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Grundrente – ungelöste normative Widersprüche

Jochen Pimpertz und Maximilian Stockhausen

Abstract:

The proposed basic pension in the German statutory pension scheme would misdirect aid in four out of five cases to those not in need if a means test is waived. In order to recognise life`s work even in case of need, personal allowance can be deducted from the means test. However, this leads to different coverages of comparable requirements. A universal increase in the minimum guarantee avoids unequal treatment but leads to higher fiscal burdens. However, any basic pension model can hardly solve the problem of shameful poverty among the elderly.

JEL-Klassifikation: H55, I38

Schlagwörter: Altersarmut, Grundrente, Grundsicherung, Bedürftigkeitsprüfung

Konkurrierende Konzeptionen der Gesundheitspolitik

Wilfried Boroch

Abstract:

There are several ideas about health policy. The purpose of this article is to describe the health-specific guiding ideas, planning and control mechanisms and objectives that explain the main thrust of thinking and action of the two currently most important policy conceptions. On the one hand, this is the conception of health policy as economic policy, and on the other hand the health sciences approach of health policy as health-based intervention policy. The differences between both concepts are not trivial and show fundamentally different ideas of

the allocation and distribution of health goods and services. When choosing “for or against” the “right” health policy approach, these systemic differences must be adequately taken into account.

JEL Classification: I 18, I 10, P 16

Keywords: Health policy, in a narrower sense, in a broader sense, conceptions, market, intervention, participation, democracy, (health) objectives

Schlagwörter: Gesundheitspolitik, im engeren Sinne, im weiteren Sinne, Konzeptionen, Markt, Intervention, Partizipation, Demokratie, (Gesundheits-)Ziele

Wirtschaftspolitisches Forum

„Reform der Kurzarbeit“

Die Kurzarbeit ist in der Industrie zuletzt deutlich gestiegen. Inzwischen wird das Instrument von annähernd so vielen Unternehmen wie in der kurzen rezessiven Phase um den Jahreswechsel 2012/13 herum genutzt. Angesichts der sich wohl abzeichnende konjunkturelle Eintrübung diskutiert auch die Politik eine mögliche Weiterentwicklung des Instruments. Angedacht ist unter anderem, die Kurzarbeit stärker mit Weiterbildungsmaßnahmen zu verbinden.

Das kommende „Wirtschaftspolitische Forum“ soll sich daher der Weiterentwicklung der Kurzarbeit widmen. Dabei stellen sich viele Fragen: Lässt sich eine stärkere Bezuschussung von Weiterbildungsmaßnahmen ohne Fehlanreize umsetzen? Oder wäre gar eine verpflichtende Weiterbildung ein sinnvoller Ansatz? Verfügen wir überhaupt über ausreichend Kapazitäten, um zielgerichtete Weiterbildungen für alle Arbeitnehmer/innen in Kurzarbeit anbieten zu können? Sollte die maximale Bezugsdauer des Kurzarbeitergeldes reformiert und künftig beispielsweise automatisch an die konjunkturelle Entwicklung gekoppelt werden? Bieten sich die Kurzarbeit darüber hinaus vielleicht sogar als Instrument an, um neben konjunkturellen Einbrüchen auch den Strukturwandel in einzelnen Branchen gezielt zu begleiten?

JEL-Classification: J08, J6, L16

Keywords: short-time working, further education, structural change

Schlagwörter: Kurzarbeit, Weiterbildung, Strukturwandel

Autonomes Fahren statt Stop and Go: Vorschläge zur effektiven Gestaltung der deutschen Kurzarbeit

Almut Balleer, Britta Gehrke, Brigitte Hochmuth und Christian Merkl

Abstract

This article argues that short-time work stabilized employment in Germany substantially during the Great Recession in 2008/09. The labor market instrument acted in timely manner, as it was used in a rule-based fashion. In addition, discretionary extensions were effective due to their interaction with the business cycle. To ensure that short-time work will be effective in the future, this article proposes an automatic facilitation of the access to short-time work in severe recessions. This reduces the likelihood of a too extensive use at the wrong point in time as well as structural instead of cyclical interventions

Mit Weiterbildung und Kurzarbeit die digitale und ökologische Transformation bewältigen

Annelie Buntenbach und Johannes Jakob

Abstract

In this text, the DGB develops proposals from a trade union point of view, on how to tackle the emerging structural transformation that will affect large parts of the manufacturing industry.

Given the importance of this sector, it is justifiable for the state to use public funds to accompany these structural changes, especially since part of the changes are also a result of state intervention. The primary focus should be set on continuing education and training. The arguments made against subsidized training can be largely refuted in this context. Continuing education and training can be supported by the counselling services of the Employment Agencies. Company training plans can assure that no group of employees is left behind and that the trainings that are carried out are future-oriented. Finally, the financial participation of employers is also a guarantee that no “training for stock” will take place. The instrument of short-time-work must also come into use. However, the conditions in which it can be employed should be expanded and tailored to meet

the current challenges. Short-time-work should also be possible in case of a “technological

and ecological transformation, leading to massive and rapid changes in the conditions of production”. The IG Metall proposal of a “transformation shorttime-work allowance” provides a good basis for this discussion.

Another potential source for skilled workers are the currently unemployed persons. Studies show that more unemployed persons would undergo a vocational training if the financial framework conditions were better. The DGB has proposed that an additional allowance should be granted to this group during measures of further education. Such an allowance would particularly support the recipients of minimum income provisions, of whom a large number doesn't have any completed vocational training.

Kurzarbeit in Krisen stärken und für Weiterbildung gezielt nutzen

Jürgen Wuttke und Anna Robra

Abstract

This article explains why instruments that relaxed pre-conditions on short-time work during the crisis in 2008 to 2010 helped to stabilize employment successfully. Based on this, the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA) recommends to revive these extended instruments in case of a new severe sectoral crisis to back the usage of short-time work. Moreover, this article discusses useful approaches to combine aids for further education and short-time work. In addition it includes some comments on proposals for a so called “Perspektivqualifizierung” (future-oriented qualification), “Transformations-Kurzarbeitergeld” (transformational short-time work) as well as an enhanced assistance of qualification within a “Transfergesellschaft” (transfer company).

Die Finanzsituation von Studierenden unter verschiedenen Institutionen der Studienfinanzierung – ein internationaler Vergleich

Christoph Gwosć

Abstract

Market, state, and the family of students are important sources of student funding. An empirical analysis for 25 countries in the European Higher Education Area reveals that in 80 % of countries, there is a pattern according to which students who depend on self-financing through the market reach the highest level of total monthly income. Their fellow students, who financially depend on their families, have a median income level and students who are mainly funded by the state have the lowest revenue. The significant differences in revenue between the three groups of students also involve financial problems of varying degrees.

JEL-Classification: I2, I22, I24, I28, H3

Keywords: student funding, self-earned income, family contribution, public support

Schlagwörter: Studienfinanzierung, Erwerbseinkommen, Familienbeiträge, Staatliche Forderung

Kritische Rohstoffe - Die Achillesverse der USA im Wettstreit mit China

Marc Schmid

Abstract

The confrontation between the US and China in the current trade dispute is one of the first clashes between the established and the emerging world power. This contribution examines the special role of critical raw materials in the rivalry of the two countries. The analysis reveals the reliance of the United States on the supply of critical raw materials from China, which is a severe weakness of the US economy and military. The dependency leads to supply risks, undermines the American position in the conflict between the two countries and is an Achillesheel that makes the US economy vulnerable. US politics seems to be aware of the risk, but their

measures are not sufficient in order to reduce the supply risks and dependency associated with critical raw materials from China. A comprehensive and long-term oriented raw material strategy is required.

JEL-Classification: Q31, Q34, F13, F51

Keywords: Trade dispute, critical raw materials, supply risks, rare earths

Schlagwörter: Handelsstreit, kritische Rohstoffe, Versorgungsrisiken, Seltene Erden