

Johanna Peltoniemi¹, Eeva-Leena Ketonen¹, Päivi Mäntyneva¹ and Heikki Hiilamo²

¹University of Helsinki

²University of Helsinki; Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare

Solidarity beats political ideology? Political governments' social policy measures in welfare states during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic

Bakgrund/Frågeställning

During the global pandemic, societies throughout the world have been challenged with new and unexpected needs regarding social security. Many countries have expanded the level and coverage of current social insurance and social assistance programs as well as implemented new programs such as emergency basic income (EBI) or similar direct cash support. Based on 13 structured expert interviews as well as a data set collected from government websites and international agencies (IMF, World Bank, International Social Security Association), we study the link between pandemic-related social policy measures, incumbents' ideological stand and the welfare regime. The key research questions asked in this article are: Do the pandemic-related social policy measures mirror the political attitudes of the incumbents? And, what role does the welfare regime play? We scrutinize eight OECD countries representing three different welfare regimes: traditionally corporatist-conservative countries (Germany and Netherlands), liberal countries (UK and USA) and socio-democratic countries (Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden).

Metod och Resultat

Konklusion