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Teaching Methods 105 : Integration policies for vulnerable social groups

Athens 2022

Employment policies: European strategy against unemployment

- I) Defining the problem in EU Context – Employment as a distinct policy issue
- II) Groups of concern (focus on the long –term unemployed)
- III) Statistics of unemployment for the period 2005-2018
- IV) Reaching Conclusions
- V) Finding and dealing with case studies for further understanding

Employment as a distinct policy issue

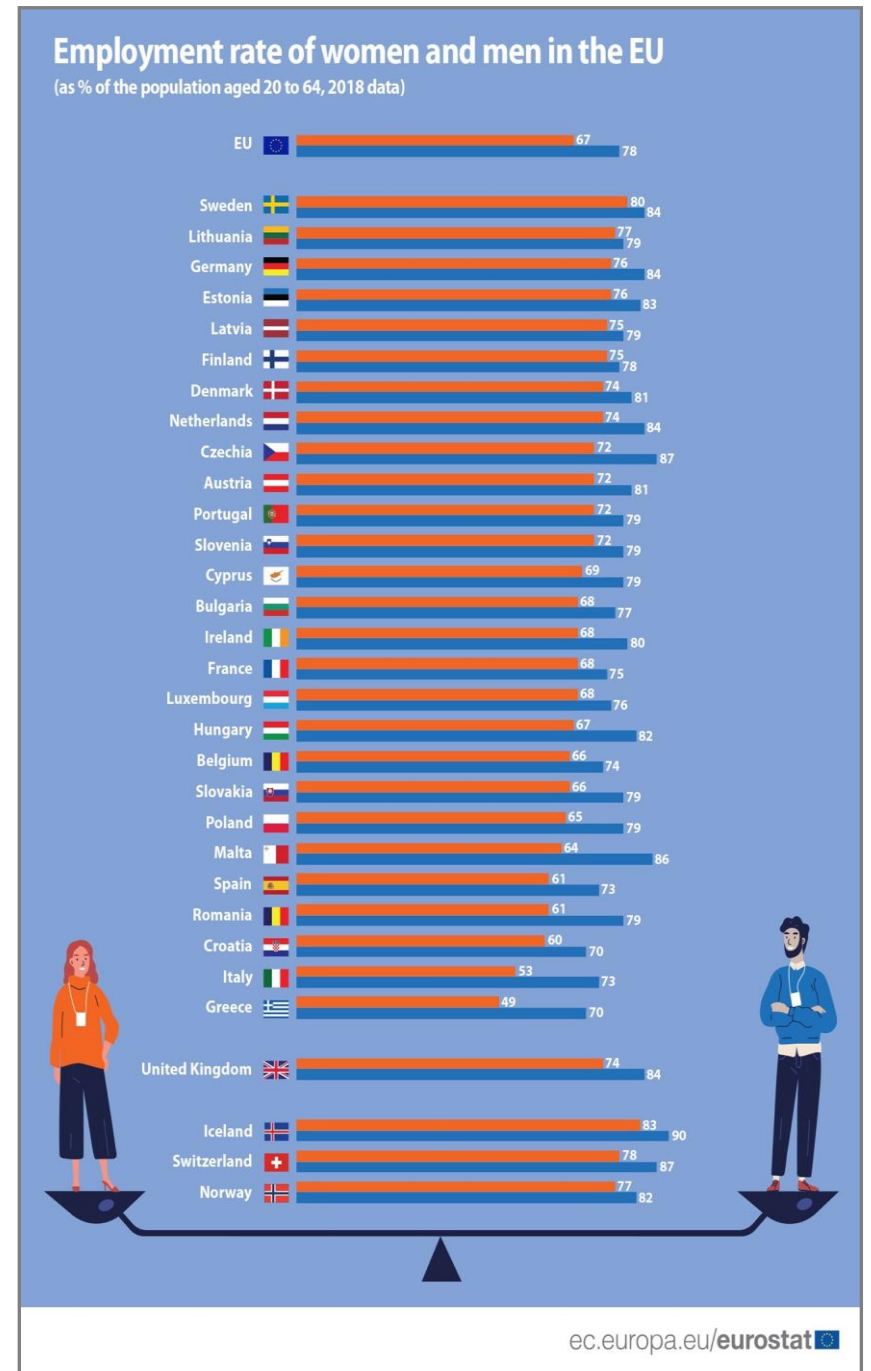
- Jacques Delors's White Paper on "Growth, Competitiveness and Employment" (COM, 93)
- Dec. 1994: Essen summit
- Jan. 1996: Jacques Santer's "Confidence Pact for Employment", "[...] an improved dialogue at all levels about unemployment."
- Oct. 1997: Amsterdam Treaty and the new Employment Title within it.
- Nov. 1997: Luxembourg Summit, launching of **European Employment Strategy**

Employment as a distinct policy issue

- Lisbon Summit, 2000: making the EU “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world”. Starting to set specific targets.
- 2003, 2005: Reviews of European Employment Strategy. The “Wim Kok Report” (2004) explains the lack of progress, identifying key areas where action was seen as urgent.
- 2010: “Europe 2020” Strategy.
- 2018: European Pillar of Social Rights.

Groups of concern

- Long-term unemployed (>12 months)
- Youth
- Women
- Ethnic/religious minorities, people with disabilities, elders, people who are not integrated in the society due to language issues e.t.c.



Long-term unemployment – outsiders (Blanchard & Summers, 1986)

The longer workers remain unemployed, the less attached they become to the labor market and the more difficult they achieve to find a job.

- Due to **cyclical** reasons (fluctuation of economy demand)
- Due to **structural** reasons (re-educating the labour force)

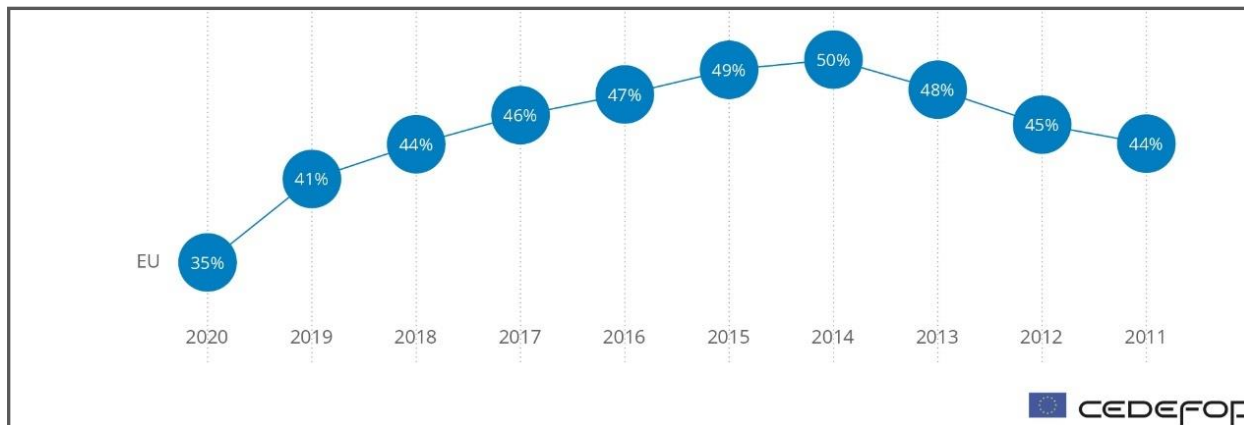
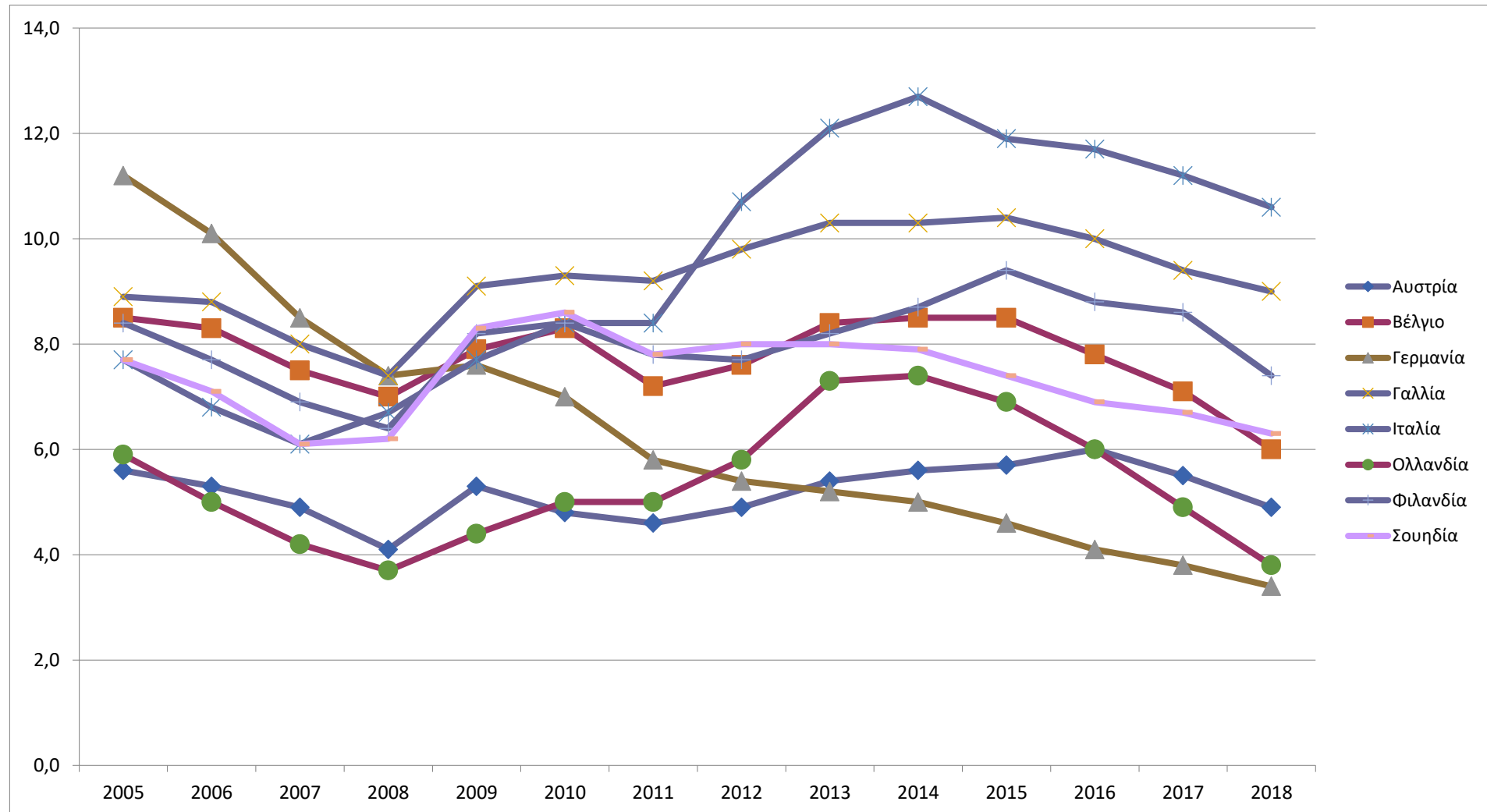
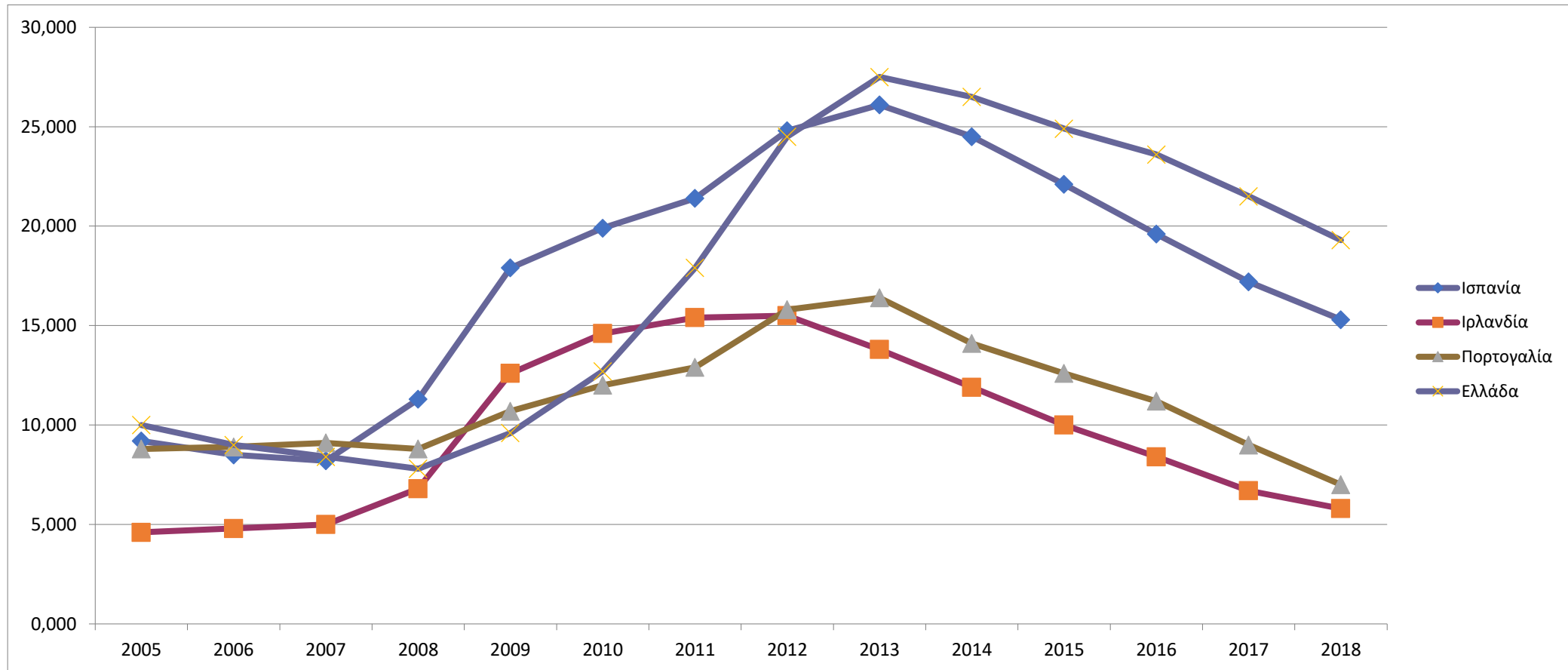


Figure 1: Development of long-term unemployment rate in EU

Statistics I: Percentage of unemployment 2005-2018 (Protopapas, 2022)



Statistics II: Percentage of unemployment 2005-2018 (Protopapas, 2022)



Indicative Questions (20 mins)

What do you notice in the above statistics? In what conclusions do you reach?

What these diagrammes depict about the employment policy in EU during the period chosen?

To what extent should one trust these numbers?

Are there any other questions that should be asked in order the full picture to be given?

Further Understanding (15 mins)

- Evaluate the five-year plan of **European Skills Agenda** as it is implemented across the Union.
- To what extent the **active labour market policies** are effective?
- To what extent the EU employment policy is related to the **EU integration procedure**?