Abstract

The Swedish welfare state belongs to the best known forms of the welfare state for its distinctive development and individual settings within the system. The main concept was prosperous (welfare) state that Sweden promoted through specific economic policy and broad social legislation. Through successful balancing between socialism and capitalism together with full employment policy, economic growth and appropriate social policy Sweden in the course of a few decades managed to get from the position of a backward European country to the foreground of prosperous countries. However, the system after several generous decades encountered certain limits. The objective of this paper is to compare two time periods of the Swedish welfare state model in its development from origin to the present by a dividing line in the 1970s when, due to many factors, model got in trouble for the first time. Based on the comparison, the paper focuses on the extent to which model altered its original form, what changes occurred in the system and compares the socioeconomic sustainability of the current model in relation to its pre-crisis form.