



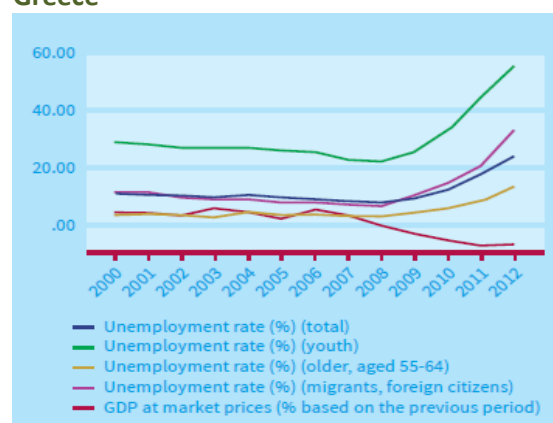
11-03-2015
INSPIRES Seminar
**Building Inclusive
Labour Markets
in Europe**

The INSPIRES research project started in January 2013. It is a major research project funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework. 13 Universities from 11 European countries are working together on achieving an ambitious goal: Contributing to useful insights on how labour markets can be made more resilient to protect our labour markets from fall-backs due to economic crisis, as we have seen from 2008 onwards. The project is divided into 7 work packages. Now that the first three work packages are finalised it is time to present and discuss the results with stakeholders, European officials, researchers, etcetera. On the 11th of March we therefore hosted a small seminar in Brussels.

Prof Dr. Matthias Knuth opened the seminar. Resilience is a new concept within the social policy field and the goals of the INSPIRES project are unique and there is no research project that tries to analyse the labour markets in a way the INSPIRES project does. Therefore the results of the INSPIRES project could be valuable for European Commissioners, stakeholders, national governments and researchers. Dr. Menno Fenger continued and showed some figures that were the results of the first work packages, which are already finalised. During the INSPIRES research project the focus is on vulnerable groups: Youth, Disabled, Older workers and Migrants. We found that economic, demographic, and institutional factors influenced the figures below.

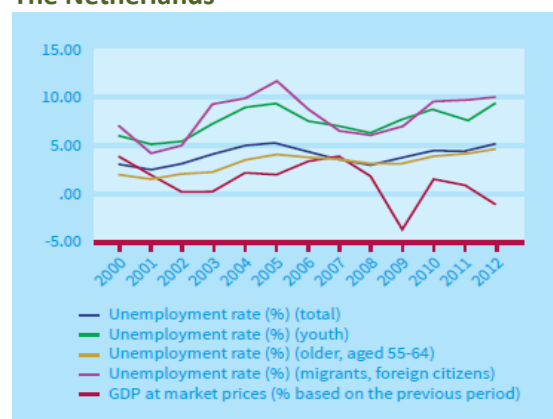
Detecting differences between vulnerable groups within countries has been one of the major challenges. Comparisons were made and we tried to explain these differences. After some regression analysis we were able to explain 30% of the variances. Qualitative explanations can be found in the dualization of the labour market, the impact of supply and demand and the importance of skills and education for all groups.

Greece

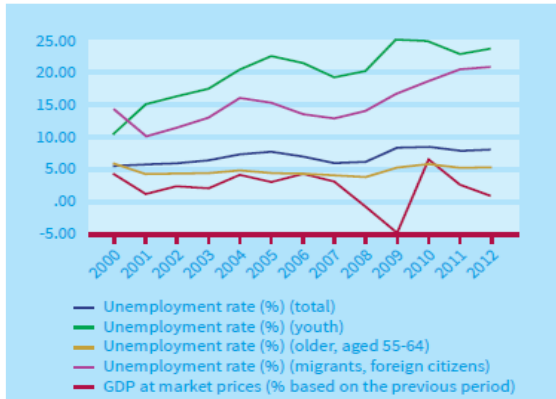


This unique data, which has been obtained by our researchers in the past 2 years, give some interesting insights in what the effectiveness of certain policies on the resilience of labour markets across the member states of the European Union have. For more elaborate figures please visit the deliverable section on our website.

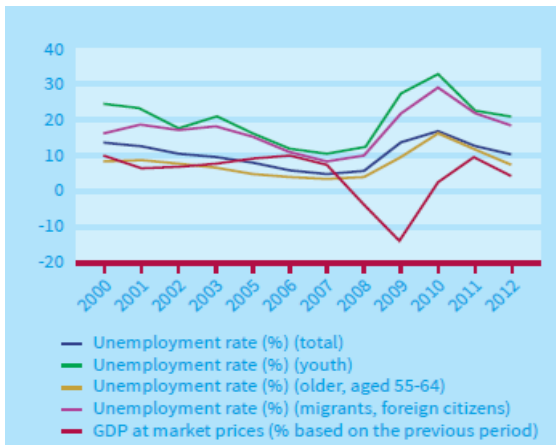
The Netherlands



Sweden



Estonia



After this presentation Prof. Dr. Peter Taylor Gooby and Adeline Otto started with their presentation called: Innovative Policies for Vulnerable Groups in Europe. They stated two research questions that were leading in work package 3:

1. What new strategies have European countries developed to promote the inclusion of vulnerable groups, with a particular interest in response to the crisis?
2. How can resilience in national labour markets and its variance between different EU countries be explained?

Eleven National Reports have been made covering innovative policies at national and sub-national level between 2000 and 2013 from various policy fields. In total the INSPIRES project analysed 459 innovations. A database has been made in which the findings are presented. This database is available on the project's website (www.inspires-research.eu).

Risk prevention and early intervention are common trends. Also new governance structures and flexibilisation is used a lot across all countries policies innovations. Diverging factors are the expansion of social rights, changes in collective bargaining power, fighting the informal economy, employer involvement in ALMP and decentralisation. After presenting these findings Adeline Otto said that data limitation can be seen as a problem, although the INSPIRES project has gathered a lot of data on this topic. Still a lot of work can be done in this research area. We found that policies and their effect on resilience very much depend on and need to be understood in their national context. Furthermore in the researched countries a lack of coherent and developed labour market evolution was found. Financial constraints and high pressure on governments and other stakeholders are major explanations for the lack to react to economic shocks. It limits the capacity to generate coherent innovations with long-term potential.



The seminar continued with a preview of the upcoming work packages. Dr. Renate Minas from the University of Stockholm took over. She told that analysing the implementation and development of policy innovations is what will happen next. Processes of policy learning in the adoption of the selected innovation will be analysed. And finally the role of the EU in policy learning will be analysed as well. In order to do so we have made 6 clusters of innovations: Youth, Older workers, Disabled, Governance of employment related policies, Activation and Flexicurity. First we will identify the origins of innovations, actors and

institutions that have power to assess the innovations.

Some advantages of our design are that we can investigate in the impact of EU coordination practices on domestic policy development. We will be able to identify conditions and infrastructures favouring policy learning in the field of social and employment policies and we will be able to identify factors affecting the development and implementation of innovative practices in a comparative perspective.



Clementine Moyart gave the final part of the seminar. She is policy officer at the European Youth Forum (www.youthforum.org). She expressed that the youth, being a vulnerable group, is struggling. Therefore the importance of projects like INSPIRES are very important. Youth unemployment is very sensitive for business cycles and she thinks that focussing on the qualitative aspects of policies and variables affecting the unemployment rates is very important. She presented data about the consequences of the economic crisis on the youth unemployment rates across Europe.

A lot of cutbacks have been made by governments, which have led to income losses and increasing unemployment rates. 14% of government expenditure on education was cut in Greece, Portugal and Ireland between 2005 and 2010. This has led to an enormous amount of unemployed youngsters. She underlines that it is a challenge to reach the young people. A possible solution could be found in an intersectoral approach and investing in partnership between governments and stakeholders.

Please keep following the INSPIRES progress by following us on LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook.

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