

Universal Credit in the United Kingdom

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. Professor Jane Millar from the University of Bath will be presenting the topic at the seminar.

Universal Credit (UC) aims to simplify the benefits system and to increase the incentives for the jobless to take up work offered. The UK Government announced the new unemployment benefit or UC in 2010. The national UC system has been rolled out in stages since 2013 and will be fully implemented by 2023.

The UC system has been developed by trial and error. In other words, attempts have been made to improve the system during the implementation.

The level of benefits under UC is much lower than originally intended. In the UK, cuts in benefits have been going on since 2010, in other words support has been frozen at the 2010 level.

UC aims to incentivise people to look for work more efficiently. Whether or not UC helps the jobless to move into work is being debated in the UK. The National Audit Office (NAO) has questioned the effectiveness of UC on increasing employment. According to the NAO, UC is not a very cost effective way to encourage people to move into work.

Sources:

[Child Poverty Action Group, CPAC's early warning system – report on Universal Credit top issues, July 2018](#)
[Department for Work and Pensions, Universal Credit Full Service Survey, June 2018](#)
[House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee, Universal Credit Ongoing inquiry, 2017 & 2018](#)
[National Audit Office, Rolling out Universal Credit, June 2018](#)
[Office for Budget Responsibility, Welfare trends report, January 2018](#)
[Resolution Foundation, Universal Remedy: ensuring Universal Credit is fit for purpose, 2018](#)

Blog posts:

[Universal Credit managed migration: the next big challenge](#) Jane Millar, 2018
[Universal credit discriminates against women by design](#) Alison Garnham (CPAG), 2018
[With the benefits of benefit reform iminishing, Universal Credit needs a new direction](#) David Finch (Resolution Foundation), 2018
[Evidence on Universal Credit and conditionality to the public Accounts Committee Welfare Conditionality Project](#), 2018
[Universal Credit. Can we fix it? Should we fix it?](#) Jane Millar, 2017
[Giving back control? A contradiction at the heart of Universal Credit](#) Jane Millar & Fran Bennet, 2016

Prof. Dr. Jane Millar, University of Bath, UK

- Institute for Policy Research (IPR)
- Professori, Department of Social & Policy Sciences
- Centre for Analysis of Social Policy (CASP)

Jane Millar's research interests include security policy, family policy and the policy implications of family change.

Prof. Millar has been a Special Adviser to the House of Commons Select Committee for Work and Pensions, to the Department for Work and Pensions, and the UK Representative on the EU Observatory on National Family Policies.

Prof. Millar was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2000 and as a Fellow of the British Academy in 2014.

Project on basic social security and
activeness (Toimi)

vnk.fi/en/social-security-2030

SOSIAALI
TURVA 2030