

Ulrich Becker | Anika Seemann (Eds.)

Protecting Livelihoods

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



Nomos

Studien aus dem Max-Planck-Institut
für Sozialrecht und Sozialpolitik

Volume 77

Ulrich Becker | Anika Seemann (Eds.)

Protecting Livelihoods

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



Nomos

Open Access funding provided by Max Planck Society.

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>

ISBN 978-3-8487-7490-6 (Print)
978-3-7489-3281-9 (ePDF)

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-3-8487-7490-6 (Print)
978-3-7489-3281-9 (ePDF)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Becker, Ulrich | Seemann, Anika

Protecting Livelihoods

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

Ulrich Becker | Anika Seemann (Eds.)

540 pp.

Includes bibliographic references.

ISBN 978-3-8487-7490-6 (Print)
978-3-7489-3281-9 (ePDF)

1st Edition 2022

© The Authors

Published by

Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG

Waldseestraße 3–5 | 76530 Baden-Baden

www.nomos.de

Production of the printed version:

Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG

Waldseestraße 3–5 | 76530 Baden-Baden

ISBN 978-3-8487-7490-6 (Print)

ISBN 978-3-7489-3281-9 (ePDF)

DOI <https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748932819>



Onlineversion
Nomos eLibrary



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

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*

Table of Contents

I.	Social Policy and Social Law in Times of Crisis: An Introduction	11
	<i>Ulrich Becker</i>	
II.	Idiosyncratic but Effective? – Australia’s COVID-19 Social Protection	29
	<i>Terry Carney</i>	
III.	Social Security in Times of COVID-19 in Brazil	49
	<i>Ingo Wolfgang Sarlet and Jeferson Ferreira Barbosa</i>	
IV.	Measures to Protect Livelihoods during the COVID-19 Pandemic in China	75
	<i>Yifei Wang</i>	
V.	The Czech Way of Dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic as a Social Risk	103
	<i>Martin Štefko</i>	
VI.	“Collective Agreement”– Danish Social and Labour Market Policy in the COVID-19 Crisis	121
	<i>Anika Seemann</i>	
VII.	(Still) Too Little, Too Late? – Crisis Management in England	147
	<i>Nikola Wilman</i>	
VIII.	Living with COVID-19: Entering the “New Normal” Era in France	181
	<i>Linxin He</i>	

Table of Contents

IX.	The Community Steps Up: Changing Responsibilities in Germany <i>Ulrich Becker</i>	201
X.	Social and Labour Market Policy during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Greece <i>Anastasia Poulou</i>	229
XI.	“No Man is an Island Entire of Itself”: Learning from the Past and Fostering Relationships Steers Ireland Through the Initial Rough Waters of the Pandemic <i>Elaine Dewhurst</i>	243
XII.	Social Policy Measures to Mitigate the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Italy between Continuity and Change <i>Eva Maria Hohnerlein</i>	263
XIII.	Reoccurring Problems in Securing Employment and Livelihoods in Japan <i>Katsuaki Matsumoto</i>	295
XIV.	Mexico: Between the So-Called “Fourth Transformation” and Protecting Livelihoods in the COVID-19 Crisis <i>Gabriela Mendizábal Bermúdez</i>	313
XV.	All Hands on Deck: Dutch Emergency Support Policies in the COVID-19 Pandemic <i>Maarten Bouwmeester</i>	337
XVI.	Government’s Social and Economic Protection Responses to COVID-19 in the Context of an Elimination Strategy: The New Zealand Example <i>Michael Fletcher</i>	361

XVII. Anti-Crisis Shields – Special Regulations of Labour Law and Social Law to Mitigate the Negative Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Poland	377
<i>Agnieszka Górnicz-Mulcahy and Ariel Przybyłowicz</i>	
XVIII. Russia: The Path Dependence of Old Concepts and Targeted Support Measures in the COVID-19 Pandemic	405
<i>Olga Chesalina</i>	
XIX. Social Protection and the Pandemic in Slovenia: Between Income Protection, Social Policy and Politics	427
<i>Grega Strban and Luka Mišič</i>	
XX. Protecting Livelihoods in the COVID-19 Crisis: The South African Experience	453
<i>Letlhokwa George Mpedi</i>	
XI. Temporary Changes and Long-Term Problems – Regulating the Swedish Labour Market and Social Security System during the COVID-19 Pandemic	475
<i>Sara Stendahl and Thomas Erbag</i>	
XXII. Consolidating Solidarity in Taiwan during the COVID-19 Crisis	497
<i>Nai-Yi Sun</i>	
XXIII. Conclusions – On Risk and Solidarity in Times of Global Crises	521
<i>Anika Seemann</i>	
List of Contributors	539

