Workshop: Towards a Social Investment Welfare State?


The seminar will be held at Westmanska palatset, Holländargatan 17 in Stockholm on November 18th from 9.00 to 12.00. During the course of the workshop, the editors Nathalie Morel, Bruno Palier and Joakim Palme will, together with authors of chapters in the volume, talk about the core issues of the book. The results of the studies will also be discussed by a panel of invited experts.

Since the late 1990s, new ideas and strategies concerning the role and shape of the Welfare State have been formulated, with the focus being placed on developing policies that aim to “prepare” rather than “repair”. The same ways of reasoning also underpinned the Lisbon Agenda, which the European Union adopted in 2000 in order to meet the future challenges of ageing populations and the shift towards a knowledge-based and service economy. While different terms and labels have been used, all these analyses and policy developments point towards a similar policy logic based on ‘social investment’.

The social investment approach rests on policies that not only invest in human capital development; early childhood education and care, education and lifelong training, but also that help to make efficient use of human capital; active labour market policies and policies supporting women’s and lone parents’ employment. In this new perspective, social policies are viewed as a productive factor, essential to economic development and to employment growth. The social investment perspective is intended to sustain a different economy than that after 1945 – the knowledge-based economy.
Are the different policy instruments of the European ‘social investment’ strategy able to live up to the goals of creating jobs, regenerating the welfare state and help address the challenges of the economic crisis? What is the role of ‘social investment’ policies in the light of the current economic crisis? These and other questions will be addressed during the discussion at the workshop.

The seminar is free of charge but you have to register your attendance in advance. Please sign up by writing your name and affiliation in an e-mail to fokus@framtidsstudier.se. The number of admissions is restricted.

**Program**

08.30-09.00  
COFFEE AND SANDWICHES

09.00-09.10  
Welcome  
Urban Lundberg, Swedish NordWel representative and Joakim Palme, Institute for Futures Studies

09.10-09.30  
The Social Investment Perspective: Origins and Ideas  
Nathalie Morel, Sciences-Po, Paris

09.30-09.50  
Policy Instruments and Achievements  
Bruno Palier, NordWel and Sciences-Po, Paris

09.50-10.10  
Is Activation ‘Social investment’?  
Kerstin Jacobsson, Södertörn University College

10.10-10.30  
Social Investment and Ageing Populations  
Thomas Lindh, Institute for Futures Studies

10.30-10.45  
Towards a Social Investment Welfare State?  
Joakim Palme, Institute for Futures Studies

10.45-11.00  
COFFEE and REFRESHMENTS

11.00-12.00  
Panel and general discussion:  
Invited experts

**Moderator:** Katinka Hort