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Titolo: *Unemployment benefit generosity and job quality: searching for evidence from the institutional change introduced by the Monti-Fornero labour market reform*

The research proposal addresses the ongoing debate on the effects of unemployment insurance on job quality. Indeed, while it is established that increasing the generosity of the subsidy extends the duration of the unemployment and non-employment spells, the evidence about the effects on the quality of the subsequent jobs is mixed. Recent studies show that there is in fact a negative relationship between the duration effects and the effects of the benefit on job quality. The law 92/2012 ("Legge Fornero") provides an opportunity to study the effects of increasing the level of the benefit on the duration of the unemployment spell and on the subsequent job quality. Indeed, the gradual introduction of the "Assicurazione Sociale per l'Impiego" (ASPI), replacing the previous "Indennità di Disoccupazione Ordinaria a Requisiti Normali" (IDORN), offers for a limited time period (until august 2013) a quasi-experimental setting, where an increase in the replacement rate from 60% to 75% was enacted, other conditions remaining essentially unchanged for the group of workers already entitled to the IDORN. Also, the reform did not remove the pre-existing benefit ceilings, which remained, as before, defined on the basis of the consumer price index computed yearly by the ISTAT. Such a policy discontinuity and the kinks implied by the regulation offer multiple opportunities to estimate the causal effect of a change in the benefit level on a set of labour market outcomes. The main options will be discussed. Beyond the effect of greater benefit generosity on non-employment spell duration, tenure and wage changes, the research project intends to consider job quality outcomes that may be of relevance in the rigid Italian labour market, primarily job safety, and to compare the duration effects with the effects on job quality for different subgroups.