Aurich, Patrizia; Graziano, Paolo and Zimmermann, Katharina: Stakeholder Participation and Policy Integration in Local Social and Employment Policies: Germany and Italy compared. Paper presented by Katharina Zimmermann at the PART\_WEL Conference; Pisa, 31.01.-01.02. 2013

Abstract: The majority of the European countries experienced a turn towards activation policies during the last decades. The interlinked aim to increase employment rates of groups formerly excluded from the labour market requires a closer link of training, family or social policies with employment policy. As a result of this we can observe modifications also in regards to policy governance, emphasising especially the role of the local level in implementing integrated activation policies. This paper aims at testing the hypothesis whether higher levels of stakeholder participation in the policy process lead to greater policy integration. In an explorative manner, the research hypothesis will be tested with reference to two most different cases of local activation policy. Driving factors for the differential impact of participation on policy integration will be identified through the analysis of two in-depth case-studies. A qualitative neo-institutional process tracing method is used in order to conduct our analysis.