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Visit our website and follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter to stay up to date about the latest developments in the INSPIRES research.

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The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme under grant agreement No. 320121 (Project INSPIRES).
About the INSPIRES research

The main objective of the INSPIRES project is to contribute to the resilience and active inclusion of labour markets in European countries. INSPIRES (Innovative Social Policies for Inclusive and Resilient Labour Markets in Europe) provides in-depth analyses of the evolution of labour markets, employment and social policies and the qualitative and quantitative position of vulnerable groups on the labour market from 2000 onwards. The project identifies innovative policies that contribute to resilience and inclusiveness and analyzes strategies of policy learning that facilitate the development and transfer of these innovations within and across European countries.

More specifically, INSPIRES focuses on the labour market position of young people (under 25), older workers (> 55), migrants and disabled people. Employment figures clearly show that unemployment in these groups is significantly higher than the average unemployment in all European countries.

The INSPIRES project starts by comparatively assessing the backgrounds of the differences in resilience and inclusiveness of labour markets and employment policies in European countries, aiming to accumulate practice-oriented knowledge on the factors that positively and negatively affect resilience and inclusiveness. Within the INSPIRES project, resilience is referred to as ‘the inclusive capacity of the labour market to resist, withstand or quickly recover from negative exogenous shocks and disturbances, and to renew, adjust or re-orientate in order to benefit from positive shocks’.

INSPIRES focuses specifically on the contribution of policy learning and innovation for the achievement of resilient, inclusive labour markets. The scope of Inspires includes eleven countries from all European welfare traditions, the Mediterranean, the Eastern-European, the Anglo-Saxon, the Scandinavian and the continental regimes.

The INSPIRES project is divided into nine work packages. The first two packages focus on analyses of labour market resilience and the impact of the current economic and financial crisis on the labour market in European countries. The next two work packages are aimed at identifying and analyzing the evolution, implementation and impact of innovative social policies which exemplify improving labour market resilience in European countries. Based upon this, INSPIRES critically assesses the EU’s role in increasing labour market resilience. Finally, the INSPIRES project will identify lessons for resilient labour markets and innovative policy learning.

13 Universities
9 Work packages
€ 2.5 million
42 months
One Goal: resilient and inclusive labour markets