

Personal budget for long-term unemployed

CHANGE! Good practice factsheet

Image/photo of good practice/initiative



Description of the good practice /initiative: history, activities, number of involved people, territorial scope, current scale, future plans, impact and benefits (**Max. 400 words**)

What would happen if long-term unemployed were allowed to decide for themselves what at least some of the money, that is spent every year to prepare them for the labour market, should be used for?

The municipality of Aarhus has decided to find out and, in collaboration with the Social Development Center and the Velux Foundation, it has initiated a development project which has made it financially possible to give long-term unemployed a cash grant of up to DKK 50,000 (approx. € 6700). The recipient is personally responsible for how and for what the money is spent.

The citizens are experts in their own lives. Therefore, it makes sense that they have a greater influence on the content of the effort that the municipal job-center offers. There will be no free choice, because there will always be formal requirements that we must meet. But when you are met with confidence and equal cooperation, it will reinforce the commitment, energy and self-esteem. The individual becomes the driving force in his own job performance and the expectation is that it will increase the chances of finding back to work.

Brief description of how the specific local public service has been challenged (with figures, if possible)

The personal consequences of long-term unemployment is serious. Long-term unemployed are at greater risk for social isolation, shame, depression, substance abuse and suicidal behavior.

The target group is job-ready who have been unemployed for at least 12 months and are aged 30-55 years. There are currently 375 citizens of Aarhus in this category.

Role of the municipality within the process (e.g. how the municipality facilitates or coordinates the process to systematise/upscale a civic initiative)

Through experiments, the project will test entirely new ways of and approaches to designing new solutions for “old” problems. The project wants to challenge the existing legislation and – if the project delivers good results – it could influence and change the national development of policies of employment. This social innovation process may lead to sustainable change (CHANGE!) of practices in the municipality of Aarhus, spreading to other municipalities.

Key attributes (success factors) enabling (municipal) staff to implement the project successfully

The objective is to make way for a much wider range of options than is possible with traditional welfare benefits and allow the citizen the possibility of self-ownership and -management. The overall goal is to establish a new culture of dialogue in the occupation-targeted collaboration between citizen and municipality.

Links to website for further information on the good practice/initiative and recommendation to a specific partner

<http://www.sus.dk/nyheder/langtidsledige-tager-teten-i-aarhus/>



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social design of public services