

PAPER FOR THE INVITED SESSION:  
“EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTS OF REFORMS, POLICIES  
AND PROGRAMMES”

Active Labour Market Policies in Flanders.

Evaluation of the “Work Experience for Young Persons”  
programme. \*

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**Abstract**

The aim of this paper is to evaluate the “Work Experience for Young Persons” or “WIJ” program, implemented in Flanders for three years starting from June 2015. The WIJ program is targeted at unqualified young unemployed with the aim of facilitating their entrance in the labour market, through an intensive guiding trajectory which includes labour market orientation and coaching, and possibly competence strengthening activities. The analysis is based on administrative data sources from the Flemish Public Employment Service. Using detailed information on the past labour market histories of youth, we apply sequence analysis combined with matching approaches to evaluate the impact of WIJ on employability of young jobseekers. For those who find a job following the WIJ intervention, we also assess the duration in unemployment prior to the new job. We find that three and six months after the end of the program, participating in WIJ has not significant positive impact on the employability of young unemployed.

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**Key words:** Labour market policies, Exact Matching, Optimal Matching, Sequence Analysis, Evaluation, Flanders

**JEL codes:** D04, J68