Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Die Forschungseinrichtung der Bundesagentur für Arbeit

IAB

IAB-Colloquium

zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Einladung 4/2010

New Developments in Work Sharing during the Global Jobs Crisis

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Work sharing (also known an "short-time work" and as "partial" or "temporary" unemployment) is a labour market instrument based on the reduction of working time that is intended to spread a reduced volume of work over the same (or a similar) number of workers in order to avoid layoffs. Work sharing programmes had already been implemented in used in a number of developed countries prior to the onset of the crisis, such as Austria, Canada, France, and most prominently, Germany. However, in the context of the global jobs crisis, many of these existing work sharing programmes have been revised and substantially expanded. Moreover, as job preservation became a top priority around the world in response to the crisis, a number of middle-income developing countries now have—for the first-time ever—discussed, negotiated, and implemented some basic forms of work sharing as well. This presentation will review the dramatic expansion of work sharing which took place during 2009, and consider the potential implications for the future of working time and employment policies.

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