

SKILLS LAB NETWORK OF EXPERTS: FROM SKILLS ANTICIPATION TO POLICY ACTION

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Panel 2: Use of evidence in policy formulation

How can Scientific Knowledge reach to Policy Makers?

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European Network
on Regional Labour
Market Monitoring



In partnership with:

GEWAK



European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (ENRLMM)

- *400 members from more than 20 countries in Europe and beyond;*
- *members are from PES, statistical offices, employers' associations, unions, VET and higher education organisations, governmental bodies, universities and applied research organisations, consulting, ... at regional level*
- *associated with Initiative of Regional Labour Market Observatories (750 regional observatories across Europe)*
- *Non-profit network of labour market experts*

Objective

- *advancing evidence-based decision making and action in regions and localities with special focus on politics related to labour markets and economies*

Approach:

- *embedding research results into regionally applied knowledge: action is integrated in communication formats with diverse regional and local stakeholders and political decision makers*

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21th Annual Meeting
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Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain
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Starting Point for our approach “Regional (and local) Labour Market Monitoring”

Our basic assumption:

Functionality of regional labour markets depends strongly on decisions and actions of labour market actors beyond national level, those in regions and localities are of high relevance

Consequences:

Labour Market intelligence of regional and local politicians is important

Challenges:

- Research results are often related to national level and cannot be transferred directly to regional or local levels as structures and situations of regional labour markets are not identical with the ones at the national level
- Therefore, there is a need for information sources with knowledge on regional or local situations in which research results could be embedded. Often this is expert knowledge which is not directly accessible for decision makers in regional and local politics.

 *Formats are needed to improve the fit of generalised research results for regional and local politicians to embed these findings into regional and local situations*



Starting Point for our approach “Regional (and local) Labour Market Monitoring”

Regional and Local Labour Market Monitoring

Three main functions:

- **Information:** 1) relevant actors (operative, strategic); 2) contents of interest and relevance (research); 3) formats (interactive)
- **Communication:** 1) shared interpretation of current and prospective state of art; 2) prioritisation (most important area for politics and labour market actors); 3) effectiveness of measures so far (exploration/evaluation, readjust, new programmes and measures)
- **Action:** 1) developing coordinated strategies (different roles and functions)

cyclical process

labour market intelligence is an informed, co-ordinated action

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Example of Applied Regional Labour Market Monitoring Approach

Hessian Strategy for Securing Skilled Labour (since 2022)

- **Research findings:** short and midterm forecasts on relevant occupations
- **Actors:** strategic (politicians, heads of chamber of commerce and craft and business associations as well as from unions) and operative (companies, VET organisations, universities, PES) in each of the 27 regions/councils in Hesse
- **Format and Action:** „**Biennial Workshop for the future**“ in each of 27 regions on invitation of Chief Executive of County Council (politician) involving relevant strategic and operative actors; 1) discourse based on research findings on state of affairs in each occupation including challenges and opportunities; 2) exploring the fit of current strategies and measures; 3) common agreement on regional labour market strategy and with support of regional politics (funding, programmes, ...)

Multilevel Approach

- **State level of Hesse:** Goethe-University calculates forecasts, organises biennial workshops on the future, provides input and moderation as well as documentation on 27 county strategies and identifies the need for action from the side of politics on state level (programmes, legal frameworks, ...)

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Success Factors

- **Actors:** involving a variety of perspectives and experiences of **relevant labour market actors** for building a common understanding of current and the prospective situation of regional and local labour markets and economies: common understanding, shared responsibility and trust relations – from competition to collaboration
- **Action:** reflections on current and prospective developments, on the fit of measures and support programmes
- **Political decision makers:** politicians involved in the process directly or indirectly, supports trust into politicians (bottom-up process and win-win)
- **Steering and moderation:** scientifically based, neutral, orientation towards the process, knowledgeable actor
- **Duration:** stable process, learning process, reliability
- **Governance:** multilevel approach; steering by neutral organisation like a university

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Regional Labour Market Monitoring

In short

- regional and local level: research findings to be generalised, need for improving fit to regional and local conditions
- strategy: embedding research findings into regional and local knowledge (relational) hubs (networks)
- developing shared understanding of current and prospective situation
- evaluation fit of implemented measures, accessing adjustment and developing new measures, implementation of new measures
- win-win: improvement of regional and local knowledge, transferring research findings to regional situation
- politics is part of the regional process
- unique social process provides acceptance for and trust into political decisions

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Get in touch with us:

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Thank you.

Questions:

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