Active welfare states have a mission: Making citizens self-sufficient via paid employment. In practice, this encompasses both enabling instruments such as training and intensive counselling, and demanding instruments such as job-search monitoring and sanctions. This study takes an inside look at three active welfare states: The Netherlands, Denmark and Great Britain. Based on extensive interview material, the book gives a detailed overview of how jobcentre caseworkers treat unemployed clients, co-build jobcentre organizations, and discursively justify their activation strategies. By showing how the practice of activation is systematically shaped by the wider policy environment, this book offers valuable insights for both researchers and practitioners dealing with active labour market policies.