



**Integrated social services for activating
minimum-income recipients:
Success factors and reform pathways**

EXTERNAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE STUDY'S RESULTS

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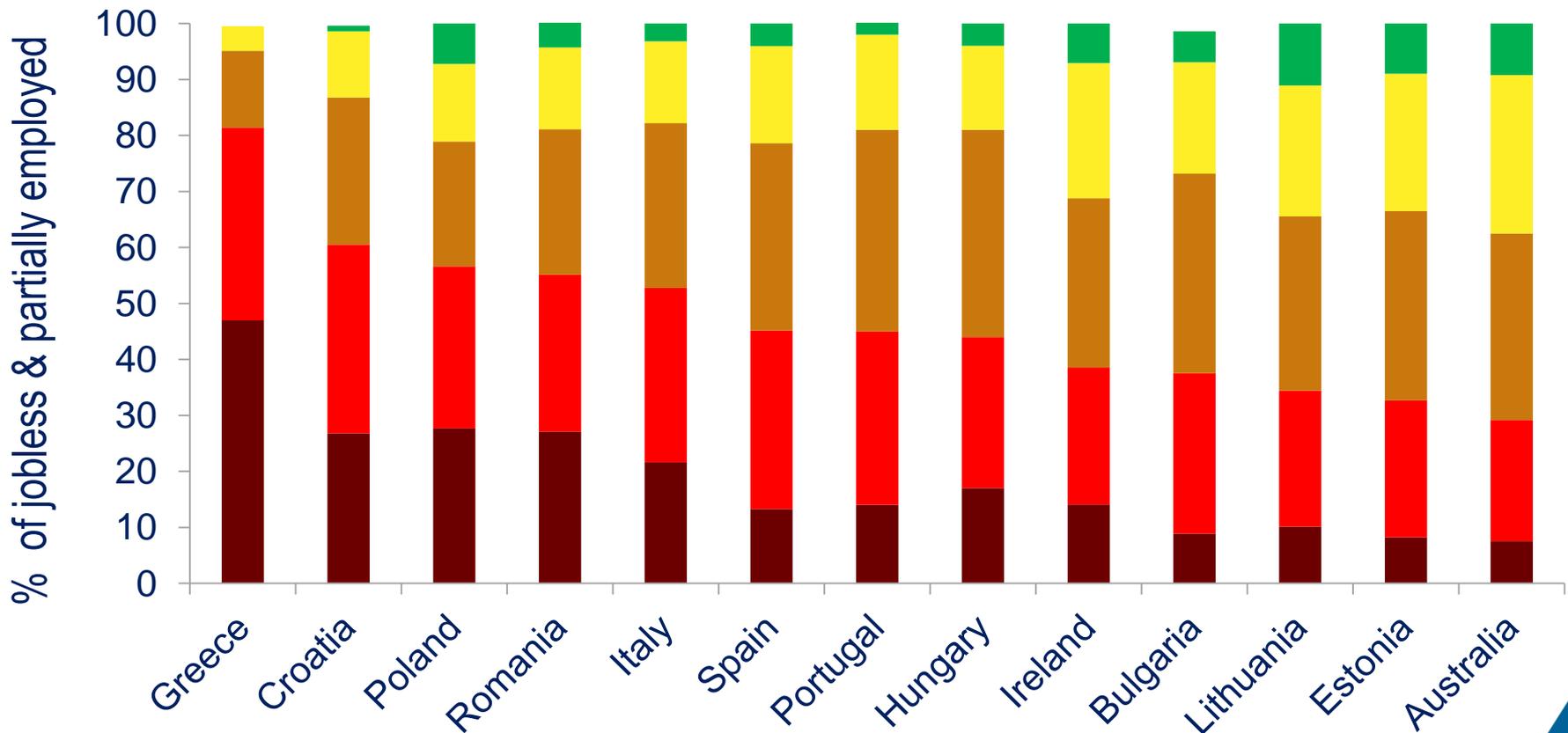
Why integration? A prerequisite for people-centred social policies

- From organisational, budget, efficiency perspective: debate over ‘optimal’ degree of integration
- But from a user/client perspective, some form of integration is always needed:
 - “Messy” circumstances, multiple barriers;
 - Income support and range of services
 - Outreach to vulnerable families is difficult (eg non-takeup)
 - link up services to make most of available contact points
 - Minimum-income recipient spells can be long or repeated
 - value of institutional mechanisms that allow following histories
- Documenting reform experiences and extracting lessons is difficult but very useful
 - for local or national reform initiatives
 - for EU policy processes
 - for ESF funding priorities / “programming”



Most people with labour-market difficulties face multiple barriers

■ 4 or more barriers ■ 3 barriers ■ 2 barriers ■ single barrier ■ No major barrier





Spell durations can be very long

	observation period	# of spells	spell duration in months		share of spells 12 months or longer
			median	mean	12 months
Latvia	2006-11	59,206	3	5.2	10.9
Luxembourg	1988-2010	46,973	16	29.9	59.8
Netherlands	1999-2010		11	26.2	
Norway	1993-2008	221,994	2	3.8	6.3
Sweden	2001-09	1,766,784	2	5.1	11.0



Many strengths of the IDSS project

- Going beyond generalities: A welcome focus on integration in a policy area that is both specific and particularly challenging!
- Excellent, unusually complete and ambitious conceptual setup
 - Comparative element: Includes reform episodes from very different country, social, policy contexts
 - Separate look at *legislative* success, *outcome* success
(political economy of reforming “niche” programmes for the poorest is probably quite different from, say, pension reforms)
 - Quantitative evaluations *plus* costing *plus* expert assessments
 - Transparent method, including metrics for describing reforms, that can be further adapted
 - Identification of two “type cases” of reform pathways, which can be scrutinised and extended by future research



Interpretation of results:

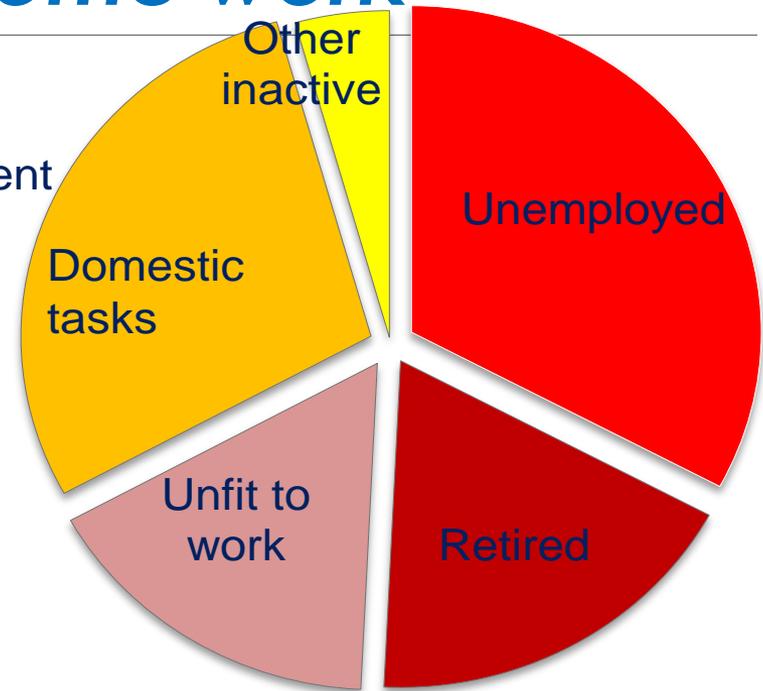
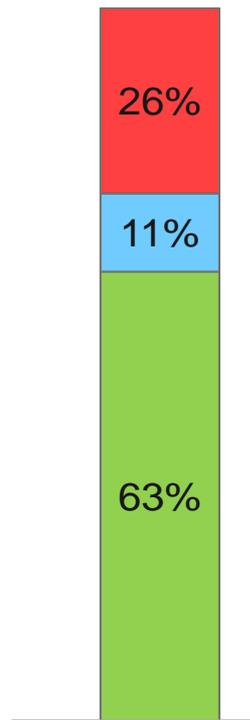
Further clarifications?

- MIB often “residual” programme → numerous framework conditions and mediating factors affecting promise / challenge of integration reforms
 - What are key characteristics of MIB programmes? How are they embedded in wider social protection system? What “first resort” programmes are there?
 - Which / how many recipients? What about MIB recipients who work? Out-of-work (inactive / unemployed) versus weak labour-market attachment
- Criteria for “success”
 - Appear too weak? (improvement in re-employment OR poverty OR user satisfaction OR some other outcome defined as objective)
 - More prominent: How were experts opinions included / aggregated?
 - Staff levels versus qualification?
- “No link between **activation** and **poverty**”: elaborate further?
 - Seen as positive or negative outcome depending on standpoint
 - Asymmetry in assessment of employment (increase among users / clients) and poverty (entire population)?



Many people with labour-market problems do have some work

- Persistently out of work
- Weak labour market attachment
- No major difficulties



Average across selected countries: AUS, EST, IRL, ITA, LTU, PRT, ESP
18-64, excluding students, military service

Source: OECD (2017), [Faces of Joblessness](#), based on EU SILC and Australian HILDA, 2014



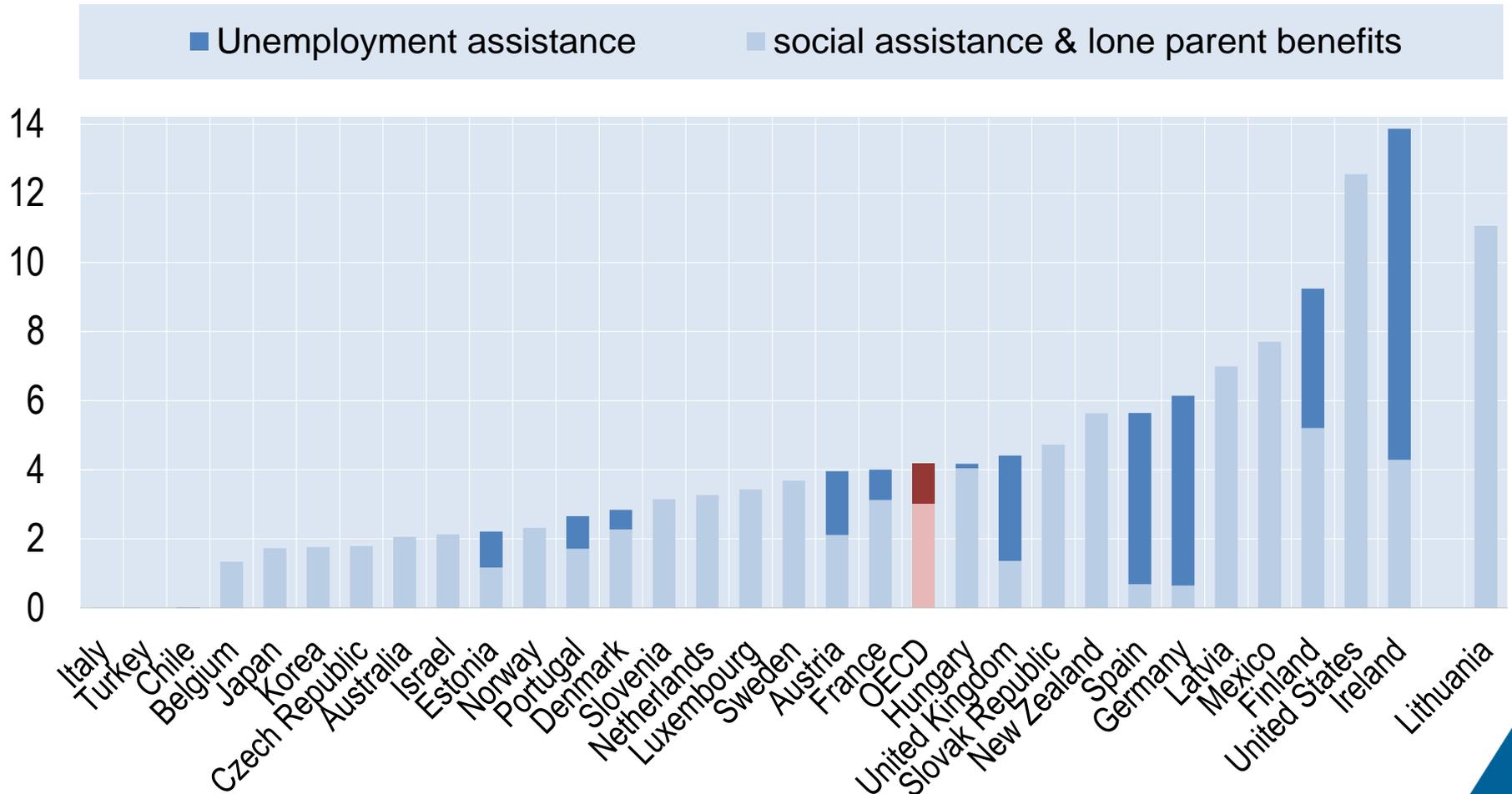
Presentation of results: *Maximising impact / buy-in*

- Further strengthen case **why important**
 - Highlight individual **user / client perspective** upfront (eg overwhelming evidence of scarring), not just macro-type considerations
 - Illustrate high prevalence of “**messy circumstances**”/ multiple barriers
 - Illustrate **number of recipients** (given year but also over longer period)
- Short **summaries** early on to help navigate rich content
 - Considerations that went into designing fiches, interviews
- Highlight insights into integration of public, **private, 3rd sector**
 - Eg. very important in countries with constrained public provision
- Possible to systematically **engage policy / service institutions?**
 - Seek their input on approach and comments on results?
 - Ensure non-normative terminology (“low efficiency countries”)



Recipients of 'lower-tier' benefits

% of working-age population





Thank you

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