

Workfare and welfare state legitimacy

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A common trend in the welfare policies of many European countries is the increase in measures targeted at 'high risk' groups, such as the long-term unemployed. These policies can be seen as a reaction to problems related to an increasing differentiation in the labour market, problems related to long-term unemployment and to the growth of immigrant groups. The political answers to these problems have been similar all over the Western world. The general trend of the reforms have been towards 'active measures' rather than 'passive'; 'sanctions' rather than 'positive incentives'; 'duties' rather than 'rights'. These are key elements in a 'new welfare contract' between the citizen and the government, which states that 'high risk' recipient groups have to meet certain participation requirements in order to receive welfare benefits. *Workfare and welfare state legitimacy* focuses on the types of policy measures that can be summarized under the term 'workfare'. In this volume it includes all policies involving certain participation requirements from the welfare recipients.

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