

Partnership in austerity?

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At the beginning of this year, researchers at King's College in London published the results of a six-country study of the impact of austerity on the public services, with a particular focus on local government. The project covered the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands and the UK. While the researchers found evidence of resilience in collective bargaining and social dialogue in Denmark and the Netherlands, elsewhere the picture was less positive. However, it also found examples where social dialogue was working at local level even if the national trend was towards more unilateral action by governments.

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