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Shifting Roles and Functions of Regional and Local Labour Market Observatories Across Europe

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Rainer Hampp Verlag, München u. Mering 2013, 253 S., € 29.80

Over the years, regional and local labour market observatories have provided reliable and targeted labour market information and intelligence for regional and local decision-makers. Recent developments show that they are increasingly expected to fulfil tasks beyond mere data provision and analysis. Hence, they are emerging as interpreters, evaluators and mediators in regional and local governance and development efforts. Their participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation processes creates spaces for new alliances, cooperations and networks. However, the observatories often lack essential resources for fulfilling their complex new tasks.

Stable sources of financing and employees with a solid and up-to-date skills base are essential for regional and local observatories to meet the new requirements. However, acknowledging their contribution to regional and local governance and development processes as well as adequate opportunities for exchange with different actors across Europe are equally important.

How do the changing framework conditions affect the functions of regional and local labour market observatories? To what extent do shifts in their roles take place? Which patterns of changes can be observed across different European countries? How stable are the new arrangements and where do the observatories need support? This publication explores the shifts in the roles and functions of regional and local labour market observatories in different European countries as well as the framework conditions influencing their operating and further development.

Key Words: Regional Labour Market, Labour Market Observatories,
Shifting Roles of Regional/Local Labour Market Observatories,
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Skills Monitoring in European Regions and Localities. State of the Art and Perspectives

ISBN 978-3-86618-816-7 (print), ISBN 978-3-86618-916-4 (e-book pdf),
Rainer Hampp Verlag, München u. Mering 2012, 335 S., € 34.80

Transparency on the supply and demand of skills in a locality or region is crucial for employees, unemployed, training and placement organisations, as well as for enterprises and labour politics as all of these actors are influential for effective skills matching. In recent years, in numerous regions across Europe, skills monitoring has been implemented to provide this transparency. This anthology gives a broad overview on different approaches and good practice examples in regional or local skills monitoring. It also demonstrates how regional or local framework conditions can influence the implementation of specific concepts within skills monitoring.

Key Words: Formal and Informal Skills, Skill Mismatch, Regional and Local Skills Monitoring, Regional and Local Labour Market Monitoring

Christa Larsen, Ruth Hasberg, Alfons Schmid, Marc Bittner,
Franz Clément (Eds.)

Measuring Geographical Mobility in Regional Labour Market Monitoring. State of the Art and Perspectives

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Rainer Hampp Verlag, München u. Mering, 2011, 308 S., € 34.80

Geographical mobility in Europe is a chance and a challenge for regional labour markets. There is an unknown potential for the economy as foreign labour markets may provide qualified workers and the freedom of movement brings more flexibility. On the other hand, national and regional politics face the challenge of developing systematic approaches for enhancing mobility and managing its consequences. Transparency of migration flows, a sound database and substantiated knowledge about geographical mobility is the prerequisite for all actors. Therefore this anthology provides a synopsis of the current state of the art from different countries and regions, including best practice examples and solution approaches.

Key Words: Cross Border Mobility, Geographical Mobility, Regional Labour Market, Labour Market Monitoring, Commuting