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

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<tr>
<td>ADLs</td>
<td>Activities of Daily Living</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-MDS</td>
<td>Adapted Material Deprivation Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPI</td>
<td>Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEE</td>
<td>Central-Eastern Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CES-D</td>
<td>Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>DF</td>
<td>Depressive Feelings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DI</td>
<td>Depression Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC</td>
<td>European Research Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>Employment Support Allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>Eurostat</td>
<td>European Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU-SILC</td>
<td>European Union survey of Social Inequality and Living Conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>EVS</td>
<td>European Values Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBS</td>
<td>Food Budget Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSC</td>
<td>Family Social Capital</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>HBAI</td>
<td>Households Below Average Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRS</td>
<td>Health and Retirement Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>IADL</td>
<td>Instrumental Activities of Daily Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD</td>
<td>Index of Material Deprivation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISCED</td>
<td>International Standard Classification of Education</td>
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<td>ISTAT</td>
<td>Italian National Institute of Statistics</td>
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<td>JSA</td>
<td>Jobseeker’s Allowance</td>
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<td>LCFS</td>
<td>Living Costs and Food Survey</td>
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<td>MD</td>
<td>Material Deprivation</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIS</td>
<td>Minimum Income Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTS</td>
<td>Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PiP</td>
<td>Personal Independence Payment</td>
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<td>PRS</td>
<td>Parenting-Related Stress scale</td>
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<td>SC</td>
<td>Social Capital</td>
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<td>Standard Deviation</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>UNECE</td>
<td>United Nations European Commission of Economics</td>
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<td>WWII</td>
<td>Second World War</td>
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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 Česnuiytė & Gerardo Meil
Book editors