



European Commission

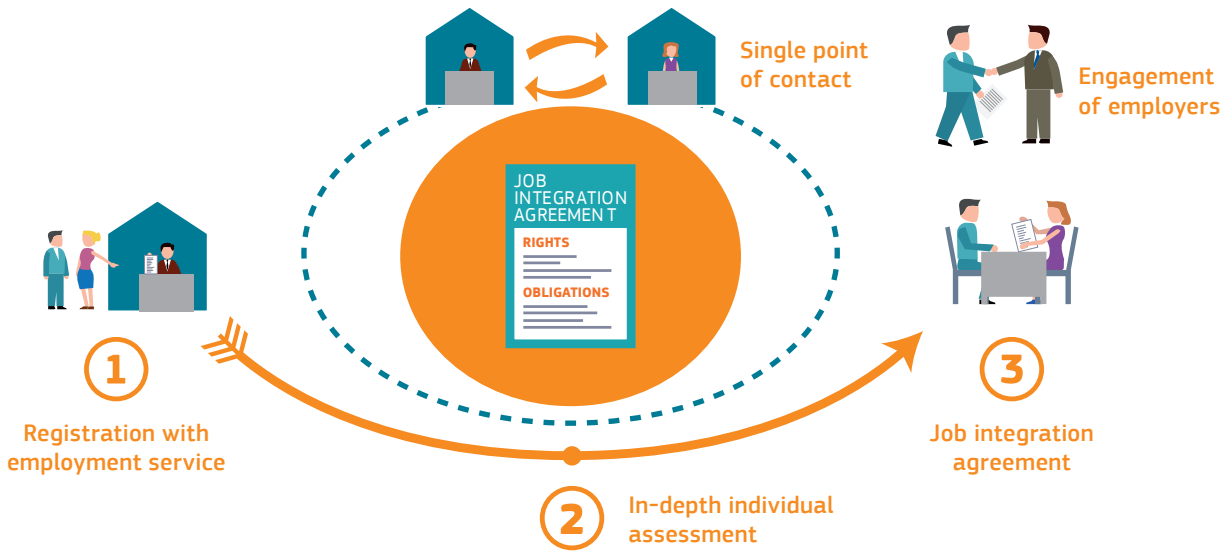


BRINGING THE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED BACK TO WORK: recent developments and ways forward

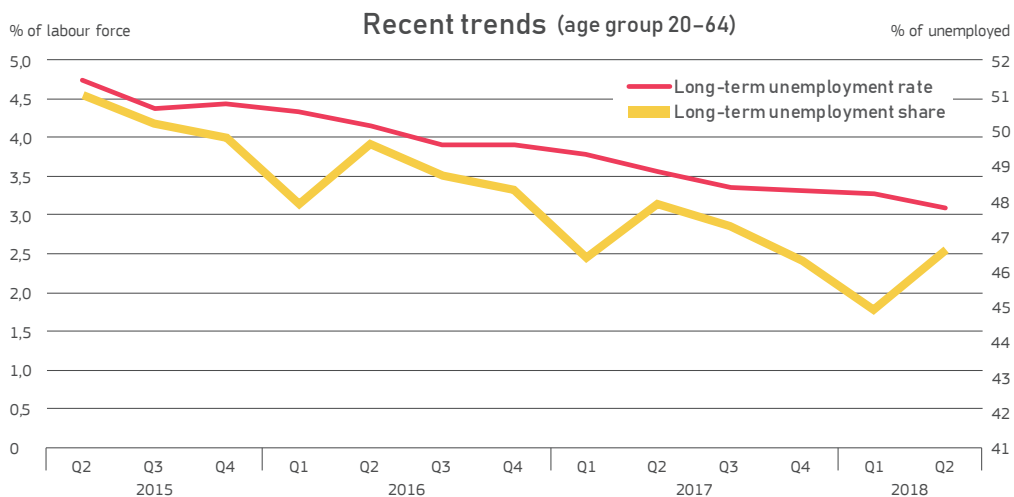
#SocialRights

11 April 2019

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON INTEGRATION OF LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INTO THE LABOUR MARKET (2016/C 67/01)



Long-term unemployment has implications for society as a whole—from dire social consequences to negative impact on growth and public finances. Since the adoption of the Recommendation in February 2016, the number of long-term unemployed¹ decreased by more than 2.5 million but the rate is still high in several EU countries.



1| A person who has been unemployed for 12 months or more.





MEMBER STATE ACTION TO SUPPORT THE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED

Member States have been putting in place measures to better support the long-term unemployed. Stronger policy changes took place in countries with previously less developed support systems.

The Recommendation includes three key steps for long-term unemployed: 1) registration with an employment service; 2) an individual in-depth assessment to identify needs and potential and 3) a job integration agreement.

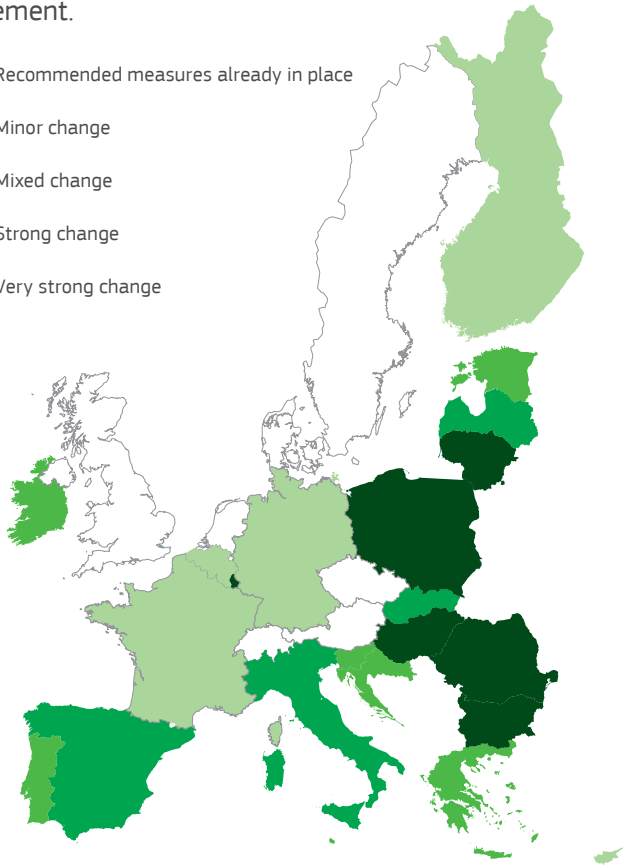
○ Recommended measures already in place

● Minor change

● Mixed change

● Strong change

● Very strong change



Source: Study supporting the evaluation of the Council Recommendation on the integration of long-term unemployed into the labour market, Ramboll Management consortium for the European Commission, 2019

Registration

New measures include informing those not registered on what support is available to them, services to discourage deregistration and reaching out directly to inactive groups.

Individual assessment

Public Employment Services are providing more tailored support and developing new tools to improve the quality of individual assessments.

Job Integration Agreement

Some form of Job Integration Agreement is now offered to the jobseeker in almost all Member States—and this is done within 6 months of unemployment.

Moreover, the Recommendation calls for a single point of contact and closer links with employers.

Single point of contact

Employment and social services are working together more and are increasingly sharing information, and setting up referral mechanisms between services.

Engagement of employers

More hiring incentives are offered to employers and additional services such as screening of vacancies and support to place long-term unemployed are provided by Public Employment Services.



WAYS FORWARD TO STRENGTHEN IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ Increase capacities of employment and social services and engage civil society to better reach out to the inactive, and focus more on preventing long-term unemployment.
- ▶ Increase capacities of public employment services to provide targeted and comprehensive support to the long-term unemployed early on
- ▶ Speed up the implementation of the single point of contact
- ▶ Increase post-placement support services offered to employers, support development of social enterprises and encourage adaptation of workplaces

[Link to full Report and Staff Working Document with further explanations.](#)