pensions but is not good at reducing poverty.

The Nordic Model

The **Nordic Model**, mainly refers to Scandinavian countries. Labour markets are kept mobile with easy **firing** and **hiring**, and the government taking care of unemployed people by providing unemployment benefits and training. The equality of the Nordic model is achieved through progressive taxation. As a result of the policy, Sweden, Denmark and Norway have the lowest income disparities in the world.



to fire: *licenziare*
 to fund: *finanziare*
 to hire: *assumere*
 income: *reddito*
 payer: *(qui) contribuente*
 strict: *rigido, severo*

■ Read the text and answer the questions.

1. Which system is the best at reducing poverty? And the worst?
2. Which system guarantees the lowest income disparities?
3. Which one guarantees high state pensions?
4. Which system has a mobile labour market?
5. Which system has the highest inequality?