

No surprise the BI experiment in Finland

Finnish social security and assistance exceptional, making it probably closest to BI than anywhere in the world

Nordics are unique: social protection residence based, basic right and universal

Finland is unique among Nordics

Some peculiarities of Finnish social security

Lengthy time in cash benefits without obligation or possibility to services

Income protection subjective / constitutional right

Finland is the forerunner of digitalization of cash benefits

Cash benefits and services separated in all levels

Politico-cultural roots of these peculiarities

Culture: Something very Finnish about giving cash without need to face-to-face (small) talk

Geography: Sparsely populated land without services

Governance: autonomous 350+ municipalities responsible for most of the services

Institutions: Unions earnings related social security, KELA basic security, services central/local governance

Road to digitalized benefits and services

Strictly right based social assistance 1984

Decentralization of local governance 1993

Constitution reform 1995, income protection subjective right

Written procedure spreads in municipalities in 2000s, finally centralization and digitalization of social assistance 2017

Active labor market policies widely ridiculed, also among political elite

We need to talk about the services...

Without services social security weakly inclusive and incentives to work limited

For some digitalized benefits and electronic services are not enough - should we just accept this?

If not,

How to identify those in need for services?

How to get the services to them, or them to services if no conditionality?

Big Reform is coming

Almost complete political consensus that the basic social security needs full reform

Should we try find a way to link digitalized, subjective right based cash benefits with services?

Or push forward all the way, To The Basic Income?

Thank you!