**Title**

Activation - Life Control - Social Capital: A study of the factors of aging unemployed people controlling their lives and of the effects of deterring the exclusion

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**Abstract**

The study has examined the effects of the actions aimed at deterring exclusion especially on the activation, labourmarket placement, and the life control of the aging and inadequately trained unemployed. As the theoretical frame of reference, e.g. Pierre Bourdieu’s theories about the meanings of capitals and fields to individuals and from the viewpoint of social actors have been used. Under examination has been the social capital manifesting itself as trust or confidence in social relationships. Theoretical background for the study has been found from e.g. the frameworks of exclusion, unemployment research, organizing of social welfare, and from the frameworks of the operational conditions and environments of anticipatory socialpolicies, and activating labourpolicies.

The empirical material was collected from the eight development plans targeted towards the people 45 years or older who were unemployed or threatened by unemployment, chosen from the Finnish ESR- program period 1995-1999. The basic population of 377 persons and the standardized control group was collected manually from the registries of the labour administration in February 2002, and the questionnaire as a postal survey also in the spring of 2002. The survey was sent to 196 persons chosen from the basic population. Because of the disparity of the materials and several different methods and theories used, the research methodology was chosen to be triangulation. In the examination of the factor of social capital and life control e.g. the methods of sum variables, means of variable ratios, and variance analysis. The interview material has been utilized as factual information whenever relevant.

As one result, the most significator prohibitive factor in trying to employ the aging unemployed people was inadequate vocational training, and not so much aging. The roots of the structural unemployment affecting the current labourmarket are thus located: the post World War II radical change, when the educational requirements of workers were low. Of the factors of anticipation, activation, and the strength of the life control, the trust towards to the institutional actors turned out to be weak. The dominant factor expressing the strength of external and internal life control was the ethos of “coping on your own”.

The study used as source material the works, articles of e.g. the following authors: S. Aho, P. Bourdieu, J. Coleman, I. Culpit, T. Helne, K. Ilmonen, J. Kajanoja, P. Putnam, R. Raitasalo, J. P. Roos, H. Silver, and K. Vähätalo

**Keywords**

aging – unemployment – exclusion
proactiveness – activation – life control
social capital – trust – well-being

**Where deposited**

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