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Reforming basic social security to facilitate eco-social transition

Bakgrund/Frågeställning

Technological change is not the only factor to be considered for the future of work and the need for reforms in social protection. Climate change presents a significant challenge to the whole of humanity and the planet. The climate emergency calls into question the productivist foundation of welfare state. The critical notion is that even if economic growth could be decoupled from emissions, this is unlikely to happen fast enough to stop global warming within the one-and-a-half to two degrees threshold required to avoid catastrophic climate change. This means degrowth strategies will not be enough without a plan for structural political economic changes to facilitate eco-social reconstruction. There is a fledging literature on new models of “post-productivist” (Fitzpatrick, 2004), “sustainable” (Hirvilammi and Koch, 2020), or “eco-social” (Koch, 2018) welfare state, which would not focus on productivity and economic growth, but instead built upon architecture of sustainable well-being and care. As for social protection in general and income support in particular, the concept of sustainability is appraised in fiscal rather than social or ecological terms (Stamm et al., 2020). The few exceptions include proposals for UBI (Pinto, 2020) and eco-social participation income (McGann and Murphy 2021) and ecological transition income, a form of participation income (Swaton 2018). Both eco-social participation income and ecological transition income are based on concerns that BI might not accelerate an ecological transition. There is a need to consider social policies also as an instrument for transitioning to a climate-resilient future with necessary adjustments in individual and community-level behaviours and attitudes. Social policies may help to incentivise such behaviours. This paper discusses participation income eco-social models for basic social security

Metod och Resultat

Konklusion