“Unequal Europe”
A NEUJOBS brainstorming workshop
Thursday 22 January 2015

Invitation

In the past year, Friends of Europe – Les amis de l’Europe brought together a High-Level Group on Social Union under the chairmanship of Prof. Frank Vandenbroucke. Thirty or so senior experts from a range of professional backgrounds and political affiliations discussed the social challenges that confront the European Union, as well as the EU’s social policy options once a new Commission and Parliament are in place.

Some of the key themes that were addressed by the High-Level Group are closely related to those covered by the NEUJOBS (FP7) research project, which has undertaken extensive research on the long-run determinants of European labour markets, in view of the four major transitions that will impact employment: the socio-ecological and societal transitions, new territorial dynamics, and skills upgrading.

At the moment where the NEUJOBS project has delivered its final output and the High-Level Group is finalizing its own report, researchers, policymakers and EU as well as domestic stakeholders will exchange views during a by invitation only brainstorming workshop that will focus particularly on defining the EU social policy agenda for the coming five years. NEUJOBS invites you, as someone with a research or policy interest in these matters, to actively participate. The main questions that will be addressed at the workshop will include the following:

- What are the shared fundamental convictions, values and aspiration on which we can build a joint social agenda for Europe? What is the key criticism of social policy, and what does the empirical evidence tell us?
- What are the key social challenges Europe is facing, including the effectiveness and efficiency of social policy interventions; the education and skills agenda; the need for open labour markets?
- And what should and can be done to address the challenges: what is the role of social policy; which balance between ‘EU’ and ‘domestic’ responsibilities; how to establish links between a variety of policies; how to reinvigorate social and civic dialogue? Delivering on the ‘Social Investment’ and ‘social inclusion’ strategies; boosting mutual learning in social policymaking.

While drawing on NEUJOBS research, the workshop is intended primarily to be an opportunity for open discussion and exchanges of views between academic researchers and stakeholders about the relevant policy issues. For this reason, there will be only short, introductory presentations, intended to highlight the underlying policy dilemmas and to provoke debate. These will provide feedback on the High-Level Group’s Background Report (Vandenbroucke with Vanhercke, 2014), which will provide the main topics to be examined. Download the report here.
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Programme

12:15 Informal light lunch

1:15pm Welcome from Philippe Keraudren, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation and Giles Merritt, Friends of Europe and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Brief introduction to NEUJOBS (FP7) and the High-Level Group on Social Union

1:30pm Chair: Bart Vanhercke, European Social Observatory, NEUJOBS and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Session 1. The key social challenges Europe is facing: shared convictions and empirical evidence

Introduction by László Andor, Hertie School of Governance, former European Commissioner and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Initial 5 minute responses from:
- Anton Hemerijck, VU University Amsterdam and NEUJOBS
- Damian Grimshaw, Manchester Business School
- Attila Bartha, Central European University, Budapest and NEUJOBS

General discussion

2:45pm *** Refreshments Break ***

3:15pm Session 2. What should and can be done: Recommendations for a caring Europe

Introduction by Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Initial 5 minute responses from:
- Ruth Paserman, Cabinet of European Commissioner Marianne Thyssen
- Philippe Pochet, European Trade Union Institute
- Karina Ransby, Confederation of Danish Employers
- Connie Reuter, SOLIDAR and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

General discussion

4:45pm Messages from the workshop by Frank Vandenbroucke, Universities of Leuven Antwerp and Amsterdam and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

5:00pm End of workshop and refreshments
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List of confirmed participants

László Andor, Hertie School of Governance, former European Commissioner and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Attila Bartha, Central European University, Budapest

Pierre Baussand, Social Platform

Tom Bevers, Chair of the Employment Committee

Denis Bouget, European Social Observatory

Geert Cami, Friends of Europe and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Mary Collins, European Women’s Lobby

Philippe De Buck, former BusinessEurope and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Thomas Dominique, Chair of the Social Protection Committee

Werner Eichhorst, Institute for the Study of Labour, Bonn and NEUJOBS

Jacky Fayolle, Centre Etudes & Prospective chez Groupe ALPHA

Nathalie Furrer, Friends of Europe and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Damian Grimshaw, Manchester Business School

Michaela Gstrein, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna and NEUJOBS

Anton Hemerijck, VU University Amsterdam and NEUJOBS

Jeroen Jutte, European Commission, DG for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

Philippe Keraudren, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

Maciej Kucharczyk, AGE Platform

Ilaria Maselli, Centre for European Policy Studies and NEUJOBS

Giles Merritt, Friends of Europe and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

John Morley, Independent policy adviser and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Dominik Owczarek, Institute of Public Affairs, Warsaw

Ruth Paserman, Cabinet of European Commissioner Marianne Thyssen

Philippe Pochet, European Trade Union Institute

Monika Queisser, Social Policy Division, OECD

Karina Ransby, Confederation of Danish Employers

Connie Reuter, SOLIDAR and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union
Sebastiano Sabato, European Social Observatory

Rebekah Smith, Social Affairs Department, BUSINESSEUROPE

Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Jean-Yves Stenuick, Friends of Europe

Agnes Uhereczky, Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU (COFACE)

Frank Vandenbroucke, Universities of Leuven Antwerp and Amsterdam and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Bart Vanhercke, European Social Observatory, NEUJOBS and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Laurence Weerts, European Commission, DG for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

Jonathan Zeitlin, University of Amsterdam

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