RECWOWE
Reconciling work and welfare in the EU
(2006-2011)

Job quality in the EU:
Salient issues and key challenges
OSE-NEUJOBS Round Table
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Call FP-Citizens-2004-2.1.1 Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society

Contract n° 028339
29 Partner Institutions
180 researchers
In 17 countries

EU Contribution: €4,000,000
Duration: 5 years
October 2006–October 2011
Objectives

• To create a European research network overcoming the fragmentation of existing research on work and welfare

• Analysing tensions between work and welfare: understanding them and looking for potential solutions

• Sharing new knowledge
Action 3: Quality and quantity of jobs
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- Changes in work quality and work orientations: a comparative and a normative perspective
- Working-poor in the EU
- Job quality and tensions between work and private life
- The Agency Gap: capabilities for worklife balance
- Professional progress of women in Europe: women on boards & executive posts in the EU
- Educational systems and quality of work
- Migrants: work and welfare
- Getting in touch with the social partners
Research results and policy recommendations

Quality of jobs in the EU: concept, data & debates

“More and better jobs” should not become a slogan devoid of meaning because of the present economic crisis.

In order to assess the impact of the crisis:

* Intensify the debate around which indicators should be selected and which efforts should be made to create more adequate data to analyse quality of employment.

* Fight back the focus on quantitative performance. Policies to promote employment should not be selected by their capacity to maximize the registers of indicators but rather by their ability to improve the situation of those citizens that can benefit from them.
Normative perspectives on quality of employment

The framework of social rights still remains incomplete at EU level.

*Establishing a catalogue of rights and freedoms, including the 4 universally acknowledged social rights listed in the ILO declaration.

*Necessity to review EES and OMC in line with the rights recognized at EU level. Rights must shape the way they are conceived through indicators and not the reverse.
In-work poverty in the EU

Present in all EU countries with varying ranges of intensity. Does not decrease even during positive economic cycles.

*IWP is not only a matter of low earnings, but also of: a) household composition, b) low work intensity (at individual and household level), and c) labour market and social protection institutional settings.

*Inequalities within the household reflect situations and potential risks of IWP significantly more important for women than for men.

*Migrants are also more at risk. *Policies should address the issue of “inherited deprivation” (second and third generation migrants).

*Make-work-pay policies generally have a limited effect on employment, but may reduce IWP.

*Activation policies seem to integrate the workless into non-standard employment rather than to reduce poverty: need to improve quality of jobs.
Thank you for your attention

Web site: http://www.recwowe.eu