International Handbook of Labour Market Policy and Evaluation

Edited by Günther Schmid, Director of the Research Unit on Labour Market Policy and Employment, the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) and Professor Emeritus of Political Economics, Free University of Berlin, Germany, Jacqueline O’Reilly, Professor of Comparative Human Resource Management, The University of Sussex Business School, UK and Klaus Schömann, International University Bremen, Germany

This major Handbook is a detailed, up-to-date guide to different national labour markets and policies to combat unemployment and their outcomes. It will become established as a standard reference book – the first of its kind – providing an authoritative account of the rapidly growing field of labour market policy in a coherent and systematic framework.

‘The book should be of great use and interest to anyone concerned with labour market issues, and particularly so for those concerned with designing effective evaluation schemes. Further, it cannot be disputed that, as the paper version yields a price of roughly 0.04p per page, this book offers very good value indeed.’
– Andrew Jones, Local Economy

‘This Handbook gives comprehensive information about the different national labour markets, and charts the policies in force to combat unemployment. . . . This Handbook will help politicians as well as scholars to understand as well as improve and adjust the policy instruments that are in place. It is a thorough work, prepared to a high standard, and it will be widely used.’
– European Labour Forum

‘The book sets out to inform rather than excite and to be comprehensive rather than novel; it succeeds on both counts. Each chapter is comprehensive and thorough, containing a good deal of information and neatly summarises much of the existing literature.’
– Chris Martin, The Economic Journal

‘Practitioners may also gain valuable insights into ways to assess the appropriateness of different policy tools and policy approaches and into the requirements for systematic impact evaluation.’
– Economic Outlook and Business Review

‘A more effective labour market policy is a key factor for redressing the present unemployment situation in Europe. I am sure that this International Handbook will prove a very useful tool in the hands of labour market practitioners and policymakers, as well as scholars, in their endeavours to evaluate, improve and adapt the present range of policy instruments. For its thoroughness, timely and excellence of contributions, this is a fundamental reference work for the progress of research in this field.’
– Allan Larsson, European Commission, Belgium

‘. . . provides a set of specially commissioned surveys of this literature. The scope of the book is broad and so it runs to nearly a thousand pages, and includes contributions from many of the key contributors in the area. It is aimed at both academic and policy practitioner audiences.’
– Andrew Henley, British Journal of Industrial Relations

‘Günther Schmid and his colleagues have organized a remarkably broad-gauge yet integrated volume . . . . The volume is a major contribution to both evaluation research and to effective policy-making . . . [this book] deals with numerous labour market policies and the procedures and practices that have been (and could be) applied in assessing their impacts. The policies span the full spectrum of interventions, including those targeted on special groups (e.g. the unemployed, the disabled, people needing transitional assistance), those designed to remedy private market failures (e.g. segregation, skill mismatches, and constraints on work time and

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hiring/unhiring decisions), and those designed to change the very structure of institutional arrangements (e.g. wage-bargaining systems).’

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