

## **Towards**

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## **Personal Data**

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## **Title of the project:**

Labour Market during Crisis: Questioning the “German Model”

## **Summary of the project (1000 characters)**

The aim of this research is to challenge the mainstream narrative of a German ‘job miracle’ during the 2008 financial crisis. It will attempt to highlight the potential policy traps in the neoliberal model of an efficient high employment labour market regime. The research study will analyse the historical evolution of the German labour market reforms and focus both on the strength and the weakness of the German experience. The project aims to go beyond the labour market performance and shall include macroeconomic perspectives to take a closer look at the employment structure in Germany, low-wage sector boom and social costs of the alleged ‘job miracle’. The proposed research shall also draw a comparative study from the perspectives of Esping-Andersen’s welfare regime typology of welfare capitalism and attempt to find evidences of convergence from the continental-conservative model towards the liberal model of increased flexibility and low levels of work security. For this purpose, the research will further compare the German experience with the French case. In methodological terms the research aims to employ socio-economic and interdisciplinary approach. It will make the use of institutional economics and applied economics with a comparative approach to study the labour market evolution. The research will go beyond the labour market analysis to understand the issue of unemployment during the crisis. It shall include macroeconomic performances to take a closer look at the employment structure in Germany, low-wage sector boom and social consequences (in form of rising incidence of poverty and wage inequality) of the Hartz reforms. The selection of France as the other case study country will be used to develop a comparative approach to their institutional setup and to ascertain the presence of shift from the coordinated market towards liberal markets in form of increased labour flexibility. It is particularly interesting to compare the labour market strategies implemented in these countries and determining whether one country has an ‘equivalent’ of the other’s strategies. The countries will also be compared on the incidence of growth in flexibility and marginal employment along with trends in income inequality and poverty. Such a comparative analysis will also take in to account the feasibility of ‘model borrowing’ among the countries in a larger context of European employment strategy.