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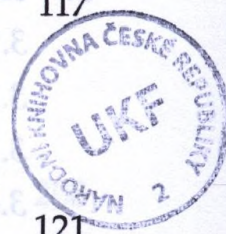
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The Aging Welfare State: An Introduction

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BACK TO THE WELFARE STATE: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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SUMMARY: 1. INTRODUCTION 2. THE NEUTRALITY OF SOCIAL POLICY 3. CHALLENGES IN THE XXI CENTURY 4. REFERENCES

ABSTRACT

In the wake of the financial crisis, citizens are demanding more and better benefits, more effective management, and greater participation. In order to reform our welfare state with the necessary guarantees, we must ask two questions. First, how have austerity policies affected our lifestyle and our social protection system? And, second, how should we redefine our welfare system in the coming years? Can we return to the benefits and services model prior to the crisis? Should we redefine it? The best contribution we can make to our future is to analyze with rigor the challenges we face. Greater social cohesion and a higher level of welfare can only be achieved by enhancing participation, assessing the results of our social policies more thoroughly, and more democracy. We need to discuss managerial models, excluded groups and the changing trends, and propose alternatives for the future.

KEYWORDS

Welfare State, Challenges, Participation