

Active Labour
Market
Programmes in
Canada, Denmark
Sweden and the
UK: Working
towards Extending
Working Lives



This is a description of the approach to Active Labour Market Programmes in four OECD countries:

- **Canada**: Education and training programmes are delivered at a provincial or territorial level; however, funding is provided by the federal government and in part by Human Resource and Skills Development Canada. This funding come through Labour Market Agreements. There is also Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities and the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (2006) to support specific groups. The self-employment benefit supports unemployed workers to start their own business.
- **Denmark**: For workers on sick leave, after 5 months they are provided with support by the multidisciplinary municipal rehabilitation team, which covers health, social, education and employment measures. Upon assessment, workers who are unable to work full time due to functional limitations may be offered the 'fleksjobs' scheme. This is a subsidised employment scheme for up to 5 years, after which reassessment is mandatory. Unemployed older workers are guaranteed a job by the municipality under the 'Senior Job' scheme. Since 2014, support for unemployed people has been available through educational funds, and a 6-month subsidised private sector job if the unemployed worker is over 55.
- **Sweden**: Job Security Councils provide support for unemployed workers and supplement the work of the Public Employment Service. Career Transition Agreements, included in collective agreements between union and councils, provide support in cases of redundancies. Tax credits are available to employers for employing long-term unemployed workers. For worker on sickness leave, the 'rehabilitation chain' (2008) assesses the individual at different time points, to determine of they are able to return to work with adjustments or return to a different role/job. The aim of this is to coordinate rehabilitation support between employer, healthcare and social insurance.
- **UK**: Since 2000, individually tailored employability support has been available through multiple programmes aimed at disabled people, older people and the long-term unemployed. In 2011, these programmes have been replaced by the Work Programme, which included private and third sector contractors, and is provided through a payment-by-results framework. Since 2013, access to unemployment benefits, and some disability income replacement benefits, is contingent on engaging with job searching activities.