Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2016

Tackling long-term unemployment in Europe through a Council Recommendation?

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Introduction

Financial and economic crises

European Union concern about long-term unemployment (LTU):
  • A Council Recommendation *On the Integration of the Long-Term Unemployed into the Labour Market* (15/02/16)

Outline
  • LTU and unemployment in European countries
  • LTU, employment and social policies in European countries
  • LTU and EU policies: The Council Recommendation
  • LTU and EU policies: Discussion
1. LTU and unemployment in European countries

- Trends of unemployment in European countries: Convergent and divergent trends

- Trends in LTU in European countries: Links between unemployment and LTU Lags in the LTU cycles

- Socio economic characteristics of the long-term unemployed
2. LTU, employment and social policies in European countries

• Diversity of national LTU policies

• Process toward a more integrated organisation in European countries

• Individualisation of services in European countries
3. LTU and EU policies: The Council Recommendation

- Proposal for a Council Recommendation *on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market*
  Staff Working Document, SWD 17/09/2015

- Council Recommendation of 15 February 2016 *on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market*
  Official Journal of the European Union, 2016/C 67/01
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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<td>Not all the long-term unemployed are registered with the PES</td>
<td>Rec.1: <em>Encourage the registration</em> of jobseekers with an employment service</td>
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| Very few long-term unemployed are involved in activation activities    | Rec.2: *Ensure that registered long-term unemployed persons are offered in-depth individual assessments* and guidance at the very latest when they reach 18 months of unemployment  
Rec.4: Registered long-term unemployed persons not covered by the Youth Guarantee should be offered a *job-integration agreement* |
| Severe institutional fragmentation                                       | Rec.5: *Put in place the necessary arrangements to ensure continuity and identify a single point of contact* … through a coordinated service offer involving available employment and social support services |
| Lack of interest of employers                                           | Rec.6: *Encourage and develop partnerships* between employers, social partners, employment services                                                                                                             |
| Need for EU involvement                                                 | Rec.11: *Cooperate to make best use of the European structural and investment funds*                                                                                                                      |
4. **LTU and EU policies: Discussion and conclusions**

- Consistency with national employment policies
- Static conception of long-term unemployment
- Economic priority: ‘Jobs first’
- Weakening the protection of workers
Many thanks for your attention