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Varieties of precarity and migrant labour exploitation: Evidence from Finland and Sweden

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Varieties of precarity and migrant labour exploitation: Evidence from Finland and Sweden

Nordic welfare states are commonly considered as having comparatively low levels of insecure, uncertain, and unstable employment or precarious work and strong protection against adverse labour market shocks such as sickness and unemployment. However, these protections are enjoyed mainly by permanent residents with access to residence-based welfare-state services. Other groups such as migrant workers with temporary residence permits, posted workers, and irregular migrants encounter many forms of precarity and are subject to various kinds of labour exploitation (Näre & Maury 2024). Moreover, non-standard employment, measured as the prevalence of fixed-term contracts, temporary agency work, marginal part-time work, and solo self-employment are more prevalent in Finland and Sweden than in Norway and Denmark (Rasmussen et al. 2019). Drawing on interviews with experts representing trade unions, researchers, NGOs, police and labour inspection officials in Finland (N=17) and Sweden (N=14) and policy and legislative data, we analyse how migration, welfare and employment regimes produce precarity for migrant workers in Finland and Sweden. Our analysis shows the varieties of precarious work and labour exploitation of migrant workers in these two countries.

References:

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