# Background

Active labor market policies (ALMPs) are government programs that intervene in the labor market to help the unemployed find work. Many of these programs grew out of earlier public works projects, particularly those implemented under the 'New Deal' (The New Deal was a series of programs, public work projects, financial reforms, and regulations enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the United States between 1933 and 1939), designed to combat widespread unemployment in the developed world during the interwar period. There are three main categories of ALMP (i) Public employment services, such as job centers and labor exchanges, help the unemployed improve their job search effort by disseminating information on vacancies and by helping with interview skills and writing a curriculum vitae. (ii) Training schemes, such as classes and apprenticeships, help the unemployed improve their vocational skills and hence increase their employability. (iii) Employment subsidies, either in the public or private sector, directly create jobs for the unemployed. These are typically short-term measures that are designed to allow the unemployed to build up work experience and prevent skill atrophy ([Active Labour Market Policies](#WIKI)).

The Portuguese programs aimed to help two target groups: (i) individuals aged less than 25 years (the Inserjovem program) and (ii) individuals aged 25 or more (the Reage program). Program participation is mandatory and who refuse to participate face a loss of entitlement to benefits and their registration is canceled. The programs are composed of intensive job-search assistance and small basic skills training, for example, writing a curriculum vitae. They include a large number of different responses by the employment office placement team. Each individual is interviewed with placement officers to help her/him improve job-search skills and, if deemed necessary, (s)he can enter several vocational or non-vocational training courses. The whole process of job-search assistance ends with the elaboration of a “Personal Employment Plan”, which includes detailed information on the unemployed individual's job-search effort. According to this Plan, the unemployed individual is expected to meet regularly with the placement officer and to actively search for a job. Unjustified rejection of job offers leads to the cancellation of registration ([Ceneteno 2009](#Luis_Centeno_2009)).

In Europe, the European Employment Service (EURES) was established in 1994 and works in cooperation with all European countries in finding employment for European residents aged 18-35, where job seekers can look for work in their own country and another European in a free platform that enables job interviews via video call, help with moving to the country to which the job requires (residence and flight), language studies, conversion of relevant certificates and more. According to the EURES website (as of 12.12.2019), there are 2,191,759 jobs and 3,658,553 job seekers who apply for jobs. According to these numbers, almost 60% can be applied for, but still, there will be around 40% without job placement.  
Of course, not all jobseekers will be employee and these numbers are based only on the jobseekers registered for the system, for the jobs listed there. Therefore, I will refer to the figure of the OECD unemployment rate which stands on 6.3% in the EU unemployment ([The European Job Mobility Portal](#EURES)).

In China, the unemployment index stands at 3.61% (2019) and by in early 1990, the Chinese government began its efforts to introduce labor market enforcement and standardization policies that strengthen and assist businesses in employee's search, placement, and their adjustment. China has developed a strong information system infrastructure (The Hùkǒu System that is a population registry system that contains all human information) in which jobseekers can help and assess their suitability for the roles they wish to enlist.  
In 1999, the Chinese government called to her all social sectors to adopt and use this system and pay attention to the school certificates and others that are in it to increase the ability and employment prospects ([Yan DI](#Yan_DI_China)).

The Japanese unemployment rate is 2.3% in the OECD. The starting point for unemployed in Japan is that they do not have the right to unemployment benefit or who have lost their eligibility, there is a very strong incentive to find work. In this specific situation, the Japanese Employment Service does not have to put a great deal of effort into running job placement programs because the unemployed have strong work incentives. As a result, these efforts in Japan, as measured by public spending efforts on placement policies, are relatively small. In 2011, Japan spent less than 0.3% of GDP (gross domestic product) on placement policies, less than half the OECD average ([Martin 2014](#Martin_2014)).

Crost ([Crost, 2016](#Benjamin_Crost_2016)) analyzed the effect of a type of workfare program, Germany’s "Arbeitsbeschaffungsmaßnahmen" (ABM), on life satisfaction. Previous studies have found evidence that participation in ABM reduces the probability of finding employment in regular jobs, at least for some groups (Hujer et al., 2004; Caliendo et al., 2008), so that the program’s long-term employment effects could offset the positive short-term effect on subjective well-being. Still, the current paper’s findings have important policy implications, suggesting that jobs created by active labor market policies can at least partly offset the negative effects of unemployment on subjective well-being.

Participation in active labor market programs (ALMPs) is mandatory for all unemployed persons in Denmark, who receive unemployment benefits, and who have been unemployed for more than 12 months. A large literature has analyzed the effect of ALMPs on the unemployed person’s reemployment probabilities and subsequent earnings, and hence of the probability that the programs prevent the unemployed from falling into poverty ([Andersen, 2011](#Signe_Hald_Andersen_2011))‎.

The United States runs a considerable number of employment and training programs, spanning many government agencies. Although those run solely by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) are relatively small, the plethora of programs create considerable administrative burdens for Public Employment Service (PES) staff. One of them is the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The goal of JTPA is to ensure that the types of training offered to job seekers reflect the needs of the local area. They must also meet detailed federal requirements on program intake, encompassing criteria such as income and age. The programs appear well targeted at their intended groups. Evaluation evidence on the impact of the JTPA is decidedly mixed. Classroom training does not appear to help any target group, i.e. men, women, or youths. Although on-the-job training does appear effective for men, and particularly women, it only assists a relatively small number of individuals, and it is unlikely that it can be expanded greatly without some deleterious labor market effects setting in. Unfortunately, the reasons behind the overall lack of success for JTPA remain unclear. More research is needed in this area to update these finding ([Head of Publications Service, 2000 OECD](#Head_of_Publications_Service_2000)). The statistical data on the "workers" seems to indicate that factors such as age, sex, race, lack of education, and length of unemployment do not significantly affect placement rates ([The United States Congress House Committee on Education and Labor, 1979](#Book_1979)).

In January 2012, Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) began conducting its Labor Force Survey under new guidelines. Among the Jewish population (men and women) the new survey did not result in a markedly different reported unemployment rate. In the Arab population, however, there was a dramatic hike in the unemployment figures: roughly doubling the previous rate among men and tripling it among women. This rise also implies an increase in the national unemployment rate ([Taub Center Staff, 2012](#Taub_Center_Staff_2012)).A close look at the unemployment data reveals that unemployment is severe not only in the Arab and Jewish sectors overall but also in all the gender, age, education, and geographical groups. In groups that generally show high unemployment, the structural component of increased joblessness can be explained; but for Arabs, the data were just the opposite of what would be expected according to this argument: that is, despite the decline in the labor-force participation rate of groups with high unemployment, during the same period the average total unemployment rate increased. In recent years there has been a dramatic change in the sectoral (Jewish-Arab), gender, age, and education composition of the Israeli labor force ([Miaari, 2008](#Miaari_2008)).

Israel, like the rest of the world, has established the "employment service" a government organization that will serve the public and operating directly with the National Insurance Institute (NII). Following the establishment, searches for a master plan that would constitute an initial milestone began, and indeed it did. In 2004, Israel established a program called the "From Income Guarantee to Secured Employment" (FIGSE), which operated until 2007. FIGS was like the United State program called the "Personal Responsibility Law and Employment Opportunities Law" or the well-known "Wisconsin Plan". The Israeli main aim of the program was to convert some of the people living in poverty from relying on NII benefits to the labor market. The FIGSE program for one of the Israeli government's flagship programs in dealing with poverty and adversity. However, even before it was activated, in the long discussions about its characteristics, it became a target of severe criticism by political parties, social organizations, and a portion of the target population. Following the many criticisms of the program, the program was closed and Israel is currently working on several levels to eradicate the phenomenon of unemployment and among them, in the employment service several programs have been established and those programs provide tools for placing job seekers in the labor market. Some of the programs are targeted to more orthodox men or orthodox women, some for both genders with no emphasis on the orthodox community, some to secular people, and some to a variety of people ([Benish, 2006](#Avishai_Benish_Wisconsin)).

How the implementation programs are implemented in countries like Portugal and Denmark are very similar to the Israeli programs, the emphasis is on give the job seeker real tools or courses that provide skills to find and to place them self's to jobs, the participation is mandatory otherwise the government funding will stop. Like Europe, Israel provides a job search platform only to IES registered users. The Japanese don’t have unemployment benefits and force the jobseeker to find a job in any way, something that most of the world doesn’t believe in. Any program has her pros and cons, some have succeeded more than others, and some have failed or not reach their accomplishment due to diverse causes. Without them, unemployment among society would have a greater impact the humanity.