

*LABOUR MARKET TRANSITION POLICIES  
AND  
WELFARE STATE MODELS IN EUROPE*

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**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND JOBLESSNESS: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, RESPONSES**

**Workshop III - Transition from education to the labour market: what makes for better transitions?**

**ADAPT – UNAM CONFERENCE  
MEXICO CITY, 29-30 AUGUST 2011**

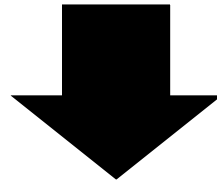
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**RESEARCH PROJECT**  
***THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION LEVEL IN  
YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY IN EUROPE***

*(2009-2010)*

# Theme

Some specificities of **education, training and employment policies** in Europe are articulated with **transition systems to the labour market**



Political goals of promoting **young people's integration** and reducing **educational failure** and **early school leaving**.

Debate on **national employment models** and on **European Welfare models**.

Period of time: 2005-2009

# Methodological procedures

## Documental analysis of:

- Official studies and documents of the European Union countries - Education systems and policies designed to support young people in their transition from education to the labour market.
- Laws, government reports and other publications.

## Statistical analysis of Eurostat data:

- Unemployment
- Employment
- Temporary work rates.

# **Main theoretical issues**

Education and labor market.

Social reproduction of inequalities.

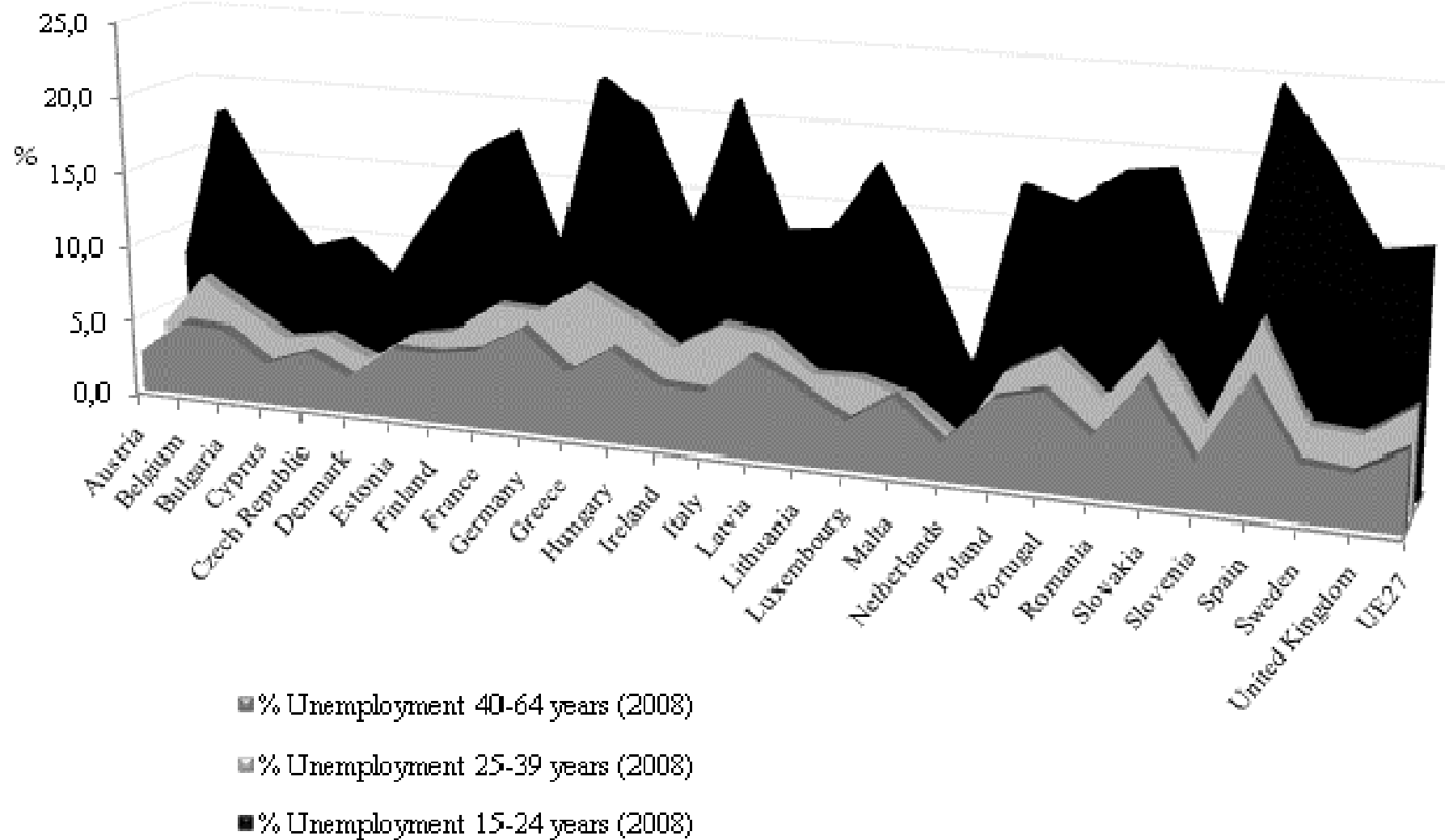
School segregation.

Flexibilisation of the labor market.

Growth of unemployment.

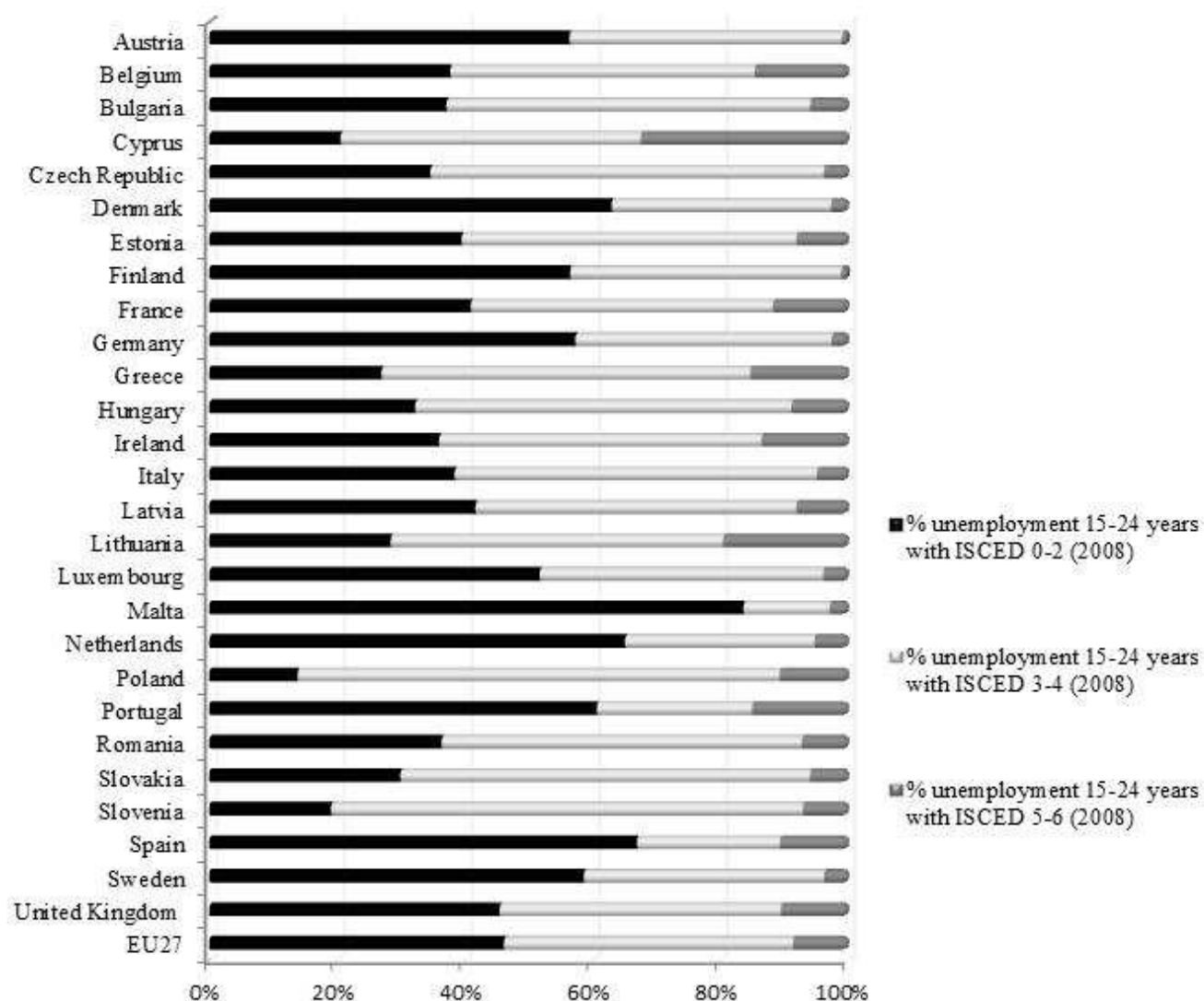
Segments of the labor market: the role of education.

# Unemployment rates in the EU by age group and country (2008)



Source: Own calculations from Eurostat, 2008.

# Educational structure of youth unemployment in the EU by country



Source: Own calculations from Eurostat, 2008.

# Welfare State models in Europe

Esping- Andersen, Ferrara and others.

**“Decommodification” and “commodification”**

## Four models

**SOCIAL-DEMOCRAT:** it bases protection and absorption of risks on a universalist State.

**LIBERAL:** it favours the unregulated market.

**CONSERVATIVE (CONTINENTAL):** focuses on the role of the family.

**SOUTHERN:** similar institutional patterns to those in continental Europe, with the disadvantage of not having achieved the same development (right-wing authoritarian regimes until the mid-1970s).



# Transition systems to the labour market

Schroeder, Allmendiger, Heinz and others.

Schroeder (2000) proposes three **transition schemes**:

1) Considerable state intervention in the transition from school to the labour market.

Markets highly regulated.

France and Sweden.

2) Volume much lower of young people in the support programmes.

Labour market not very regulated.

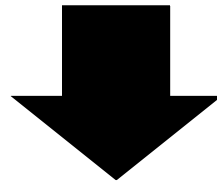
The Netherlands and Ireland.

3) High percentage of young people at risk participating in the support programmes.

Scotland.

WELFARE STATE MODELS AND TRANSITION SYSTEMS TO  
THE LABOR MARKET: DO THEY “FIT”?

THE PUBLIC POLICIES CONCERNING EDUCATION AND  
LABOR MARKET TRANSITION.



IS THERE A CONGRUENCE?

# **Empirical evidence**

Social-democrat model – Denmark

Conservative model – France

Liberal model– United Kingdom

Southern model - Portugal

# Denmark

Welfare state model

Social-democrat

Transition system

***Protected flexibility***

*“Decommodification”*

*E.g.*

- High public investment on education and training.
- Free public social and personal services.
- High taxes.
- Support to young people unemployed but have to receive job training and education.
- Job search assistance.

# France

Welfare state model  
Conservative

Transition system  
***Assistentialist***

Intermediate levels of “decommodification”

*E.g.*

- Fair social protection coverage.
- Labour legislation highly protective.
- Promotion of young people access to the labour market: education and training – “Social Integration Contracts” (CIVIS).
- Unemployment subsidy agreement.

# United Kingdom

Welfare state model  
Liberal

Transition system  
***Liberalised flexibility***

“Commodification”

*E.g.*

- Low coverage of social protection systems.
- Low taxes.
- Increase of the age of compulsory education.
- Training courses to young people.
- Development of entrepreneurial skills – “Make your mark”.
- Support to young people transition to the labor market – “Jobcenter plus”.

# Portugal

Welfare state model  
Southern

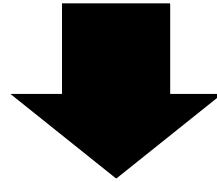
Transition system  
***Flexible assistentialist***

Low levels of “decommodification” - flexibility

*E.g.*

- High young people unemployment.
- Support from the family (“Welfare society”).
- High levels of early school leavers.
- Strength of the State’s role in education from 2005 and 2008.
- Entrepreneurship skills development programmes – “Finitia Youth Programme”.
- Vocational training – “New Opportunities”.

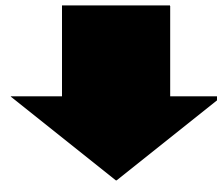
**Crisis** that broke out in 2008 - generalised reinforcement of measures for young people and deterioration of young people's situation in the labour market.



Common to European Countries in general: general model preserved but changes in policies measures to promote the **young people transition** to the labour market.



## **Protectionism versus flexibility.**



Will European countries go for  
“commodification” or “decommodification”  
and what will be the State's role in this  
field?

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