Welfare States and Participation Income Our New Economy – Rebecca Belochi.



"IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE" - Albert Einstein.

Social security schemes in theory...

	Targeted Models	Corporatist Models	Encompassing Models
Basis of eligibility	Means-testing, targeted.	Contributions from employers and employees make up eligibility and subsidies.	Contributions <u>and</u> citizenship.
Involvement of the State and compensation level.	 Role of the State restricted to poverty relief, Minimum compensation. 	 The state is a minority third actor, Compensation dependent on each branch of industries. 	 The State has an active and extensive role, Universal and earnings-related compensation.

Social security schemes: debates and practice (1)

- Is targeting the poor really efficient?
 - State can operate on a constrained budget, redistribution goes to individuals most in need.
 - Often results in poverty trap incentive, low take up rates tied to complex bureaucracy, stigmatising process.
- If targeted strategies are failing, are universal schemes systematically better?
 - Budgetary constraints cannot allow all subsidies to be distributed to all citizens at the same level.
 - Means-adjusted universal compensation.

Social security schemes: debates and practice (2)

Should we be satisfied with the status quo?

- Increasing automation and digitalisation trends threaten jobs, but more importantly the organisation of the labour markets in the future,
- As centrality of work in society decreases, institutions need to be able to accommodate this change in the future.

The Finnish UBI experiment.

- Universal Basic Income: unconditional and universal cash payment from the state to its citizens.
- Intention: decrease bureaucracy, increase incentive to work.
- Experiment: unemployed individuals selected to receive a compensation of 560€ a month.
- Results: no increased incentive to work, but statistically significant increase in wellbeing.



Participation Income (PI) for policy making

- A cash disbursement from the State to its citizens in exchange for a socially meaningful contribution, first introduced by the Economist Atkinson in 97.
- Why is it any different than other welfare reform proposals?
 - 1. Reciprocity Principle.
 - 2. Malleability .

PI's elements of analysis

- Participation criterion.
 - Define what is socially beneficial or positively contributes to society.
 - Incentivising tool for the State towards specific fields: education/training, volunteering, care-work, etc.
 - Challenges: balance the level of inclusiveness with bureaucracy, formulate criteria clearly.
- Allocation method.
 - Cash disbursement from State to its citizens.
 - Challenges: calculation of the compensation base, definition of the compensation method.
- Monitoring and supervision.
 - Drawback of conditionality,
 - Challenges: administrative costs tied to the extend of the verification process, privacy concerns, decision-making level and subjectivity to human error.

Participation Income in an imaginary perfect world...

- Participation broadly defined, decentralised process.
 - "Any activity undertaken with the objective to respond to the need expressed by another citizen should be considered as socially beneficial"
 - In addition to easily measurable categories such as education programs, employment situation, etc..
- Allocation automatic transfers.
 - Compensation base: variable based on hours reported, means-adjusted.
 - Compensation method: veracity of reporting calculated with "digital reputation" initiates payments automatically.
- Monitoring digital identity tied to online platform operated by algorithms.
 - Individuals are assigned a unique and secured digital identity that provides access to the online government reporting platform.
 - Combination of smart algorithm, blockchain processes and human verification ensure truthful reporting.

Thank you for your attention! Any questions?

Thank you very much for having me!

Email me any time at: rebecca.belochi@ourneweconomy.nl