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 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.