

Workshop on
Taxation, Public Provision and the Future of the Nordic Welfare Model

Call for Papers

15-16 June 2009, Helsinki, Finland

Deadline for submissions: 31 December 2008

The Nordic countries have traditionally been associated with a strong emphasis on egalitarian policies. This has been reflected in centralised wage setting, progressive taxation and a large public sector. While much of the standard economic analysis would suggest that these factors are likely to be costly in terms of economic efficiency and growth, the Nordic countries have also managed to achieve high living standards. Recent years have, however, witnessed a growing concern in the Nordic countries about the sustainability of the welfare system amidst ageing population, globalisation and international tax competition.

One of the key elements of the Nordic model is the high level of public provision of services, such as day care, health care, and the care of the elderly. This is also accompanied by a large share of public employment from overall employment. Therefore, a crucial requirement for the functioning of the Nordic model is a proper design of the public services.

We will organise a workshop in Helsinki, Finland, in *15-16 June 2009* to obtain new economic knowledge on these issues. We invite submissions, both theoretical and empirical, and both from inside and outside of the Nordic countries, dealing with, for instance, the following topics:

- Tax design when part of the revenues are used to fund publicly provided goods
- The impacts of public services on economic efficiency and income distribution
- The relation between public employment and overall employment
- Efficiency and equity aspects of public pension systems

Papers, or extended abstracts of two pages, should be sent to Jukka Pirttilä (jukka.pirttila@labour.fi) as a pdf file by *31 December 2008*. A preference will be given to full papers. The decision on acceptance will be communicated by *28 February 2009*. We will be able to cover travel costs (economy class) and accommodation costs for paper presenters.

The workshop is part of the activities of The Nordic Center for Excellence in Empirical Labor Economics. The Center is funded by NordForsk and the Nordic research councils and will run from 2005 to 2010. The NCoE consists of four research teams with researchers from Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway.

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