



A Traineeship as a Springboard out of UNemployment for those Affected by Mental Illness

MONTHLY REPORT

October 2019

The TSUNAMI project aims to provide solid evidence on the effectiveness of an active labour market policy targeted at unemployed with mental illness. People participating in TSUNAMI are provided with a complex series of services, which last up to 11 months, mainly based on job coaching and the activation of internships. In order to estimate the impact of the intervention we conduct a randomized controlled trial in Piemonte region, in the north west of Italy. The potential beneficiaries (unemployed enrolling at regional Public Employment Service offices) are randomly split in a treated group and a control group. Impact estimates will be yielded comparing the employment outcomes of the two groups.

The inflow of potential beneficiaries

The RCT is based on sites randomization: the region is divided in 31 sites, each one managed by a different PES office (except the city of Torino, which have only one PES office and has been divided in two equal parts). Every site has been randomly assigned to one group. The recruitment phase started in February 2017 and ended in January 2019, involving unemployed who enrolled at PES between November 2016 and December 2018: 851 unemployed were assigned to the experimental group, 735 to the control group. Table 1 and Table 2 illustrates their main characteristics.

Table 1. Unemployed enrolled at PES offices
Nov 2016 – December 2018

Experimental group		Control group	
Site	N	Site	N
Alba	88	Acqui Terme	11
Asti	76	Alessandria	59
Borgosesia	32	Biella	25
Casale Monferrato	34	Borgomanero	60
Chivasso	27	Chieri	29
Ciriè	25	Cuneo	47
Ivrea	25	Cuornè	16
Novara	60	Fossano	34
Novi ligure	12	Moncalieri	82
Orbassano	30	Mondovì	19
Rivoli	64	Omegna	27
Saluzzo	22	Pinerolo	42
Torino nord	276	Settimo Torinese	40
Tortona	38	Susa	21
Vercelli	42	Torino sud	198
		Venaria	25
Total	851	Total	735

Table 2. Main characteristics of the groups

	Experimental group	Control group
Age (avg)	38.5	38.4
Foreign born	6.3%	5.3%
Women	41.4%	41.9%
High school degree	33.4%	36.7%
Reduced work capability* (avg)	68.1%	69.8%
Had a job in the previous 12 months	58.3%	60.1%

*The “reduced work capability” rate varies between 0% and 100%. Unemployed with a certified disability must have a reduced work capability of at least 46%.

Enrolment and participation

Unemployed belonging to the experimental group are contacted by the job coaches and are offered to participate in the project. The take up rate is 51%. 433 people have accepted the offer to participate (Table 3). As regards non participation, it is due to two main reasons:

- many people assigned to the experimental group, although claiming to be unemployed at PES registration, do not accept to participate in the project;
- a non-negligible portion of people is considered non employable by the job coaches.

Table 3. Participation status of eligible unemployed

Participants	433
Non participants	418
<i>Already employed/doing a traineeship</i>	63
<i>Engaged in other activities</i>	41
<i>Not employable</i>	97
<i>Not interested</i>	134
<i>Other reasons</i>	83
Total	851

For those accepting to participate, the intervention is divided in four subsequent phases, from the welcoming phase to the support to job search, and can last between 3 and 11 months. The main phase is the traineeship, which should last between 3 and 6 months. Since people are taken in charge a few days after the enrolment at PES office (except for people enrolling in the very first months, for whom the intervention has begun on March), the current status varies from cohort to cohort. Table 4 summarizes the intervention phase in which people from different cohorts are currently involved.

Table 4. Current status of participants

Enrolment month	Current phase	Status		
		Completed	Ongoing	Drop out
Nov 2016 - Aug 2018	project completed	81	0	279
Sep - Dec 2018	4 - Support to job search	9	6	58