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The European Union as a Virtual Learning Forum for National Labour Market Policy? - Comments on a 'Late Vocation' Field of European Governance

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Recent reforms on the EU level led to a "Joint Employment Policy" which is characterised by a "soft governance" approach and the intention to promote institutional learning processes by benchmarking rules. Based on an economic-evolutionary, thus process-oriented, model of institutional learning, the success of this strategy can be assessed. The investigation leads to the identification of a need to redefine the function of EU institutions in a globalised world, and ends up with some remarks on possible reform options.

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