Oldie but Goldie – Getting Older Unemployed back into Work

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In recent years, the labor force participation of older workers has increased. However, older unemployed workers still face serve difficulties in reentering the labor market. We analyze a local labor market program implemented by a German employment agency in 2011. The aim of this program was to increase the employment chances of older unemployed workers by different marketing campaigns emphasizing the value of older workers. These marketing campaigns should help to fight against negative age stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes of firms towards older workers. To analyze the effects of the program on the employment chances of older workers, we use register data of the German Federal Employment Agency and apply a difference-in-differences approach. Our results indicate that the program increased the employment probability of older workers.