

Tackling Unemployment in Europe through Social Inclusion and Training Programmes



Thursday 23rd February 2012

The Silken Berlaymont Hotel,
Brussels

"An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in promoting employment strategies and equality in the labour market in Europe"

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Overview

Eurostat estimates that approximately 23 million people in the EU-27 were unemployed in October 2011, an increase of 440,000 since October 2010 with the highest rates in Spain, Greece and Latvia, respectively. However, according to a review carried out by the European Commission, the EU labour market is recovering slowly and unevenly with the unemployment rate falling in twelve Member States, compared with a year ago. Long-term unemployment is one of the main concerns of policy makers. Apart from its financial and social effects on personal life, long-term unemployment negatively affects social cohesion and, ultimately, will stifle economic growth. Educational qualifications are still the best insurance against unemployment, and figures show that almost every Member State experienced upward trends in the general level of educational attainment in 2010.

Within the context of the European Employment Strategy, there are a number of measures that are designed to help encourage people to remain in work or find a new job, including: the promotion of a life-cycle to work, life-long learning, improving support for those seeking a job, as well as ensuring equal opportunities. In line with the *Europe 2020* Strategy, the European Employment Strategy seeks to create more and better jobs throughout the EU. The strategy provides a framework for EU countries to share information, discuss issues and coordinate their employment policies.

This special International Symposium provides a timely opportunity for stakeholders and civil societies across the EU to discuss the root challenges behind current unemployment trends, exchange best practices and consider mechanisms for overcoming existing employment gaps in the labour market. The Symposium will highlight some latest developments and initiatives for promoting social inclusion, better access to education and training and examine their contribution to building a sustainable lifestyle model for all European citizens.

“ The steep rise in joblessness across our Union is the most painful social symptom of this economic crisis. In particular, we hear the message of frustration and anger coming from young people. That is why I want our next country-specific recommendations to address the plight of young people in every one of our Member States. We will also continue to press hard for reforms to remove structural obstacles to employment. The roadmap we have presented ahead of the European Council also proposes growth-enhancing measures capable of creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs”

- José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, 17 October 2011

Venue and Accommodation

**The Silken Berlaymont Hotel,
11-19, Boulevard Charlemagne
1000 Brussels - Belgium**

Through our partnership with the Silken Berlaymont Hotel we are pleased to be able to offer our delegates specially negotiated accommodation rates. These discounted room rates are subject to availability and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



Why Attend?

- ✓ Explore how to enhance the role of the EU in reducing unemployment and boosting cohesion within member states
- ✓ Discuss market driven-skills and successful training modules for social inclusion in Europe
- ✓ Analyse ways to facilitate economic growth by fostering social protection
- ✓ Share best practices in social economy through intertwining innovation, social value and employment

Who Should Attend?

- Ministries of Employment and Social Affairs
- Social Services
- Employment Agencies
- Research Institutes
- Social Innovation Centres
- National Departments for Social and Family Affairs
- Lifelong Learning Institutes
- Social Advisers
- Active Aging Organisations
- Voluntary Organisations
- Local Authorities
- Employment and Social Inclusion Institutes
- Labour Economy Research Centres
- Labour Market Institutes
- Academics
- PhD Candidates
- European Social Organisational Science Consultancies
- European Employment Associations
- Social Partners
- Pension Organisations
- Associations of Social Enterprises
- Sheltered Employment and Labour Integration Organisations
- Physical and Social Rehabilitation Centres
- Disabled People's Rehabilitation and Employment Unions
- Vocational Training Centres
- Innovation and Personal Development Centres
- Special Employment Unions

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Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
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- 10:00** **Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Prof. Mike Campbell OBE, Professor in Economics, Durham Business School, UK; Former Director of Research and Policy, UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) (confirmed)
-
- 10:15** **Tackling Unemployment – Facilitating Economic Growth and Fostering Social Protection in Europe**
- Reducing Unemployment Through a Sustainable EU Market Policy
 - Removing Regulatory Barriers to Foster Better Social Protection at National Levels
 - Creating Sustainable Recovery Measures in Europe – Challenges and Opportunities
 - Latest Developments and Initiatives at EU Level
-
- 11:05** Morning Coffee Break
-
- 11:25** **First Round of Discussions**
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- 12:25** Networking Lunch
-
- 13:20** **The Social Economy – Combining Innovation, Social Value and Employment**
- Harnessing Social Exclusion: Employment Strategies and Social Economic Initiatives – Comparative Perspective
 - Strengthening Bottom-Up Creativity and Social Innovation
 - Boosting Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Sectors
 - Recommendations for the Future
-
- 14:15** **Second Round of Discussions**
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- 14:45** Afternoon Coffee Break
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- 14:50** **Workers' Skills vs. Demands in Europe – Challenges and Opportunities for the Future**
- Types of Employment and Skills Demanded by the European Market – Challenges and Opportunities
 - Sustainable Recovery and Structural Change in Europe
 - The EU's Strategy, Role and Priorities
 - Recommendations for Future Policy Actions
-
- 15:25** **Third Round of Discussions**
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- 15:55** **Chairman's Summary and Closing Comments**
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- 16:00** Networking Reception
-
- 16:30** Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice

Event Details

- Date:** Thursday 23rd February 2012
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: The Silken Berlaymont Hotel, Brussels



Speakers include

- ✓ **Mr. Egbert Holthuis**, Deputy Head of Unit, Social Protection, Social Inclusion Strategy, DG EMPL, European Commission (confirmed)
- ✓ **Prof. Adrian Sinfield PhD**, Professor Emeritus in Social Policy, University of Edinburgh, UK (confirmed)
- ✓ **Prof. Mike Campbell OBE**, Professor in Economics at Durham Business School, UK; Former Director of Research and Policy, UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) (confirmed)
- ✓ **Prof. Ides Nicaise**, Department of Education, University of Leuven, Belgium (tbc)

“**Job creation must go hand in hand with recovery. This is my priority. While increasing the pace of structural reforms, improving governance and reinforcing economic policy coordination, we also need to find the right balance between budgetary consolidation and policies that bolster growth and create jobs. As a part of this, we need to strengthen the social dialogue at all levels in every country**”

- László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion,
17 October 2011

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For further information please contact:

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