

POLITICS AND POLICY IN THE EU

A virtual lecture series of the Fulda Centre for Transnational Governance and the Jean Monet Chair, Winter term 2021/2022

09 December, 9:50-11:20:

Workshop and Discussion

How gender responsive were Finland's Covid-19 recovery policies, Dr. Anna Elomäki; Tampere University

Finland is often seen as a model-country for gender equality, and Finland's current government has been renowned for its young female leadership and feminist policies. This paper examines, to what extent and how political commitments to gender equality were visible in the Finnish Covid-19 recovery policies and what their gendered impacts were. The paper assesses Finnish recovery policies adopted in 2020 based on three indicators: 1) visibility of gender equality goals and intersectional gender analysis in the crisis responses 2) specific measures to support gender equality and vulnerable groups and 3) investments in care infrastructure. In addition, the paper addresses the gendered outcomes of the recovery policies, with a focus on the distributional impacts of the new social policy measures adopted in to support individuals in the crisis.

The German Covid-rescue package and gender equality; Prof. Dr. Claudia Wiesner; Fulda University of Applied Sciences

The German COVID rescue package of 2020 consists of a volume of altogether 167,4 billion Euros. The paper analyses the different parts of the package and their target groups, asking which parts of the package to what extent benefit men and women. Analysis relies on the instruments of Gender Mainstreaming and in particular the 3-r method, which studies representation, resources and reality in public policy.

Large-Scale and Green? The German Covid-19 Stimulus Package in international comparison; Prof. Dr. Stefan Wurster; Technical University of Munich

The Covid-19 pandemic is a fundamental global crisis generating an external shock event that is likely to exceed the upheavals caused by the last financial and economic crisis of 2008/2009. Germany as an export-oriented economy faces tremendous economic threats in the aftermath of the pandemic such as the collapse of global supply chains, the lockdown of economic sectors, impending job losses, among others. As a reaction, the German government adopted, like in the last financial crisis, fiscal stimulus packages as part of a Keynesianstyle public spending program to stabilize its economy. Yet in addition, the German government explicitly conceptualized its reactions as part of a "Package for the Future" (Zukunftspaket) to tackle the second big global challenge in our days: climate change and environmental degradation. We evaluate the German stimulus package on both these goals by comparing it with stimulus packages passed in other G20 countries. Combining Qualitative Comparative Analysis and an in-depth case study of Germany, we identify the driving determinants behind the fiscal policy reactions with regard to the size of the stimulus package as well as its contribution to adopt long-term environmental transformations.

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