Similar labour market problems – but different scale and context

United Kingdom

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Key Indicators

GDP Growth (2014)	3.1%
Spending on ALMPs (% of GDP)	0.4%
Employment Rate (16-64)	73.5%
Employment Rate - Male	78.1%
Employment Rate - Female	68.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.5%
Unemployment Rate - Youth	16.0%
Long-term Unemployment	31%

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Regional Variations

England	**5.6%**
Scotland	**5.5%**
Wales	**6.6%**
Northern Ireland	**6.2%**
North East England	**7.7%**
South East England	**4.4%**
Highest - Middlesbrough	**12.5%**
Lowest – Stratford-upon-Avon	**2.4%**

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Policy Context

- Employment policy highly centralised;
- Devolved administrations for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland;
- Only Northern Ireland has transferred power for employment and skills policy;
- England divided into 8 regions – but no effective regional structures;
- Local Enterprise Partnerships focus on meaningful geographical areas.

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Work Programme

- Main delivery vehicle for ALMPs since 2010;
- Contracted to private providers with results oriented payments structure;
- 40 separate contracts; 18 prime contractors; 700 sub-contractors;
- Contracts divided into 18 geographical areas with 2 or 3 prime contractors in each;
- 433,000 long-term unemployed entered programme so far;
- By end March 2016 total cost of GBP 2.8 billion (c. EUR 4 billion);

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Checks and Balances

- Culture of monitoring and evaluation through:
  - Trialling programmes through piloting;
  - Using pilot results before national roll-out;
  - Built-in mechanisms in contracts with providers;
  - Financial monitoring (National Audit Office);
  - In-house expertise in analysis and evaluation;
  - Links with independent institutions and experts;
  - Programme of independent evaluation.

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Summary

- A formal decentralised structure is not essential to deliver ALMPs locally;
- Flexibility and customisation are essential parts of effective ALMPs;
- Contracting out delivery can be effective but requires infrastructure and controls;
- There is little that's new in ALMPs – the innovation is in targeting and delivery;

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