



12<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities

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# Post-secondary vocational training courses: are they effective for Italian unemployed youth with high school diploma?

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## ***Policy intervention and target population***

The study ***is focused*** on ***'post-diploma' (PD)*** training courses targeted mainly to ***20-29 year old unemployed individuals with a high school degree (diploma)***

This segment of the array of the ***training programmes*** co-financed by ESF in Italy is relatively ***homogenous*** than any other segment

PD training courses are ***very intensive*** and have a strong focus on the acquisition specific job skills

So, ***they could reasonably have an effect on individual employability***



## ***Time coverage***

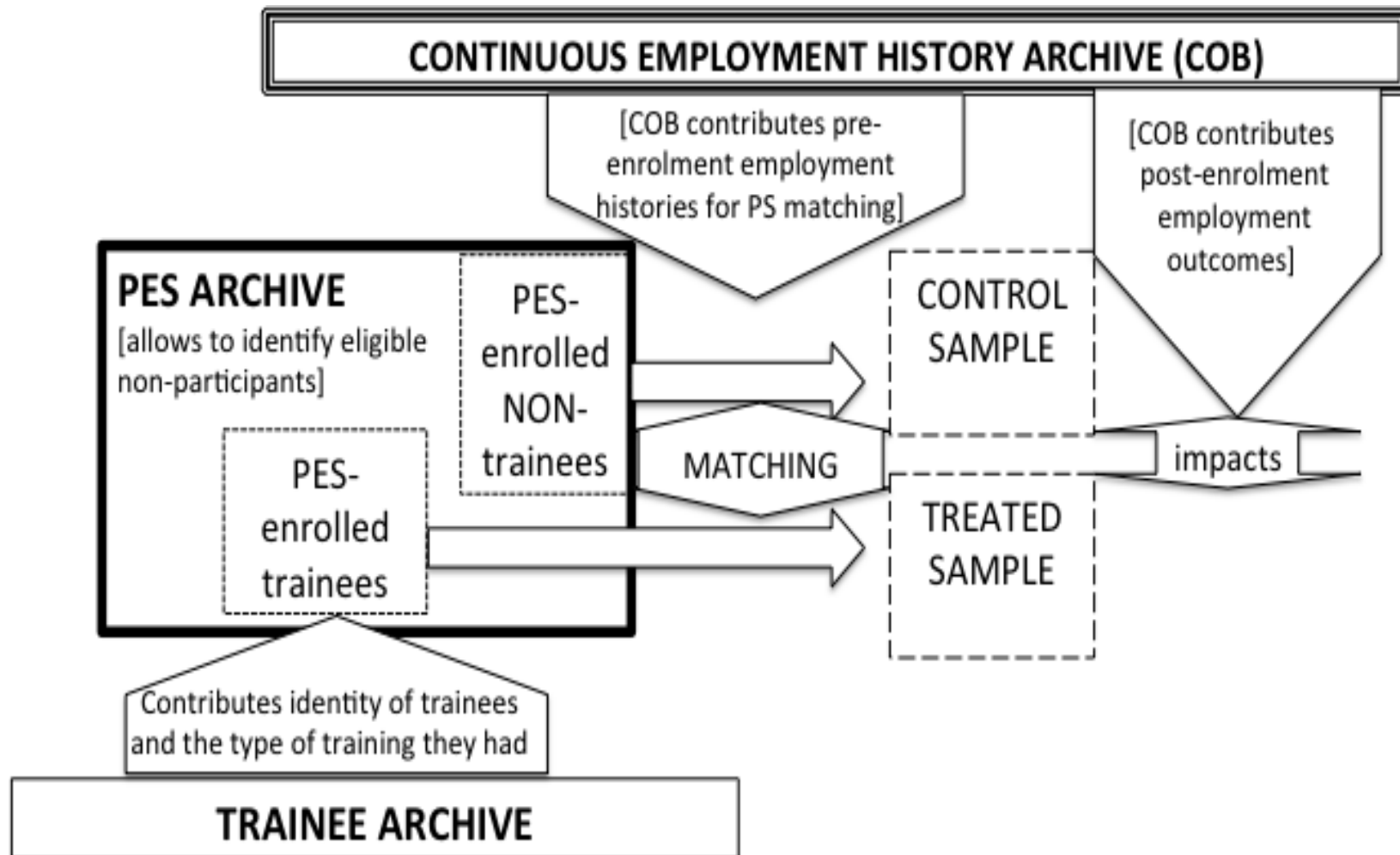
*Different from Region to Region, according to the differences in programming choices and availability of data*

*As an example, for Piedmont PD courses started between 2006 and 2011 were chosen (from two to seven years of coverage, outcome data being disposable until the end of 2013)*

*PD courses last from less than one to two years*  
***Lock-in effect*** (generally absorbed after at most two years)



## ***Data sources, accessibility and content***





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## ***Main advantages in using administrative data vs. survey data***

*Significant savings in the total **cost** of an  
evaluation project*

*Reduction of the **time** required to collect data*

***Information** on universes (not on samples)*



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## ***Timeline of the project***

*Beginning of the project:*

*October 2013*

*End of the project (diffusion of the final results):*

*November 2014*

*Data collection, data validation and data integration:*

*from October 2013 to April 2014*



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## ***Possible critical points to be tackled***

*Engagement of the Managing Authorities and of other components of the Regions*

*Accessibility to the Data*

*Quality of the Labour Market Data (better if the Region has a proper Labour Market Informational System and a Regional Employment Agency which used it)*



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## ***Our solutions to the critical points***

*Creation of four different **Local Working Groups***

*Commitment of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies to invite and to solicit Regions to give micro data to the research team*

*Cooperation with Regional Employment Agencies where possible*





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## ***Expected and reached results of the Italian Pilot Project***

For each Region we registered *increased awareness and knowledge* of:

- 1. counterfactual analysis ;*
- 2. micro data requirements to build up datasets suitable to counterfactual impact evaluation;*
- 3. limits of the actual informational systems on labour market and commitment to improve, and first of all, use them regularly*

*Enhanced capacity of the regional managers and officials to effectively participate in the process of evaluation and growing interest for the use of the results of impact evaluation*



## ***Preliminary impact estimates***

*In the aggregate (for the whole people treated) and for each of the Regions considered in the concluded evaluation exercises:*

- 1) **Significant and positive net effects** on individual employability*
- 2) Presence of a **lock-in effect** (during the months immediately after the beginning of the course the treatment group exhibits a lower probability of employment, but then a net positive effect on the probability of employment emerges)*

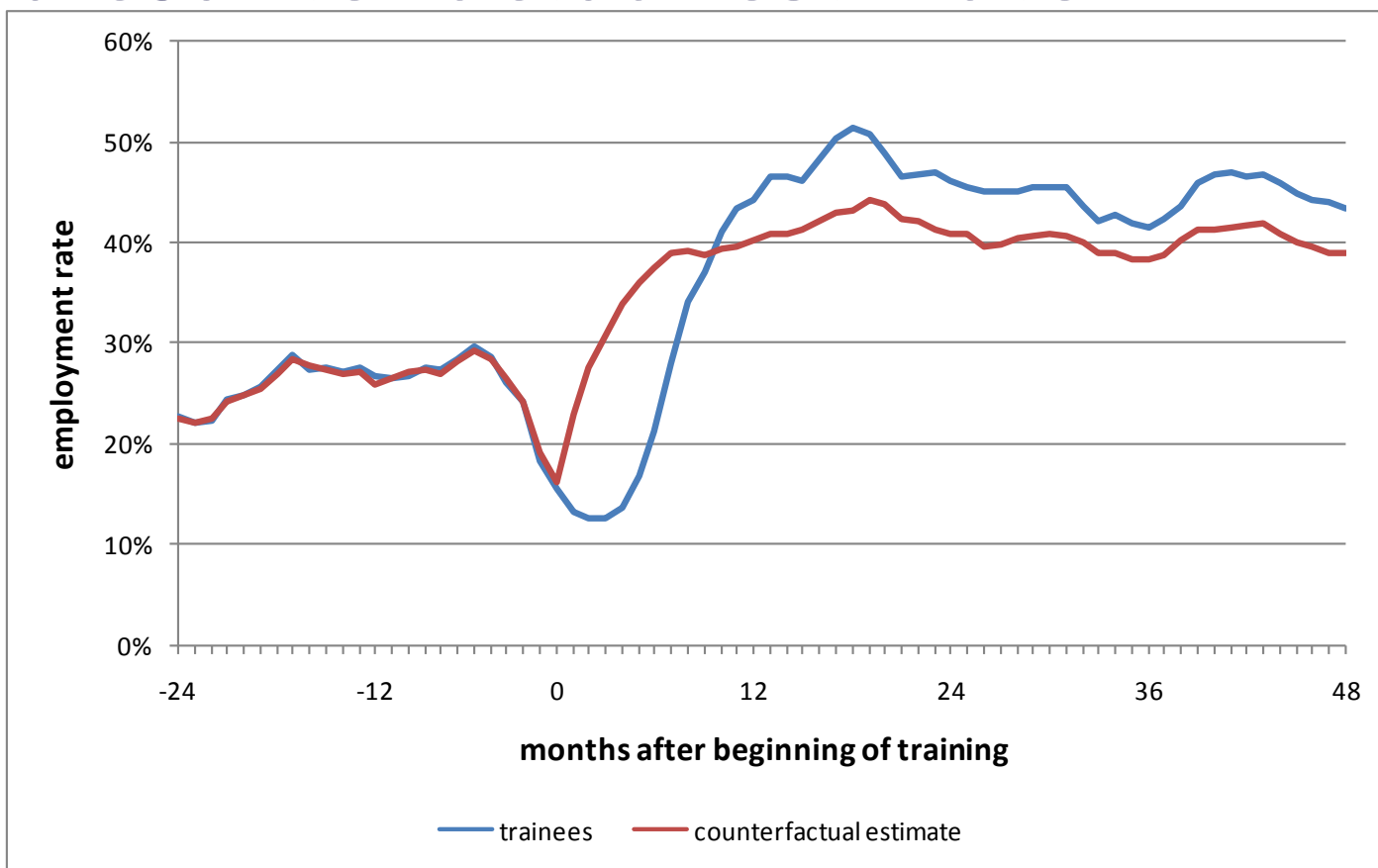


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## ***Piedmont - Trainees employment rate and counterfactual estimate***





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## ***Lessons learnt with the Pilot CIE***

*A good **evaluation design** is a **requirement prerequisite** for a good evaluation, but a clear **evaluation plan** and a **strong management** of the evaluation process are needed too.*

*Quality of evaluation is highly correlated to the quality of the disposable data. **Investment on data production** is a risky but possibly profitable activity.*