



# Randomized controlled trials in Denmark – experimentation in action, May 18, 2011

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## Agenda

1. Randomized controlled trials – what and why
2. The randomized controlled trials in Denmark
3. How to do a controlled trial
4. How do we use the new knowledge?
5. Results



# 1. Randomized controlled trials - What and Why

## Our strategy

- We continuously work to increase our knowledge about what works
  1. *"It must work"*
  2. *"It should be legal and financed"*





# 1. Randomized controlled trials - What and Why

**Sources to increase our knowledge about what works:**

- Randomized controlled trials (RCT)
- A Knowledge Bank





# 1. Randomized controlled trials

## - What and Why – the short version

### What is it?

- The treatment group get the 'special' treatment
- The control group get the regular effort
- Effort is registered in both groups
- The trial is founded by law
- External evaluation

### Why?

- To measure what works (best way to measure counterfactuals)



# 1. Randomized controlled trials

## What and Why

<b>From: Small projects</b>	<b>To: Controlled trials in large scale</b>
We get some information about what works	We are more sure about what works
The outcome could be the results from a very motivated caseworker	Input and outcome is linked and cost-effectiveness is measured
Weak foundation for spreading the new knowledge	More solid foundation for spreading the knowledge



## 2. Randomized controlled trials in Denmark

- **We have completed and evaluated 4 controlled trials:**
  - Project 'Hurtigt i gang 1'
  - Project 'Hurtigt i gang 2'
  - Project 'Alle i gang'
  - Project 'Aktive – Hurtigere tilbage'
  
- **1 trial is completed and is being evaluated:**
  - Project 'Unge – Godt i gang'
  
- **1 trial is running:**
  - Project 'På rette vej – i job'
  
- **1 trial is being developed:**
  - Project for academics



### 3. How to do a controlled trial

We have developed a 'cook book' in how to do a randomized controlled trial

#### *A) The planning phase*

- Define the target groups
- Describe the hypothesis about what we think works
- Define the outcome goals
- Give a clear description of the effort to the treatment group and the consequences of not taking part in the treatment





### 3. How to do a controlled trial

- Give a clear description of the ‘normal’ effort today (the effort that is being given to the control group)
- Make sure that it is ok to do the trial – make an executive order - the law enables us to give a particular effort to a randomly selected group in a short period of time
- Make sure the effort is able to be registered (to follow the implementation and to evaluate the trial)



### **3. How to do a controlled trial**

- Select the treatment group and control group randomly
- Choose a large number of job centres (PES), small and large, geographical spread (to ensure results are not geographically specific)



### 3. How to do a controlled trial

*B) How to ensure that the trial is being implemented?*

- Do a pilot before the trial (test phase)
- Follow the implementation closely during the trial
- Quantitative implementation goals
- Dialogue



### 3. How to do a controlled trial

#### C) *Evaluation phase*

- External evaluators
- Quantitative and qualitative evaluations
- A mid term evaluation and a final evaluation
- Do a follow up evaluation a few years later



## 4. How do we use the new knowledge?

- New legislation
- Campaigns
- Dialogue
- New knowledge leads to new questions...



## 5. Results

**Over to Michael...**

