



EN RLMM Anthology 2014

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT: Regional and Local Labour Market Monitoring Approaches for Measuring Sustainability

Call for Articles

In the past years, sustainability has again become a theme in both academic and political discourses. Even though they often focus on green skills and jobs as recently emerged policy fields, also the different aspects of sustainable employment are increasingly receiving attention. As the labour market observatories face the challenge of capturing the developments on the regional and local labour markets in regard to green jobs/skills and sustainable employment, this year's EN RLMM anthology seeks to clarify different conceptual and methodological issues with the aim to advance regional and local labour market monitoring efforts in this field.

Sustainable economic activities are complex processes: they are often driven by contradictory or conflicting goals and strategies in regard to reaching a balance between economic growth, ecological goals and social concerns. The attempts at reconciling the different spheres of sustainability are particularly visible in the so-called green sectors such as the renewable energy, the waste industry/recycling, but also in the various areas of the construction industry. Besides acknowledging the importance of technological and organisational innovations in these dynamic processes, the sustainability discourses are increasingly concerned with human resources. They address the importance of securing the skilled labour force for the green sectors and explore how the changing skill needs can be covered by designing new qualifications in the VET system, tertiary education and further education.

However, sustainability is not an issue, which would concern just the green sectors. As a direct result of demographic change, the European regions and localities are becoming aware of the need to ensure the employability of the ever-decreasing labour force across different sectors. Thus, they are developing regional labour retention measures. The strategies of businesses involve retaining the current employees and attracting skilled labour: these include specific educational offers, new working time models, workplace health and safety as well as labour recruitment abroad. Also the employees are expected to contribute to retaining their employability to an ever-increasing extent. In the policy context, the sustainability of employment as a concept is also used in relation to specific target groups of labour market policies (youths, migrants, women).

The planned publication will tie in with both strands of the discussions as its focus will be on the monitoring approaches concerned with jobs and skills in the green sectors and the sustainability of

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employment on the level of European regions and localities. In this year's EN RLMM anthology it will be explored, how the above mentioned issues can be integrated in the continuously conducted regional and local labour market monitoring and how the different stakeholders on the regional and local level can use the generated LMI for their steering and strategy development activities.

The first explorations in the EN RLMM show that the approaches in the single regions and localities in different European states (but also on the European level) vary to a great extent. Therefore, the anthology encourages the submission of articles that deal with methodological issues in the light of the needs of the (potential) user groups and application fields. Also concise overviews of the main developments in a particular region or locality are very welcome.

On the topic of **GREEN JOBS/SKILLS** articles could cover the following aspects in regard to regional/local labour market monitoring:

- What definitions of green skills/jobs guide the data collection on the national/regional/local level? Which sectors stand in the focus of interest?
- What data is collected with which methods? What time-frame does the data have? How is this data connected to other topics relevant to the regional/local labour market (e.g. is the data limited to one particular sector/skill-set or does it take into account the developments in other related sectors/skill-sets)? In what format is the data made available to the regional/local users?
- Which regional/local actors need data on green skills/jobs and for which sectors? For which activities is the data used? What information are the users on the local/regional level missing?

On the topic of **SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT**, the following aspects are of interest:

- What measures for ensuring their employees' capacity to work are taken by businesses on the regional/local level? How do the individuals ensure their employability in the long-run? What impulses are set by the politics in the region/locality?
- What data on different aspects of sustainable employment is available on the regional/local level? What time-frame does the data have? In what format is the data made available to the regional/local users?
- Which regional/local actors need data on different aspects of sustainable employment? For which activities is the data used? What information are the users on the local/regional level missing?

If you would like to submit an article to this year's EN RLMM anthology, please send the Network Manager Sigrid Rand the preliminary title of the contribution and a short abstract by **14 March 2014**. All authors will receive further information concerning the formatting in due course. The articles should be submitted latest by **30 April 2014**. If you have any further questions, please contact Sigrid Rand: s.rand@em.uni-frankfurt.de.