

Social security model in the Netherlands

Here there is advance material on the seminar entitled “What Finland can learn from social security reforms in other European countries” organised on 27 September 2018 by the Toimi project. Assistant Professor Minna van Gerven from the University of Twente will be presenting the topic at the seminar.

The Dutch social security system is based strongly on labour market participation, i.e. the primary aim is to ensure people have an opportunity to find a job in the regular labour market. The model's key approach is that work is the best social security for the individual and society.

The Participation Act (Participatiewet) that entered into force in the Netherlands at the beginning of 2015 replaced the old Work and Social Assistance Act (Wet Werk en Bijstand) dating back to 2004. The Dutch model of inclusion emphasizes the individual's responsibility for employment in the regular labour market. If this is not possible, a person is expected to participate in activities that are beneficial to society, in so-called participatory activities.

In addition to social security claimants, the third sector, municipalities, state and businesses are involved in empowering the participation of the citizens. The idea is that every citizen is responsible for their own participation within the limits of their own (or their social networks') abilities.

In the recent years, the Dutch social security emphasises local activity and responsibility. Municipalities, not the state, have the responsibility for the provision of social security and related services of jobseekers and people at the margins of the labour market. The idea behind the decentralisation has been that each area's challenges and opportunities are better known at the local level. However, researchers have questioned this argument. Studies (including the recent mid-term evaluation of the law by SCP 2018) also show that there are differences between the groups of citizens in their ability to take up and find employment in the regular labour market and in the way related services are implemented throughout the country.

A peculiarity of Dutch social security is that there are many more recipients of incapacity for work and other disability benefits than that of unemployment benefits.

Sources:

van Gerven-Haanpää, M. M-L. (2016). Beyond the Dutch Miracle? Challenges to and Responses of the Dutch Welfare System. In K. Schubert, P. de Villota, & J. Kuhlmann (Eds.), *Challenges to European Welfare Systems* (pp. 539-562). Springer International Publishing. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-07680-5_24

Delsen, L. (2016). The realization of the participation society. Welfare state reform in the Netherlands. Unpublished, (August), 2010-2015
https://www.ru.nl/publish/pages/516298/nice_16-02.pdf

Ham, L. van den Draak, M. den, Memsink, W., Schyns, P., & Berg, E. van de (2018). The Social Support Act 2015 in practice, (January 2018), 1-11. Retrieved from <https://www.narcis.nl/publication/RecordID/oa:scp.nl:f56d089e-3224-44d8-ba9a-bf897ea9ce2b>

Vermeulen, W. (2015). Decentralization of social policy in the Netherlands, 18. Retrieved from <https://www.cpb.nl/sites/default/files/publicaties/download/cpb-bacjground-document-decentralization-social-policy-netherlands.pdf>

SCP (2018) Van sociale werkvoorziening naar participatiewet. Hoe is het de mensen op de Wsw wachtlijst vergaan? Mid-term evaluation Participation Act (for persons with health limitations), the English conclusion ONLY pp. 78-86.

Assistant professor Dr. Minna van Gerven, Universiteit Twente, Enschede, Netherlands

Dr. Minna van Gerven is Assistant Professor of European Public Policy at the department of Public Administration within the Faculty of Behavioural, Management & Social Sciences of the University of Twente in the Netherlands.

Minna van Gerven's expertise lies in research on European welfare and health care systems and comparative social policy. Dr. van Gerven has investigated the change of welfare systems at various levels (local, national, cross-national and EU level) in Europe, and is currently studying also Global social policy, in particular in China and Japan.

Project on basic social security
and activeness (Toimi)
ynk.fi/en/social-security-2030

**SOSIAALI
TURVA** 2030