

Ulrich Becker | Anika Seemann (Eds.)

Protecting Livelihoods

A Global Comparison of Social Law Responses
to the COVID-19 Crisis



Nomos

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Preface

The present study is the result of the second phase of a project that was initiated in March 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. A first publication in May 2020 dealt with early social policy reactions to this crisis in five jurisdictions; an updated version followed in November 2020.

After extending the period of research and broadening its scope, the present study describes, categorises and analyses the policy responses to the pandemic crisis in twenty-one countries, focusing on those legislative and administrative measures that can, directly or indirectly, be attributed to “social law” in the sense of social protection law. With this focus in mind, our study examines how the welfare state has reacted to the COVID-19 crisis.

The measures examined are characterised by their variety and their rapid changeability. It is difficult to keep track, in particular if one wants to include the whole range of measures that were adopted. For this reason, we had to concentrate only on specific aspects of the crisis response, namely job retention, supporting the economy (with a particular focus on the self-employed) and access to social protection.

Our stocktaking reflects the situation as of November 2021, sometimes going beyond (the hyperlinks were last checked at the end of April 2022). This was before the Omicron variant had taken over and restrictive measures were wound down.

The publication of this book would not have been possible without the help and dedication of our colleagues. First of all, we would like to thank the authors for their participation in, and their commitment to, the project. The cooperation was always smooth and a real pleasure. We are also grateful to Christina McAllister for proof reading, as well as to Matthias Elbert and Chantal Urban for their help with editing.

Munich, May 2022

*Ulrich Becker
Anika Seemann*

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