



Unofficial Summary/Translation of Project

The Welfare Model –taboos and black points

Some Stances adopted by the Committee

- The report supports a well-functioning welfare state, where the public authorities create a linkage between knowledge acquired through impartial research and the political desired state. The Committee considers it very important that efforts are made to combine an operational model founded on knowledge and skill with the political desired state. A representative democracy that relies on high-quality research both provides justification for decisions and ensures that measures lead to the results that are aimed for.
- The authors present 21 recommendations in the end of the report. Those that the Committee considers important relate to the integrity of the welfare model and the responsibility of the public authorities, employment-generating economic growth, balance in public finances, clarification of administration and service systems, accentuating social innovations and social opportunities, extending the period people remain in working life and encouraging people to work. Other recommendations that the Committee likewise considers important are those relating to rationalisation of areas of responsibility in health care, reducing poverty, supporting the opportunities available to young people and families with children, improving the innovation system for welfare-state functions, helping innovations to take root and Nordic cooperation also in this task.
- It is especially important that all commit to the welfare model. The Committee stresses that a social security system works when all contribute to paying the costs and all receive something from the system in return.
- The wellbeing of citizens can be divided into resource-based and experienced wellbeing. Resource-based wellbeing is not limited to income or the gross domestic product. It covers multidimensionally, in addition to income and wealth, also resources like health, housing, employment and education.
- In revitalising the welfare state it is important to accomplish positive economic, social and educational shifts on the part of people. This should be aimed for through a policy of social opportunities.
- The Committee underscores the importance of experienced wellbeing and a policy of opportunities alongside resource-based wellbeing.
- The uncertainty of society, work, housing, finance and human relationships is becoming increasingly clearly a factor that threatens people's wellbeing.
- One means of lessening uncertainty that has been given too little attention is trust and commitment between people. Uncertainty can be reduced by strengthening society's social capital. The Committee emphasises that a strong civil society is in a key position in this.
- However, what is most important in order to lessen uncertainty is sustainable economic growth and a high level of employment.
- The Committee draws attention to the fact that, in the work of renewal, the demands to be set for public and private responsibility must be appraised. Alongside the social rights safeguarded by the public authorities, there is always the responsibility that citizens bear for themselves, their families and people in general. The importance of homes as bearers of responsibility and instillers of a sense of responsibility is great.

The Committee for the Future14 June 2011

- The work of renewal can not be done in detachment from an examination of the carrying capacity of public finances. The greatest challenges are that of achieving job-creating and sustainable growth, employment and long work careers.
- Attention is drawn in the researchers' recommendations to the fact that when responsibility for the arrangement of welfare services is broadly spread and a variety of funding and distribution models with their new actors have become involved, the overall picture has been blurred.
- In the arrangement of welfare services, ageing and intergenerational relations are important future questions.
- The report recommends in several ways that our innovation system be expanded with social innovations to promote welfare-state functions.