Effect Heterogeneity in Swiss Job Search Programmes: A Principled Approach

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We systematically investigate the effect heterogeneity of job search programmes for unemployed, which are part of the Swiss Active Labour Market Policy. The analysis is based on rich data coming from the Swiss social insurance system. We combine recently developed Lasso-type estimators from machine learning to detect such heterogeneities with inverse probability weighting to correct for selective participation in the programme. We find that while there are no systematic effect heterogeneities after about one year, the so-called lock-in effect (close to the beginning of the programme) shows considerable heterogeneities. In line with previous results in the literature, unemployed with a priori lower employability suffer much less from the lock-in effect than unemployed with better employment chances.