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Solvay Brussels School
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BBS

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ELISABETH LEDUC
**"TRAINING JOBSEEKERS TO FILL
UNDERSTAFFED JOBS: AN
EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON
INFORMATION BARRIERS"**

We conduct a large-scale field experiment in the labour market to investigate the role of information frictions in explaining why unemployed jobseekers do not retrain to fill understaffed occupations despite attractive training conditions. Individuals assigned to the treatment group of our experiment received information about the existence of shortage occupations and the availability and advantages of related training programs. Using survey and administrative data, we estimate the effect of the information treatment on perceptions about training programs in shortage occupations, the likelihood of enrolling and finishing such a training, and subsequent employment. Our findings show that the treatment email increased intentions to enrol in training by 4 percentage points. It also increased the relative importance jobseekers attributed to shortage occupations and training as efficient job search strategies.

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