Do non-profit organizations contribute in a distinctive way to the co-production of welfare services?

Case studies of co-production, non-profit organizations, and welfare

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A research project

• Research project (2018-2021)
• Collaboration between Bräcke diakoni and Ersta Sköndal Bräcke University College
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Focus areas

• What does the literature say?
• Similarities and differences between types of organizations?
• Mechanisms in NPOs than enable co-production?
• Can co-production be promoted?
What does the literature say?*

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- NPOs are essential to the very definition of co-production
- Provides theoretical and empirical illustrations
- NPOs may – to some degree, and under specific circumstances – make distinctive contributions

Similarities and differences between types of organizations?

Similarities and differences between types of organizations?*

- Mainly no significant differences nor correlations with size
- Identified significant differences favorable for NPOs
  - Are there mechanisms in NPOs that could explain the results?

Mechanisms in NPOs than enable co-production?*

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- Smaller units valued and implemented co-production more
- User autonomy correlated positively with attitudes to co-production

Can co-production be promoted?

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- Training improved co-production to some degree, but results were ambiguous

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- Training improved co-production to some degree, but results were ambiguous
  - Always room for improvement
  - Contextual factors
  - Training is but one of several measures

Do non-profit organizations contribute in a distinctive way to the co-production of welfare services?

In this empirical context:

• Yes – to some degree
• But far from essential
• Co-production requires time, resources, and commitment