1st Workshop (Youth) Unemployment in Europe

April 16th and 17th, 2015
Frankfurt (Oder), Germany
Outline – 1st Workshop (Youth) Unemployment in Europe

The financial and economic crisis has strongly affected the European labor markets: Employment has suffered, unemployment rates have increased, labor participation rates were affected and migration and remigration patterns have changed. However, not all labor markets have been affected alike. This heterogeneity of labor market adjustments is in the focus of the upcoming workshop.

Especially youth unemployment soared in the crisis countries, where unemployment rates among the youngest age cohort are higher than 50%. Nevertheless, also in this respect the developments are not identical in all countries. Due to the very high unemployment rate in Southern Europe, youth unemployment became a very important topic on the European agenda: On the one hand, youth unemployment can lead to damages with respect to the professional career and influences the economic independence of individuals. It also has further economic and social consequences for the countries. As a consequence, this topic is of particular interest. On the other hand, those who manage to enter the labor market often have to deal with uncertainties. As the European Commission points out: “When young people do find work, their jobs tend to be less stable”. […] “Temporary jobs can be a stepping stone to permanent employment, but their prevalence at such elevated levels raises economic and social concerns and signals dysfunctional labor markets” (COM(2012)727 final).

On a European level, governmental actions have started and active labor market policies are worked out. The design and effects of these policy measures are highly relevant. Especially, the key challenges for employment and education policy in the aftermath of the crisis should be discussed.

The aim of this workshop is to provide researchers and practitioners a platform to discuss cutting-edge research that sheds light on important questions relevant for the analysis of labor markets in the aftermath of the crisis: What are the differences between the countries regarding the development of the unemployment rate? How strong are these differences?
Are there gender-specific differences? How are the effects distributed among different age cohorts? What are the underlying causes of these differences within countries as well as among gender and age cohorts? How can policymakers forecast such developments in labor markets? What are the consequences of these recent developments for the design and implementation of employment and education policy? E.g., what kind of labor market programmes, active or passive, should be carried out? How should labor markets be reformed in regard to the aim of reducing unemployment rates? Or how can the protection and status of temporary workers be improved but still serving both, employees and employers?

This workshop provides researchers with an opportunity to present theoretical, empirical and policy-oriented research on:

- forecasting unemployment rates in Europe,
- effects of the crisis on labor markets in Europe,
- country-specific differences in labor markets,
- age-specific differences in labor markets, especially youth unemployment,
- gender-specific differences in labor markets,
- design and effects of policy measures aimed at decreasing unemployment rates,
- labor market programs and/or reforms.

In addition to presenting and discussing current issues on these topics among researchers, one discussion will be dedicated to debate the German situation on temporary work with academics, but also with representatives of trade and business unions.
Dear conference participants!

I would like to welcome you to our University in the centre of Europe. The Viadrina is a “specialist” for frontiers and frontier region, for intercultural skills in a cultural diverse society, for interdisciplinarity in a world that needs more than one perspective. I hope you will enjoy your time at one of Germany’s most international universities – the Alma mater of Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt, Ulrich von Hutten, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach or Heinrich von Kleist. I am convinced that this place of creative ideas and international research will lead to fruitful discussions.

Yours

Prof. Dr. Alexander Wöll
(President European University Viadrina)
Thursday, April 16th, 2015

13.30 Registration

14.00 – 14.20 Welcoming address

14.20 – 15.50 Session 1: Crisis in Europe

ENRICO MARELLI (Università degli Studi di Brescia), Marcello Signorelli
Convergence, crisis and unemployment in Europe: the need for innovative policies
Discussant: MARTYNA KOBUS (Institute of Economics, Polish Academy of Sciences)

HANS DIETRICH (IAB)
Delivers the Great Recession the Whole Story? Structural Shifts in Youth unemployment pattern in the 2000s from a European Perspective
Discussant: RADEK ŠAUER (Goethe University Frankfurt)

15.50 – 16.20 Coffee break

16.20 – 17.10 Session 2: Unemployment

HILA AXELRAD (Ben Gurion University of the Negev)
Unemployment among Younger and Older Individuals: Does Conventional Data about Unemployment Tell us the Whole Story?
Discussant: HANS DIETRICH (IAB)
17.30  **Focus group**  “Temporary work in Germany. Development and reinforcement of industrial relations systems in the German labour market.”
Participants:
HANS DIETRICH (Researcher, Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung - IAB)
MARGRIT NÖLKE (Legal expert, Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen Arbeitgeberverbände - BDA)
GHAZALEH NASSIBI (Legal expert, Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund – DGB, tbc)
Host: DENIS SUARSANA (Researcher, EUV)

20.00  **Conference dinner** – Restaurant Villa La Cas

**Friday, April 17th, 2015**

09.30 – 11.00  **Session 3: Youth unemployment, Part 1**

*SOPHIE DUNSCHE (European University Viadrina)*
Okun’s law and youth unemployment in Germany and Poland
Discussant: ENRICO MARELLI (Università degli Studi di Brescia)

*MARTYNA KOBUS (Institute of Economics, Polish Academy of Sciences), Marcin Jakubek*
Youth unemployment and mental health: dominance approach. Evidence from Poland
Discussant: STEPHEN SACHT (IFW)
11.00 – 11.30   Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00   Session 4: Youth unemployment, Part 2

RADEK ŠAUER (Goethe University Frankfurt)
Macroeconomics of Minimum Wage
Discussant: SOPHIE DUNSch (European university Viadrina)

STEPHEN SACHT (IFW), Tae-Seok Jang
Entrepreneurship, Youth Unemployment and Macroeconomic Policy: Lessons from Korea and Spain
Discussant: HILA AXELRAD (Ben Gurion University of the Negev)

13.00   Closing
Restaurant

Villa La Cas

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The workshop takes place at the Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice. You can get there via public transport or by car.

**By public transport:**

After landing in Berlin (Berlin-Tegel or Berlin-Schönefeld) use the public transport to get to one of the regional train stations: Zoologischer Garten, Hauptbahnhof or Ostbahnhof. From there the RegionalExpress (RE1) will bring you in 1 hour to Frankfurt (Oder).

After arriving at the main station Frankfurt (Oder) you can use Tram 1 direction “Lebuser Vorstadt” until the station “Magistrale” or take the Bus 981 direction Zentrum and get off at the station “An der alten Universität”. Then walk over the bridge (about 500m on foot). The Collegium Polonicum is directly on the Polish side of the bridge.

**By car:**

From the Autobahn A12 to the university: Take the last exit before the border and then please follow the signs, first ”Zentrum” and then “zur Grenze”. The Collegium Polonicum is directly on the Polish side of the bridge.