

ABSTRACT

Family policies and child poverty in the Nordic countries

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This presentation offers an overview and discussion on the relationship between family policies in the Nordic welfare states and the extent of contemporary poverty among families with children. Does the internationally well-disputed profile of a generous and ambitious welfare system in the Nordic countries still apply? Or does overall increasing inequality also reflect deepening vulnerability among children and their families? According to UN Child Convention, all children have a right to an adequate standard of living regardless family situation. Current results underline that also the Nordic countries has growing challenges to secure basic economic well-being for all families with children.

Are there any common features in the Nordic countries to prevent child poverty or alleviate the effects of child poverty? Are there signs of similar policy trends among the Nordic countries? Which kind of poverty reducing policies can be identified for the Nordic countries? Several strategies by international bodies suggest strengthening social investment strategies focusing resources and services for all families with children.