



Network Anthology 2013

“Shifting Roles of Labour Market Observatories in Regions and Localities Across Europe?”

Call for Articles

In 2013, the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring will address in how far there are shifting roles and functions of regional and local labour market observatories. Meanwhile there are numerous indications that regional and local observatories carry out more roles than the one of the data provider. Often they support the interpretation of local data, they are builders of local and regional networks including decisions makers and lately, in some cases they bridge the gap between the actors in the corporate world and in the sphere of further education and training. Up to now these are only random observations. We would like to explore, if we can find a systematic shift in roles of observatories, in what national states and regions this happens and what are the drivers which stimulate these processes.

Articles for the Anthology

Covering the topic of the shifting roles and functions of regional and local labour market observatories the following questions could be used for exploring these developments:

- ❖ Which are the roles of actors from the observatories? How have these changed over time, how do they develop and how will these roles evolve in the future?
- ❖ Are there local organisational structures that the observatories use to further their roles connected with interpretation and strategy development? If so, it would be interesting to see what degree of formalisation these organisational structures have (e.g., network, councils), on what (legal) grounds these are based, who has set these up, what resources are made available for this, and what goals are being pursued with such structures in the region or locality?

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- ❖ Do local or regional conditions promote or constrain this extending of roles contained in these organisational structures? Which supporting and constraining conditions exist? What kind of conditions are these (social, material, cultural, other)? Do these conditions have positive effects because they are linked with superior levels and/or actors?
- ❖ What would be the sensible steps to take in extending the role of observatories and where could the pitfalls lay? Are there good practice examples from which other observatories and the Network members could learn?

The network members and interested parties are asked to write articles based on (some of) these questions and illustrate their findings with good practice examples. All these results will then be brought together in an analytical manner in the anthology 2013. The anthology will provide an overview on the state of development and will give a basis for judging in how far there are in fact shifting roles of observatories or not. These insights could stimulate discourses on the relevance of regional and local labour market observatories for regional decision makers.

Everybody who would like to contribute an article to the anthology is invited to contact the network coordinator, Ruth Hasberg, until **31 March 2013**. All authors will be provided with further information about structure and formatting of the articles, submission deadlines and content. The final deadline to submit the articles is **31 May 2013**.

In case of further questions please get in touch with Ruth Hasberg, IWAK (Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture, Centre of Goethe University Frankfurt/Main) Hasberg@em.uni-frankfurt.de.