

EC-OECD Technical Workshop: Evaluating labour market policies through the use of linked administrative data

Monday, 9 October 2023: OECD Conference Centre (Room CC2), Paris

Background

The OECD and European Commission (EC) organise a technical workshop on the evaluation of Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs) through the use of linked administrative data. The workshop brings together experts from the EU and OECD, national administrations and researchers to share good practices across a number of key areas related to counterfactual impact evaluations of ALMPs. This includes lessons in linking administrative data, insights into different methodological approaches to impact evaluation and the latest innovations in using linked administrative data, and a discussion of key priorities and next steps. In addition, the workshop provides an excellent opportunity to foster networking and peer learning across EU and OECD countries.

This workshop forms part of an ongoing [joint OECD-EC project](#) on policy impact evaluation through the use of linked administrative data. The project has a dual aim to improve the effectiveness of ALMPs based on the results of the counterfactual impact evaluations and strengthen countries' capacity for evidence-informed policy making.

Workshop agenda

09:30-10:00	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Anne Lauringson (OECD)</p> <p>Stefano Scarpetta, Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (ELS), OECD.</p> <p>Barbara Kauffmann, Director, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), European Commission.</p> <p>Theodora Xenogiani (OECD) & Nora Wukovits-Votzi (European Commission, DG EMPL): Overview of OECD-EC project on policy impact evaluation through the use of linked administrative data.</p>
10:00-10:40	<p>Keynote presentation</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Anne Lauringson (OECD)</p> <p>Jeffrey Smith, Professor, Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: Evaluating Active Labo(u)r Market Policies with Administrative Data: Past, Present, and (Hopeful) Future.</p>
10:40-11:50	<p>Thematic Session 1: Linking and sharing administrative data for research: processes and obstacles</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Nora Wukovits-Votzi (European Commission, DG EMPL)</p> <p><i>This session explores good practices in the process of linking of administrative data for research purposes, in particular to facilitate counterfactual impact evaluations. This includes discussions of approaches to linking such data, data exchange between different institutions for the purposes of research and the obstacles faced by countries (including data protection) to make better use of administrative data for research purposes.</i></p> <p>Piia Ereth Printsman (Eesti Töötukassa, Estonia): Automated tool for impact evaluation of active labour market measures: linking administrative data.</p> <p>Eva Lapsiņa (State Employment Agency of Latvia): Evaluating Latvia's active labour market policies: recent experience and new initiatives.</p> <p>Kristine Von Simson and Christian Ruff (NAV, Norway): Registry data in Norway: Internal and External perspectives.</p> <p>Andy Handouyahia (Employment and Social Development Canada): Leveraging Administrative Data and Innovative Methods for Evaluation Purposes.</p>
11:50-12:00	Short break

12:00-13:15	<p>Thematic Session 2: Experimental approaches to impact evaluations of ALMPs</p> <p>Moderator: Paolo Paruolo (European Commission Joint Research Centre)</p> <p><i>Experimental studies are widely considered to be the ‘gold standard’ for research in public policy and producing evidence of what works. However, in practice, they feature in the approach to evaluate policies of only a few countries. This session showcases good practices from those countries more experienced in building evidence using randomised trials of ALMPs.</i></p> <p>Patrick Arni, Professor of Economics, ZHAW – School of Management and Law, Switzerland: Implementing Randomised Trials to Evaluate ALMPs.</p> <p>María Calle (Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, Spain): The inclusion policy linked to the Ingreso Mínimo Vital: Inclusion itineraries programme & Federico Muñoz Alonso (SEPE, Spain): Spain's approach to the evaluation of ALMPs</p> <p>Carsten Søren Nielsen (STAR, Denmark): Identifying “what works” – Lessons from evaluating ALMPs in Denmark.</p> <p>Damiano Pregaldini and Amélie Speiser (State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland): Optimising caseworker meetings in the Swiss PES.</p>
13:15-14:45	<p>Lunch Break</p>
14:45-15:45	<p>Thematic Session 3: Innovative approaches in the use of linked administrative data for impact evaluation</p> <p>Moderator: Ailbhe Brioscú (OECD)</p> <p><i>This session explores the latest innovations and approaches to the use of linked administrative data for the impact evaluation of ALMPs, topics include applications of machine learning and AI and ex-ante assessments of planned reforms or policy changes.</i></p> <p>Michael Lechner, Professor of Econometrics at the University of St. Gallen and Co-Head of Swiss Institute for Empirical Economic Research: The Value Added of Causal Machine Learning for Public Policy.</p> <p>Heikki Räisänen (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Finland): How to approach the ex ante employment effects of the Job Market matching platform?</p> <p>Matthieu Teachout (Pôle emploi, France): How evaluation and its use of admin data help shape Pôle Emploi's strategy?</p>
15:45-16:15	<p>Coffee Break</p>
16:15-17:00	<p>Panel Discussion – Where do we go from here? Priorities in further enhancing evidence-informed policymaking</p> <p>Moderator: Jeffrey Smith (University of Wisconsin-Madison)</p> <p><i>Building on key messages from the day – including good practices and key features of effective systems for linking administrative data for the purposes of research and impact evaluation – this panel takes a forward-looking approach to consider what the priorities should be to further foster cultures of evidence-based policymaking in the provision of ALMPs and beyond.</i></p> <p>Elisa Gómez Alemán (European Commission, Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support) Bruce Cunningham (Department of Employment and Workforce Relations, Australia)</p> <p>Spiros Protopsaltis (DYPA, Greece) Sara Flisi (European Commission Joint Research Centre)</p> <p>Simon Marlow (Department for Work and Pensions, United Kingdom)</p>
17:00-17:15	<p>Concluding Remarks</p> <p>Stefano Scarpetta, Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD.</p> <p>Barbara Kauffmann, Director, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), European Commission.</p>