

Peer Country Comments – Finland

“Way to work – strengthening the links between active labour market policy measures and social support services”

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Situation in the peer country relative to the host country

Labour market situation

- the unemployment rate has been higher in Finland, April 2018 unemployment rate 8,6% (trend 8,0%)
- risk to get unemployed is similar in many perspectives (young, elderly, persons with disabilities). Persons with child care responsibilities: incentive traps exist especially among single parents.
- long-term unemployment still high (32 % of unemployed) and growing recruitment problems

Organisations:

- The Ministry of Employment and the Economy, 15 regional Centres for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (ELY-Centres), 15 regional TE-offices with 120 local service units, a national call center and online services (service lines: Employment and business services, Competence development services and *Supported employment services for the jobseekers in need of individual and/or multi-professional support*)
- For people with multiple problems in relation to the labour market and under the threat of social exclusion, a Multi-sectoral Joint Service Employment Enhancing Employability service -> PES, local municipalities (especially social services) and the Social Insurance Institution (KELA)

Assessment of the Host Country policy measures - *Similarities*

Aim is to decrease of incentive traps and misuse of system

- In Finland legislation (Unemployment Security Act, Social Assistance)
 - a person who applies for social security is obliged to register as unemployed jobseeker at the TE-Office if there is no valid reason to accept a job
 - reduction of basic amount if turning down an offer for work
- A working group on incentive traps and regional mobility has charted key problems
- National income register combining data from pension institutions, employment agencies and the Population Register Centre. Available in the beginning of 2019.

Registration and assessment of needs online

- Registration via E-services by visiting a TE-office, and in some cases by telephone
 - An assessment of service with online based on an online form
 - A profiling tool to assess a risk to become long-term unemployed
 - An assessment of services via interviews every three months
 - Assessment of the service needs for long-term unemployed over one year.



Assessment of the Host Country policy measures - *Similarities*

Planning

- In TE-office an employment plan with a TE-Office counsellor and the client;
- an activation plan with part of the beneficiaries and an integration plan for immigrants with a TE-office counsellor, social worker of the municipality and client (signed and updated plans)
- In Multi-sectoral Joint Service Enhancing Employability up to three-months lasting mapping period for service assessment on a multi-disciplinarily basis or/and in a measure (for instance doctor's assessment of rehabilitation needs). The Multisectoral Employment Plan is drawn to sum up the situation and make an action plan.

Case manager and case teams

- In TE-office assessing work ability and promoting health and well-being is done at the local level by a co-operation between the TE-office, the municipality and KELA (work ability advisers) – The Health Examination –operations model
- Multi-sectoral Joint Service Employment Enhancing Employability case team workers, which can involve the social welfare and health care service of the municipality, the TE-office and KELA, the customer has the right to be heard and to participate in the matter in the co-operation group.

Assessment of the Host Country policy measures - *Differences*

Lithuanian Common Information System (IS) integrating data of municipalities and labour exchanges is not allowed in Finland according to the current legislation

- For the registration of information two conditions are fulfilled: the consent of the customer is achieved and registered information affects the employability of the customer
→ applies also to data of health and criminal punishments
 - Regulations to the transfer of information to other organisations and to obtain information from certain organisations (Act on Public Employment and Business Service and in the Act on Unemployment Security)
 - Based on Personal Data Act the processing of sensitive data has been prohibited and the data related to social welfare needs have been recognised as sensitive.
 - The Act on the Openness of the Government Activities: the right to access official documents in the public domain, document secrecy and other restrictions of access for information protection of public or private interest -> new act on the secondary use of health and social data
 - Deviations are based on legislation (Act on Multisectoral Joint Service....)
- In the Multisectoral joint service promoting employment exchange information in TYPPI-system (a client register combining information of three databases: the URA data-system of PES, municipal databases with social and health information and the KELA-database
 - These authorities have also their own organisation information systems



Assessment of the Host Country policy measures - *Transferability*

Issue of timetables and incentives for the co-operation between social and labour market measures

- In Lithuania the system of registration is based on rapid assessment of needs, case management for all the customers and bringing case team if needed to the support of unemployed.
- In Finland the assessment of need is made in the beginning, but case management and case teams are putted into effect on a later stage after a longer term of unemployment – the multisectoral process is intensive only for the long-term unemployment

Finnish ways to ensure provision and usage of planned the social and other than PES-services

- **Legislation** of the Multisectoral joint service promoting employment, legislation for the unemployed of the employment and social benefit
- **Guidelines of the co-operation:** the Ministry of the Economic Affairs and Employment and KELA on the assessment of needs for rehabilitation, steering to health inspections; the Employment and Economic Development Administration and the Criminal Sanctions Agency

