



Monitoring, benchmarking and evaluation of active labour market policies...

...within the context of the
Europe 2020 Strategy

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- Active labour market policies have always had an important place in the EES.
- The first guidelines (1998) state that :

Member States will ensure that:

- every unemployed young person is offered a new start before reaching six months of unemployment, in the form of training, retraining, work practice, a job or other employability measure;
- unemployed adults are also offered a fresh start before reaching 12 months of unemployment by one of the aforementioned means or, more generally, by accompanying individual vocational guidance.

These preventive and employability measures should be combined with measures to promote the re-employment of the long-term unemployed,

Each Member State:

- will endeavour to increase significantly the number of persons benefiting from active measures to improve their employability. In order to increase the numbers of unemployed who are offered training or any similar measure, it will in particular fix a target, in the light of its starting situation, of gradually achieving the average of the three most successful Member States, and at least 20 %.



The ALMP targets

- Clear targets :
 - New start for all young unemployed before the 6th month (2009 number : 18.M3)
 - ▶ In 2006 the target became “before the 4th month, by 2010”
 - New start for all adult unemployed before the 12th month (18.M3)
 - 25% of all long term unemployed must participate in an active measure (18.M4)
- Measurement ?

Measurement of the targets

- Since 2000 : development of EES indicators
- European sources (LFS) and “national sources”
- Not all countries deliver data :

	2003	2007
New start	11/15	13/27
Activation of LTU	9/15	9/27

- Difficult concepts and comparability issues :
 - Measuring “non-compliance” on the basis of “regular activation” and “assisted activation”
 - Range (2007) : non-compliance between 0.85% and 82.4%

Other ALMP-related indicators

- Early stages : “Rate of return to employment after participation in a measure”
 - Now “Follow-up of participants” 19.A4
 - Data very scarce and important comparability concerns
- Development of the LMP database in 2003 opens up new possibilities :
 - Timely activation (activation of “not yet LTU” 19.A2)
 - Activation of registered unemployed (19.A3)
 - LMP expenditure (per person wanting to work in the LFS) (19.A5 & A6)

Looking back...

- If “we” had known what we know now, more could have been invested in the measurement of the targets (LFS ?)
- Although the guidelines had an impact and monitoring with harmonized data has worked, the monitoring exercise with national data on the whole has been a failure
- Some Member States have done a good job in monitoring their measures on the basis of administrative data, but comparing is very difficult
- LMP data are promising for input benchmarking but not really for any output assessment (is it even worth the effort ?)

Looking forward...

- Europe 2020 Strategy :

- Less guidelines
- Less details
- Overall headline target (75% ER 20-64)
- National targets taking front stage
- No explicit targets such as the “New start” (although in the *Flagship* “Youth on the Move” it reappears – but Flagships are “illustrative”)
- Still much attention to all types of ALMP : “Activation is key to increase labour market participation.” is the first sentence of the new employment guidelines



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- Monitoring : the indicators-based “Joint Assessment Framework”
 - Higher analytical ambitions
 - Striving for a synthetic view, build around policy areas
 - Main and context indicators
 - One area : active labour market policies
 - Proposed **main** indicator under this area : long-term unemployment rate (not agreed yet), all other indicators in the **context** list
- Still need for (even better) indicators



What do we have, what do we need ?



- Work on LMP database methodology (harmonisation) should continue, but promises good input indicators only
- However, good indicators for output and efficiency of ALMP are still far away :
 - Outflow data are of very unequal quality...
 - ...and are not really what we need
- Monitoring and benchmarking imperfect



What about policy evaluation ?

- EES has learned a lot about policies
- But exchange of good practices has not lead to a systematic exchange of policy evaluation results
- Employment Research Dialogue can help
- Meta-analyses are very useful (and it helps that EC and OECD bring them together)
- We know a lot about what types of policies work better than others, but not really what (individual/national) policies work good – and why

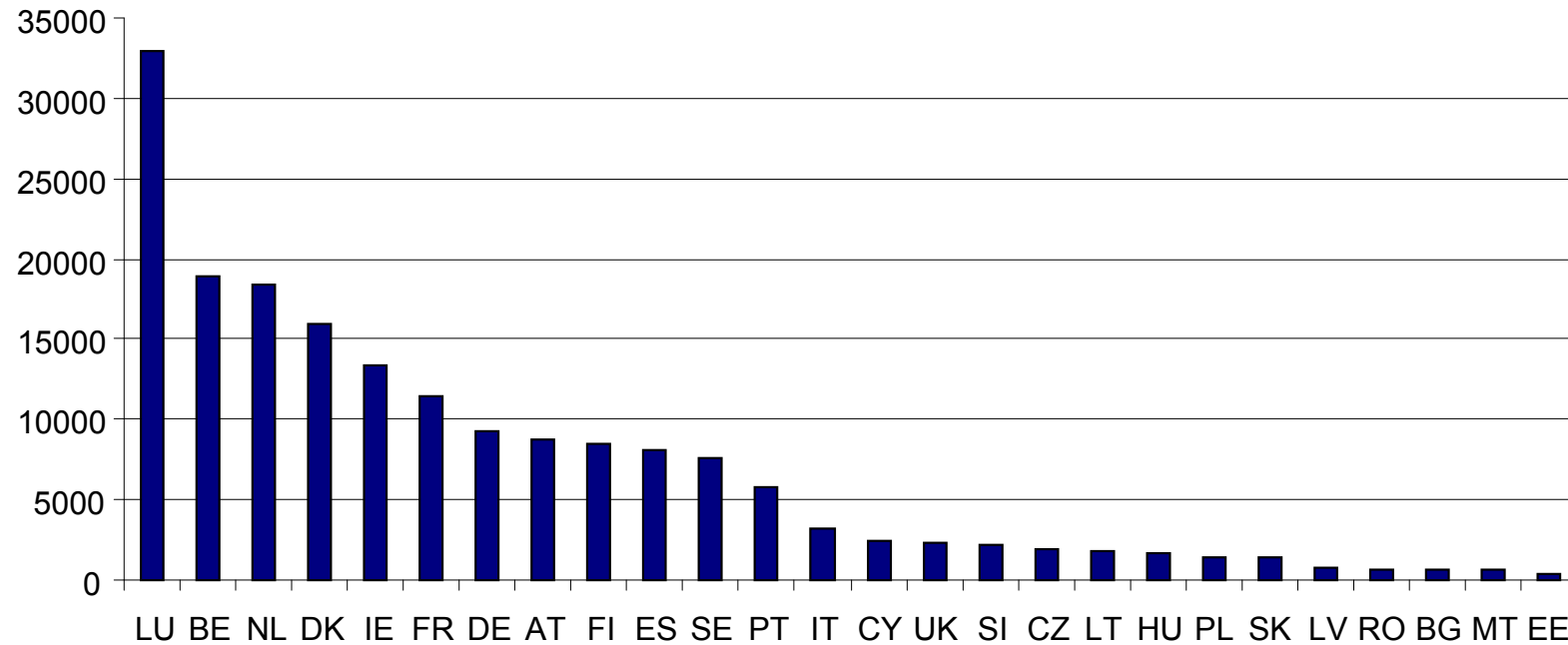
More should be done

- Policy evaluation remains crucial
- Member States could be encouraged to do more
- Standardized and easier-to-use evaluation tools should be developed (empower administrations)
- To influence policies, more effort should go to communication...
- ...and indicators can be good communication tools

What we have...

Reality...

LMP expenditure per person wanting to work



What we want...

Fiction...

LMP efficiency rate

