

Welfare Attitudes in a Changing Europe: Solidarities under Pressure

Abstract:

This proposal is for a repeat of the Round 4 module "Welfare Attitudes in a Changing Europe". It draws primarily on a themed selection from this multi-dimensional welfare attitude module, providing additional items concerning "the activating welfare state" and "the future of the welfare state". A leading perspective is that the recent recession and its longer lasting institutional and social effects further challenge the already problematic fundamental relations of solidarity in European welfare states (e.g. between generations, genders, rich and poor, working and non-working, natives and migrants, and, increasingly relevant, between fellow Europeans). Knowledge about how public welfare attitudes react to these challenges, and thus how and why solidarity relations are problematic, shifting or eroding, will be important input for understanding future roads for the (in a global perspective) still comprehensive welfare states of Europe. Thus, a repeat of the module will not only allow examining how the core welfare attitudes about 'who should get what, and why' have reacted to the altered economic, institutional and social realities, thereby increasing our theoretical comprehension of how such attitudes are formed and changed; it also allows mapping changing solidarity patterns to the benefit of policy making.

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