After an extensive debate about E-A’s typology, M Ferrera [18] introduced a modified typology by focusing more on differences in how the social benefits are delivered as compared to E-A’s, where quantity of welfare provided was emphasised [46]. In doing this a new regime type, the Southern, was included. This lead to a typology with four different regime types; the Scandinavian (Social democratic), the Bismarckian (Conservative), the Anglo-Saxon (Liberal) and the Southern European (Italy, Greece, Portugal and Spain). Southern welfare states are described as ‘rudimentary’ [18] because they are still characterised by a highly fragmented system of welfare provision and welfare services [47]. Another prominent feature is the reliance on the family and voluntary sector [18, 36].

Another advancement in the welfare regime research has been to include an additional fifth regime type, the East European, suggested by for example, Eikemo and colleagues. For this, Ferrera’s typology was used and expanded by adding a category composed of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia [43]. Estonia and Slovakia are also included in some studies [22, 44]. This group of countries has a history with economic instabilities and social reforms during the 1990’s [48] and were argued to form a fifth regime with similar characteristics.

Karim, Eikemo and Bambra [23] have argued that East Asian welfare states also form a cluster of countries and further modify the typology by Eikemo and add a sixth group which includes the East Asian countries (Hong Kong, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Taiwan). The welfare regimes of the East Asian countries are characterised by low levels of interventions by the government, low investment in social welfare, an underdeveloped provision of public service and a strong reliance on family [e.g. 23].

Popham [11] used Ferrera’s typology as inspiration and added more countries and extra regimes to the typology. Apart from the typical regime types: Anglo-Saxon; Bismarckian; Nordic; and Southern European, three new regimes are added. These are the Eastern European regime, the Ex-Soviet regime and the Confucian regime.