

## **Szikra, Dorottya: Eastern European Faces of Familialism: Hungarian and Polish family policies from a historical perspective**

The paper starts with the possible interpretations of Eastern European welfare regimes. One of the possible ways to describe policies that are related to families is to use the framework of “familialism”. Poland and Hungary are described here as typical examples of “implicit familialism” and “optional familialism”, although it is noted that the “options” are limited to better-off mothers and families in Hungary. After describing the most important payments and their eligibility criteria in the two countries, the paper moves on to the services and concludes that families are mainly left with their caring tasks in Poland whereas in Hungary several types of services are available even though the poorest and especially the Roma are many times excluded from high . The paper argues that the causes of the differences between the two countries lie in their different historical traditions, which date back at least to the 1920s. It is argued that differences of the early state-formation processes in the two countries still have there affects on today’s family policies.