

***Social policy in the European Union:
state of play 2016***

**Tackling long-term unemployment in Europe
through a Council Recommendation?**

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Introduction

Financial and economic crises

European Union concern about long-term unemployment (LTU):

- A Council Recommendation *On the Integration of the Long-Term Unemployed into the Labour Market* (15/02/16)

Outline

- LTU and unemployment in European countries
- LTU, employment and social policies in European countries
- LTU and EU policies: The Council Recommendation
- LTU and EU policies: Discussion

1. LTU and unemployment in European countries

- **Trends of unemployment in European countries:
Convergent and divergent trends**
- **Trends in LTU in European countries:
Links between unemployment and LTU
Lags in the LTU cycles**
- **Socio economic characteristics of the long-term unemployed**

2. LTU, employment and social policies in European countries

- **Diversity of national LTU policies**
- **Process toward a more integrated organisation in European countries**
- **Individualisation of services in European countries**

3. LTU and EU policies: The Council Recommendation

- **Proposal for a Council Recommendation *on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market***
Staff Working Document, SWD 17/09/2015
- **Council Recommendation of 15 February 2016 *on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market***
Official Journal of the European Union, 2016/C 67/01

Problem	Recommendation
Not all the long-term unemployed are registered with the PES	Rec.1: Encourage the registration of jobseekers with an employment service
Very few long-term unemployed are involved in activation activities	Rec.2: Ensure that registered long-term unemployed persons are offered in-depth individual assessments and guidance at the very latest when they reach 18 months of unemployment Rec.4: Registered long-term unemployed persons not covered by the Youth Guarantee should be offered a job-integration agreement
Severe institutional fragmentation	Rec.5: Put in place the necessary arrangements to ensure continuity and identify a single point of contact ... through a coordinated service offer involving available employment and social support services
Lack of interest of employers	Rec.6: Encourage and develop partnerships between employers, social partners, employment services
Need for EU involvement	Rec.11: Cooperate to make best use of the European structural and investment funds

4. LTU and EU policies: Discussion and conclusions

- **Consistency with national employment policies**
- **Static conception of long-term unemployment**
- **Economic priority: 'Jobs first'**
- **Weakening the protection of workers**

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 Ose etui.

Many thanks for your attention