

# Assessing the Structure of Small Welfare States

*Social Policies in Small States Series No 4*

Geoff Bertram

## SOCIAL POLICIES IN SMALL STATES SERIES

The country case studies and thematic papers in this series examine social policy issues facing small states and their implications for economic development. They show how, despite their inherent vulnerability, some small states have been successful in improving their social indicators because of the complementary social and economic policies they have implemented.

## THEMATIC PAPER – THE WELFARE STATE

Historically, the welfare state evolved as the most efficient policy response to caring for a large, homogeneous population. This traditional model, however, loses importance as population size falls below 3-4 million, especially for states where a significant number of the population migrate and send remittances home, and where the country is the recipient of overseas aid. Facilitating the international mobility of people therefore becomes central to social policy and insofar as the welfare state occurs, it tends to be focused on the labour market.

This paper examines how the characteristics of small states influence their pursuit of a welfare state. Many of the small states discussed have not previously featured in mainstream thinking about the relationship between country size and the extent of the welfare state.

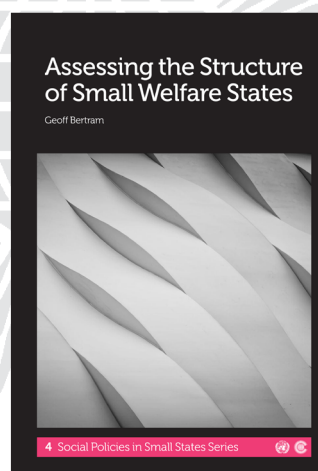
## Contents

- Foreword
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Defining and Characterising the Welfare State
- 3. Classifications of Welfare States
- 4. Welfare States and Globalisation
- 5. The Influence of Openness on the Modus Operandi of a Small Welfare State
- 6. Institutional Governance in Welfare States
- 7. Conclusions
- Appendix: Quantitative Indicators Relating to the Welfare State in Small States
- References

[www.thecommonwealth.org/publications](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/publications)

Publications Section, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX  
Telephone 020 7747 6342. Fax 020 7839 9081. Email [publications@commonwealth.int](mailto:publications@commonwealth.int)

Trade orders to: BEBC Distribution, Tel: +44 (0)1202-724292, Fax: +44(0)1202-712913, Email: [commonwealth@bebc.co.uk](mailto:commonwealth@bebc.co.uk)



April 2011

£10.00, Paperback,

viii + 32 pages, 240 x 165 mm

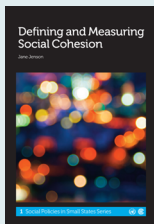
ISBN: 978-1-84929-050-0

## Author

Geoff Bertram is a Senior Associate, Institute of Policy Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

## Also of interest...

Defining and Measuring Social Cohesion  
*Social Policies in Small States Series, No 1*  
By Jane Jensen



Social Policies in Grenada  
*Social Policies in Small States Series, No 2*  
By Patsy Lewis



Social Policies in Malta  
*Social Policies in Small States Series, No 3*  
By Rose Marie Azzopardi



October 2010; 34pp; £10.00;  
ISBN 978-1-84929-023-4

November 2010; 58pp; £15.00;  
ISBN 978-1-84929-025-8

March 2011; 82pp; £15.00;  
ISBN 978-1-84929-024-1

## Order form

Please send me

- \_\_\_ copies of *Assessing the Structure of Small Welfare States* £10.00 (+p&p), ISBN: 978-1-84929-050-0  
\_\_\_ copies of *Defining and Measuring Social Cohesion* £10.00 (+p&p), ISBN: 978-1-84929-023-4  
\_\_\_ copies of *Social Policies in Grenada* £15.00 (+p&p), ISBN: 978-1-84929-025-8  
\_\_\_ copies of *Social Policies in Malta* £15.00 (+p&p), ISBN: 978-1-84929-024-1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

All prices subject to change without notice

**Post & packing:** UK: £4.95 first book, plus 50p each additional (max £15.95).

EU: £6.95 first book, plus £2.95 each additional, for up to 20 items.

Rest of world: £8.95 first book, £3.95 each additional, for up to 20 items.

For orders of more than 20 items please contact us and we will quote you a shipping charge based on the weight of the books ordered.

I enclose my sterling cheque, payable to BEBC Distribution or

Please charge my Visa/Mastercard (delete as applicable)

Card number     /     /     /     Expiry date   /

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick if you do NOT want to join the Commonwealth Secretariat mailing list.

### send to

Publications Section, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall,  
London SW1Y 5HX, UK

Telephone +44 (0)20 7747 6534 Fax +44 (0)20 7839 9081 Email [publications@commonwealth.int](mailto:publications@commonwealth.int)

*browse and buy at...*

[www.thecommonwealth.org/publications](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/publications)