



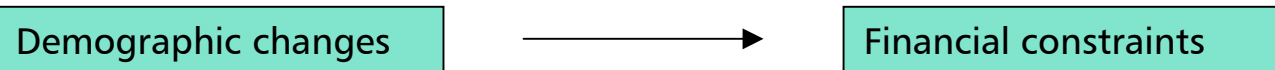
# **Quadruple pressure – a framework for the study of welfare state-development**

Riga, 8-10 May 2006

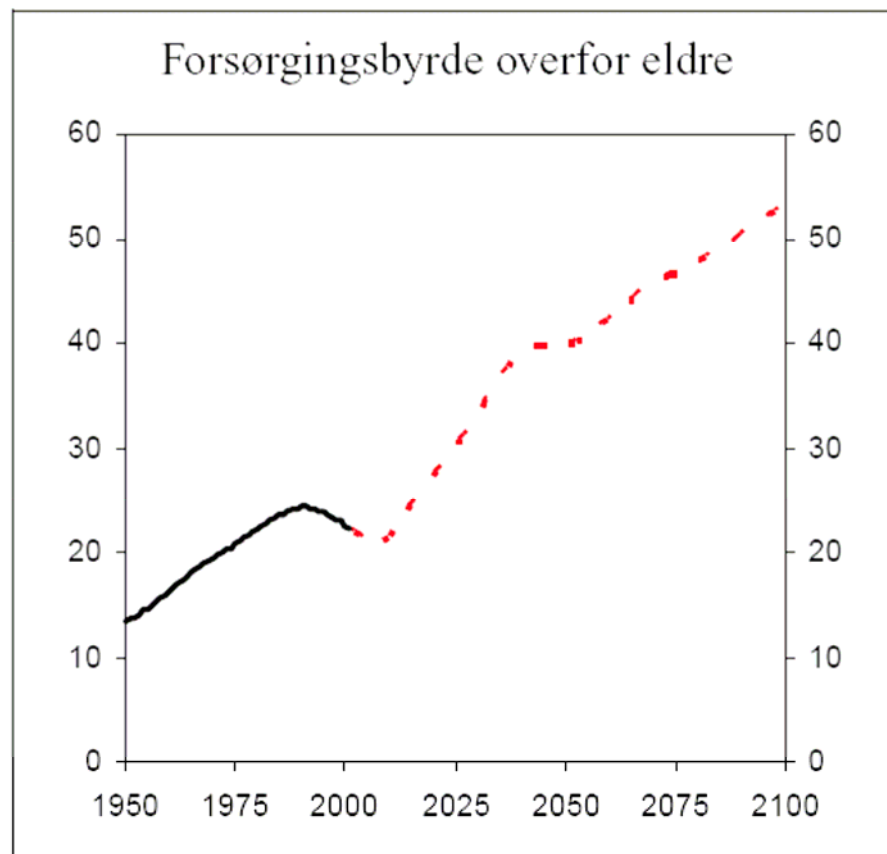
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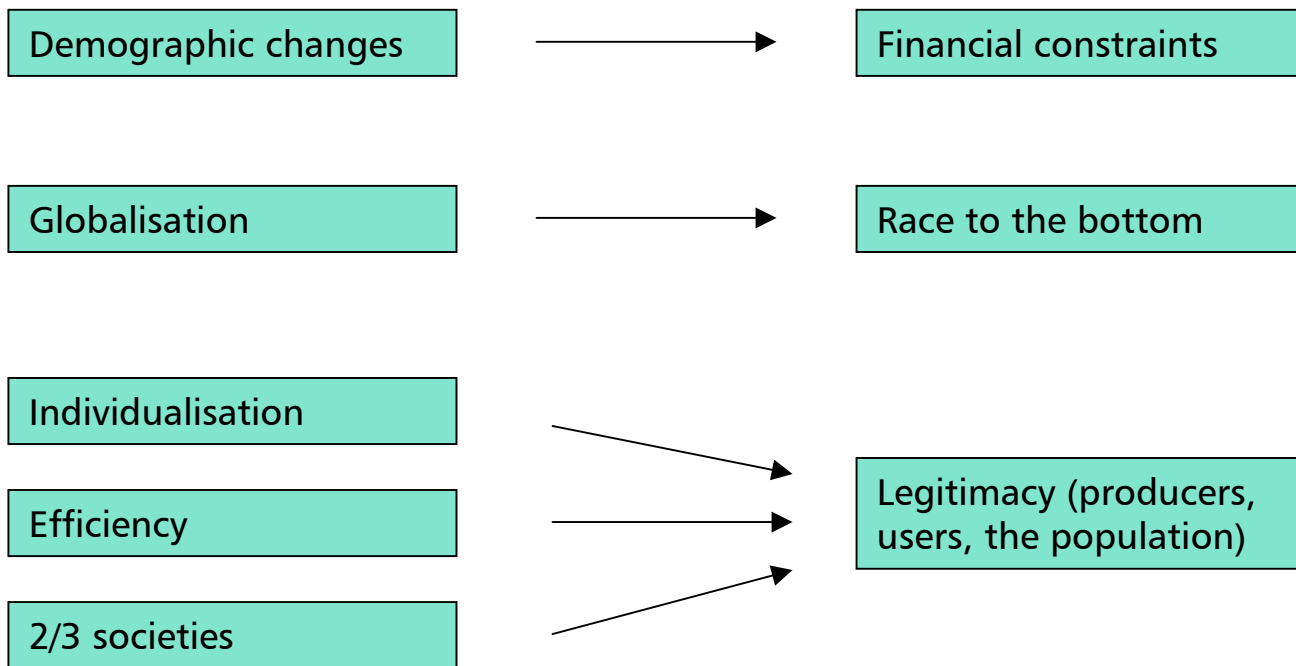
## Pan-European concerns:



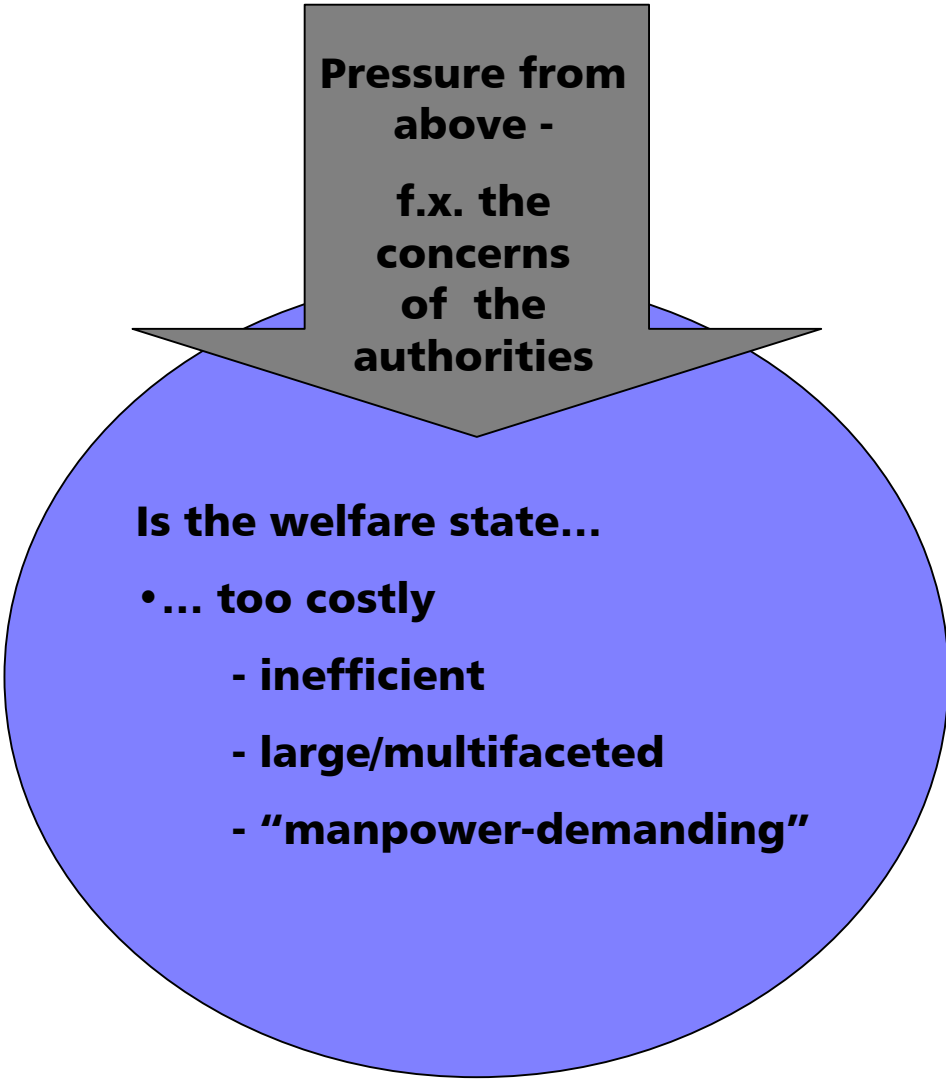
## Dependency ratio - Norway



## Pan-European concerns:



## And the result is welfare states under quadruple pressure



Pressure from  
above -  
f.x. the  
concerns  
of the  
authorities

Is the welfare state...

- ... too costly
  - inefficient
  - large/multifaceted
  - "manpower-demanding"

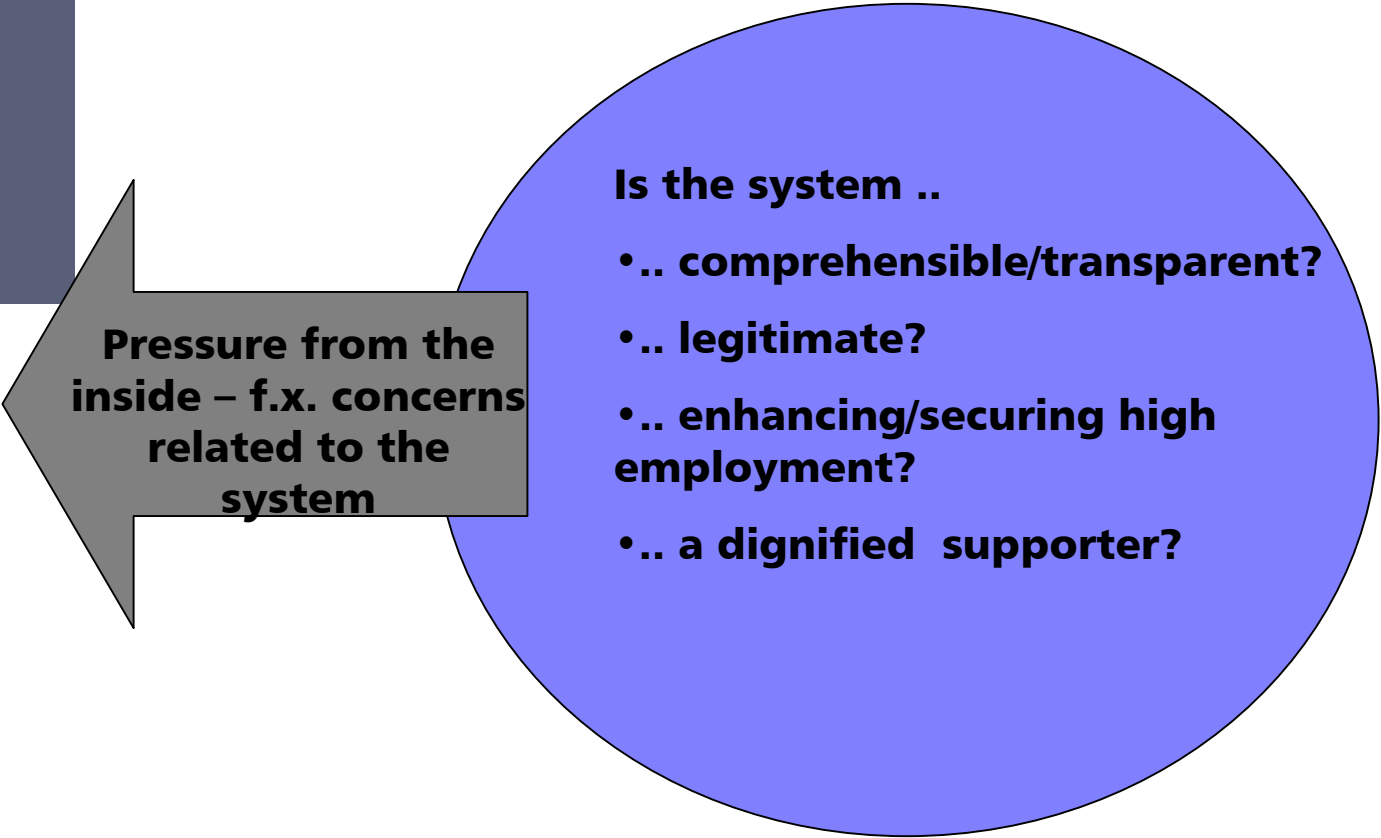


**Is the welfare state ...**

- .. **extensive (and generous) enough (or are 2/3 societies emerging)?**
- .. **legitimate?**
- .. **appropriate for a heterogeneous population**
- .. **good enough to justify the taxes?**

**Pressure from  
below –**

**f.x. the  
concerns of  
the people**



**Pressure from the  
inside – f.x. concerns  
related to the  
system**

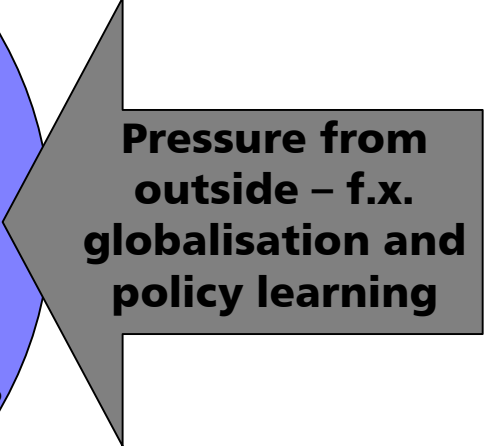
**Is the system ..**

- .. **comprehensible/transparent?**
- .. **legitimate?**
- .. **enhancing/securing high employment?**
- .. **a dignified supporter?**



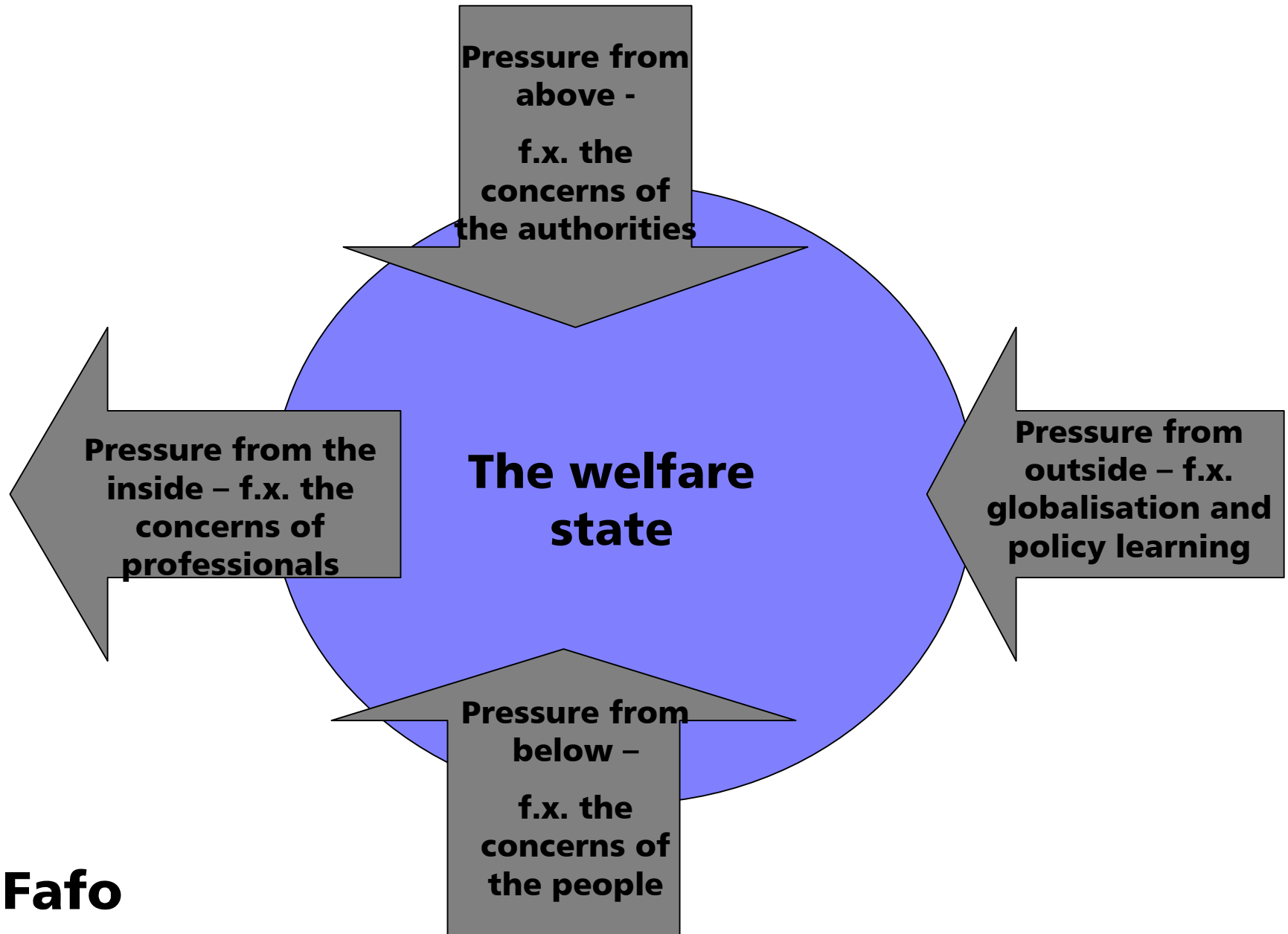
**Is the welfare state ..**

- .. **robust against effects of globalisation?**
- .. **exposed to a “race to the bottom” or the welfare state as a competitive asset?**
- .. **robust against heavy migration?**



**Pressure from outside – f.x. globalisation and policy learning**

# And the result is welfare states under quadruple pressure



## How can we address these questions?

### Pressure from above

- What characterises the political discussions in the three countries?
- Is there a pressure towards a narrower welfare state?
- What kind of organisational reforms are introduced or planned?
- Will there be enough “manpower” to fulfil the tasks of the welfare state in the future?



All these question must be theoretically discussed

### Pressure from below

- Do people believe they are sufficiently covered?
- Does the welfare state enjoy broad public support?
- Is the welfare state able to meet the needs of all? (and does the majority *want* the welfare state to meet the needs of all?) Do people feel they “get the goods for the money”?
- Do people prefer private solutions before public?



These question can partly be answered by the omnibus, but other data are necessary as a supplement

## **Pressure from inside**

- Is the system understandable? Do people know their rights?
- Do people believe that the system promotes a fair distribution of goods and services?
- Is the system promoting employment, or do the schemes produce disincentive effects?
- Do the welfare workers dignify people? Does the system dignify people?



**Questions can be answered partly by omnibus, partly by the social worker interviews, but there's also a need for other data/information**

## **Pressure from outside**

- To what extent are the systems exposed to races towards the bottom?
- How does the globalisation affect the labour markets, the welfare political tools etc. of the different countries?
- What are the possible welfare effects of extended migration?



**These question must be theoretically discussed**