

Disability Pensions in Denmark – Reforming Eligibility and Categorization

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Reforming Eligibility and CategorisationAt the very beginning of 2013 a new reform of disability and early retirement pensions and flexible employment was implemented in the Danish municipalities. This reform drastically reforms the granting of disability pension, including the eligibility of this benefit and the ways in which clients are categorized in the process leading up to the possible granting. The reform introduces the possibility of granting a client one to five years of 'resource programs' in situations where a permanent disability pension was previously granted. Albeit being part of a financial reduction of this welfare area of close to two billion Danish kroner before 2020, politically the reform draws on an investment argument. Thus the reforms argues, that rather than leaving clients on a permanent and passive disability pension, social work after the reform will focus on investing in clients resources rather than "giving up on them".In this paper we focus our analysis on eligibility and categorisation before and after the reform. The empirical part of the paper draws on a number of sources. We will analyse legislation (prior to and implemented in 2013). Furthermore we draw on empirical research before the reform (Caswell et al. 2012; Caswell and Kleif 2013) and current empirical evidence (from a new research project starting at the beginning of 2014). Theoretically the paper draws on theories of institutional categorisation (Mäkitalo 2009; Mäkitalo and Säljö 2002) and theory on the moral status of clients (Hasenfeld 2000).

Bibliography

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