

## Objectives 1

The benefits of such an integrated approach can clearly be seen in the relationship between institutional approaches to unemployment and the personal situation of unemployed youth. While we do have some insights into the effects of joblessness on the individual well-being and trust, these psychological dispositions are attributed primarily to joblessness. However, we know from research on the welfare state that the situation of the unemployed youth is shaped also quite clearly by the structure of the country-specific “welfare mix” in at least two ways. First, on the level of public policies, the situation of young unemployed depends on the particular social rights and duties specified herein. Second, on the level of policy-making or politics, their situation also depends on political debates and policy deliberations. If the situation of young jobless citizens leads to a diminished well-being and trust, and even worse to political apathy, radicalism, or xenophobia, then it becomes important to know whether these consequences of unemployment are diminished or reinforced by labour market and social policies as well as by political debates. Which effects do the contemporary policy reforms have on the attitudinal and behavioural level of the youth joblessness? Are there significant differences among European member states that allow us to detect improvements or aggravations? These issues are often dealt with in political debates, above all in regard to the question whether the current developments are damaging social cohesion. However, thus far such debates are based on poor evidence due to the lack of systematic scientific research. The strongly specialized agendas of previous research have largely prevented scholars from addressing these pressing issues. A more integrated approach will enable us to provide insights that are of value to policy-makers at the national and European level.