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Emne: Flash Helsinki: Results of the basic income experiment presented – Not much effect on employment but mental wellbeing improved

Flash Helsinki: Results of the basic income experiment presented – Not much effect on employment but mental wellbeing improved

Finland carried out a two-year basic income experiment in 2017-2018. In the experiment, 2,000 unemployed persons were paid a monthly basic income of 560 euros regardless of any other income they may have had or whether they were actively looking for work.

The results of the experiment show that **employment effects were small**. The employment rate for basic income recipients improved slightly more during the experiment than for the control group. During the first year of the experiment, the basic income did not have any employment effects. During the second year, the effects were more positive and the number of days of employment increased by 6 days.

Those who received a basic income **perceived their economic and mental wellbeing more positively** than respondents in the control group. They were more satisfied with their lives and had less mental strain, depression, sadness and loneliness. They also had a more positive perception of their income and economic wellbeing than the control group.

The basic income seems to have had slightly different effects on different groups: those that were already closer to the labour market had bigger increase in their employment rates. This indicated that for some persons who receive unemployment benefits the problems related to finding employment are not related to bureaucracy or to financial incentives.

More information: https://valtioneuvosto.fi/artikkeli/-/asset_publisher/1271139/perustulokeilun-tulokset-tyollisyysvaikutukset-vahaisia-toimeentulo-ja-psykkinen-terveys-koettiin-paremmaksi?_101_INSTANCE_LZ3RQQ4vvWXR_languageId=en_US

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