

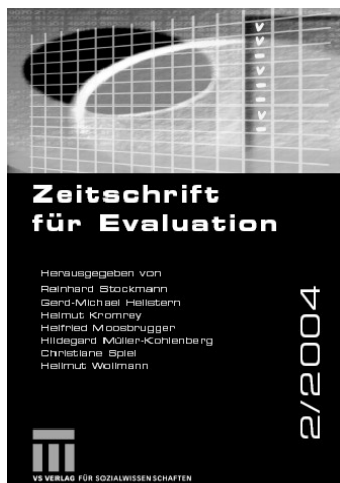
## Evaluation of Low Income Jobs and the Abolition of Unemployment Aid: Methodological Problems and Solutions

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### Abstract

The so-called Hartz Acts I-IV aim towards the reduction of unemployment spells. Just a couple of months after introduction policy-makers and the press have already reported success or failure of Hartz-instruments based on number counting or quotients. However, these judgements are premature. We use the examples of low-income jobs (so-called Mini- and Midijobs) as well as the merger of tax-financed unemployment aid with public assistance (so-called Arbeitslosengeld II) to show micro and macro evaluation problems and solutions. The notion of a well-defined control group turns out to be necessary to solve the fundamental evaluation problem. We summarize that Germany lags behind the international evaluation standard, so that a bill should be introduced to implement an annual report to the Parliament with respect to Active Labour Market Policy expenditures.



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