Transcending marginalization: The mobilization of the unemployed in France, Germany, and Italy in a comparative perspective

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Being unemployed in France is not a bad place to be. But how does it compare to elsewhere? Photo: AFP. Joshua Melvin. The minimum in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands is six months and you must work for a year in Germany, Denmark, Italy or Belgium before you can get unemployment cheques. Only Sweden and Finland are less demanding of workers seeking benefits, requiring three and four months of work, respectively. Top Tips if you end up being unemployed in France. In France the four-month minimum is a relatively new standard that can be traced back to 2009. That year union leaders managed to convince the government to drop the eligibility requirement from the long-time minimum of six months.