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The Evolution of the Finnish Welfare State in the Years 1995-2014

Summary:

The subject of the dissertation is the Finnish welfare state and the political, legal, economic and social conditions of its evolution in the years 1995-2014. The main research goals are: to present main institutions of the Finnish welfare state and their change within the years 1995-2014; to analyse the evolution of the Finnish welfare state against a background of values of the „nordic mode” and an evaluation, how the change of the Finnish welfare state institutions can be confronted with those values, especially universalism. The secondary goals of the dissertation are: to present the nordic model of a welfare state as strongly rooted in the principles of the economic and social policy of the countries from the nordic region; to describe the evolution of the Finnish welfare state in the light of economic and social indicators, to answer the question how one may evaluate Finland regarding its effectiveness in dealing with socio-economic issues. In the dissertation the evolution of Finnish political scene, social security system, labour market and the systems of education and healthcare were analysed in detail. The changes of the Finnish international competitiveness and the state of the economy were also examined. In the dissertation the strengths and weaknesses of the Finnish welfare state and the main opportunities and threats for its future were identified.

Keywords:

Finland, welfare state, nordic model, social policy.