LOCALISE

Local Worlds of Social Cohesion

How do different institutional contexts influence local activation policies?

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Introduction

• Our research project focused on integrated activation patterns in six European countries (France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom).

• Countries belong to different welfare state policy traditions and, more specifically, to different employment policy legacies.

• Specific research questions:
  – How has integrated activation been implemented?
  – What has been the role of EU policies in supporting activation?
  – What could be done in order to make multilevel policies more effective?
Implementing integrated activation

- **Germany, Sweden and UK**: our research shows that, despite some differences, these countries are characterized by greater and an overall effective policy integration.

- **France, Italy and Poland**: fragmentation prevails, especially in the multilevel and multidimension spheres.

- **Why?** Different **policy legacies, administrative capacities** (limited especially in Italy and Poland) and different **administrative cultures**.
The role of the EU

• Various potential EU resources:
  – Legal;
  – Financial;
  – Cognitive;
  – Political;
  – Institutional.

• As expected, clear predominance of financial resources (especially in Poland and Italy) with some usage of cognitive resources (although in an instrumental way).
Conclusion

• Different worlds of integrated activation in terms of:
  – policy legacy
  – administrative capacities
  – administrative cultures (specialization and NOT integration ethos)

• Ideas for the discussion:
  – Creation of **local multistakeholder observatories** on social solidarity and activation (for greater *monitoring* and *benchmarking* purposes, but also for a greater shared understanding of activation as a multidimensional concept);
  – Provide greater multilevel coordination on shared policy objectives via organisational units (i.e. *activation agencies*) which combine both administrative and scientific staff.