International Conference on
Active Labor Market Policies
organized by the DARES

February 14th and 15th, 2013
Paris, conference room “Pierre Laroque”
High and persistent unemployment rates in the 1970s and the 1980s, have led most OECD countries and in particular European countries to implement measures to help the unemployed to go back to work.

The objective of these so called “active” labor market policies differs from “passive” measures that aim to provide income replacement for the unemployed. According to an OECD typology, there are three main categories of active labor market policies: job search assistance programs performed by public employment services; subsidized employment measures (job creation schemes in public and private sectors, start-up incentives for the unemployed); vocational training programs.

The conference will provide academic presentations and discussions on active labor market policies carried out in several countries, including France. The conference will gather experts from the academic community (France, Europe and North America) and representatives of French and foreign institutions who will present the main results of their research with a focus on the key lessons that can be drawn in terms of design and implementation of public policies. After the keynote presentation, the conference will be organized around thematic sessions on job search assistance programs for the unemployed, vocational training programs for the unemployed, job creation schemes and start-up incentives for the unemployed.

Thursday, February 14th

8h00: Registration & Coffee

8h55–9h00: Welcome Address
by Antoire Magnier (DARES)

9h00–9h30: Opening Speech
by Michel Sapin, French Minister of Labor, Employment, Vocational training and Social dialogue

Chairperson of keynote session: Béatrice Sédillot (DARES)

9h30–11h: A transatlantic view of active labor market policies

- “Evaluating Active Labor Market Programs: What Have We Learned in 40 Years?”
  by David Card (University of California, Berkeley)

- “Active Labour Market Policies in OECD: Stylized Facts and Evidence on Their Effectiveness”
  by John Martin (OECD)

11h–11h20: Coffee break (poster session*)

Chairperson of the session: Annie Gauvin (Pôle emploi)

11h20–12h50: Job search assistance programs for the unemployed (I)

- In Switzerland: “Case Workers and Successful Active Labour Market Policies”
  by Michael Lechner (University of St Gallen)

- In Denmark: “The Importance of Meeting Your Case Worker”
  by Michael Rosholm (Aarhus University, IZA)

Discussant: Gesine Stephan (Institute for Employment Research)
Friday, February 15th

8h30: Registration & Coffee

Chairperson of the session: Christel Colin (DARES)

9h00 – 10h30: Job creation schemes

- In Canada: “Employment in the Social Economy as an Alternative to Passive Income Transfers – Experimental Results”  
  by David Gyarmati and Jean-pierre Voyer (SRDC)

- In Germany: “Job Creation Schemes in Germany: Design and Evaluation Results”  
  by Gesine Stephan (Institute for Employment Research)

Discussant: Roland Rathelot (CREST, J-PAL, Chaire de sécurisation des parcours professionnels)

10h30 – 10h50: Coffee break (poster session*)

Chairperson of the session: Jean-Louis Dayan (CEE)

10h50 – 12h20: Start-up incentives for the unemployed

- In Germany: “New Evidence on the Effects of Start-Up Subsidies for the Unemployed”  
  by Marco Caliendo (University of Postdam, IZA)

- In Roumania: “Channels Through which Public Employment Services and Small-Business Assistance Programs Work”  
  by Nuria Rodríguez-Planas (IZA, Institut d’Anàlisi Econòmica, Universitat Pompeu Fabra)

Discussant: Rafael Lalive (University of Lausanne, CEPR, IZA)

12h20 – 12h35: Concluding Remarks  
by Emmanuelle Wargon (DGEFP) and Antoine Magnier (DARES)

* Poster session : Isabelle Benoteau (DARES), Sashka Dimova (Aarhus University) and Lukas Kauer (University of St. Gallen).