

## OSE Newsletter 2 – November 2009

### /// FOREWORD

Coinciding with the publication of its second Newsletter, the European Social Observatory (OSE) launches its "OSE Paper series". This takes the form of three sets of publications, available in English or French. The **Research Papers** are intended to disseminate results of research by the OSE, associated researchers or colleagues from the OSE network. The **Briefing Papers** contain readily accessible and regular information on a variety of topics. The **Opinion Papers** consist of concise policy-oriented opinions.

The first issue of the new Series is a Research Paper on "Advocacy Groups in the Multilevel System of the European Union: a Case Study in Health Policy Making" by Nadia Carboni from the University of Bologna. The second is a Briefing Paper entitled: "De Nice à Lisbonne: incidences de l'"entre-deux" juridique sur le fonctionnement de l'Union européenne" by Cécile Barbier of the OSE.

Both papers shed light on two key issues currently on the EU agenda. Nadia Carboni's paper elaborates on the mechanism of lobbying the EU, based on a case study of EU pharmaceutical politics and policies, which are key aspects of the EU initiatives in the field of health care. The latter focuses on the key traits of the political and institutional transition (from the Nice Treaty to the Lisbon Treaty) in parallel with other key events of the last few months (EU elections and the new Barroso Commission) and their potential effects on the social dimension of Europe.

Happy reading!

David Natali, scientific Director  
Cécile Barbier, Researcher and coordinator of the OSE Paper Series

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### Publications Update

#### **Against the odds. The OMC as a selective amplifier for Reforming Belgian Pension Policies**

Contribution by Bart Vanhercke in the first Special Issue of the European Integration Online Papers (EIoP), edited by Sandra Kröger, on advances, pitfalls and remaining questions after a decade of OMC research.

[More info...](#)

#### **Self-Governance through the Committees in the Open Method of Co-ordination: The Cases of Employment and Social Inclusion**

Contribution by de la Porte, C., Natali, D. and Pochet, P. in "The Politics of Self-Governance" Sorensen, E. and Triantafillou, P., (eds.), 2009, Ashgate, Surrey, pp.187-209.

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## Activities

### **Interdisciplinary symposium at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (US)**

Rita Baeten gave a presentation on health governance in the EU to an interdisciplinary symposium at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (US) entitled "Smart Regulation: Can New Types of Governance Improve Health?" (on 9 October 2009).

[More info...](#)

### **Recent EU development with potential impact on health care**

Rita Baeten presented recent EU developments with a potential impact on health care to the management board of the Belgian National Institute for Health and Disease Insurance (RIZIV/INAMI) on 23 October 2009.

## News

### **SISP Prize for 'Pensions in Europe, European Pensions' by David Natali**

David Natali has won the SISP Prize awarded by the Italian Society of Political Science (SISP) for the Best Italian Book of Political Science in 2007/08.

[More info...](#)

## Forthcoming events

### **14 Dec. 2009 Les services sociaux d'intérêt général dans l'Union européenne**

The next "Midi de l'OSE" (OSE Lunch Session) will be organised on 14 December with Barbara Sak, co-author of a Study on Social and Health Services for General Interest in the European Union, prepared for DG Employment and Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission and published on its website in 2008.

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## Past events

### **13 Nov. 2009 Rôle et influence du Comité européen de la protection sociale : quel bilan à l'approche de la fin de la Stratégie de Lisbonne ?**

On the occasion of the relaunch of the "Midis de l'OSE" (OSE Lunch Sessions), Elise Willame, former chair of the Social Protection Committee shared her experience with friends of the OSE.

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### **9 Nov. 2009 Employer's recruitment decisions, Labour Market Disadvantage and Active Labour Market Policies**

In the framework of dissemination activities of the European Network of Excellence

on Reconciling Work and Welfare (RECWOWE), the OSE organised a public debate with a presentation by Giuliano Bonoli (Professor of Social Policy, Swiss Graduate School of Administration). Ides Nicaise, Professor at the Higher Institute for Labour Studies (HIVA, University of Leuven) acted as discussant.

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### **7 Oct. 2009 European Week of Regions and Cities**

As part of the 7th "European Week of Regions and Cities", the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the European Commission's DG Regio held an "Open Days University": a series of lectures and moderated panels with academics and researchers. Bart Vanhercke presented his feedback on the CoR's recent White Paper on Multilevel Governance during a workshop on "Multilevel Governance in the EU: New prospects for a European Union with its regions and cities".

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### **30 Sept. 2009 Monthly Forum of the ETUI**

Last month the ETUI organised a Forum in collaboration with the Belgian "Centre de recherche et d'information socio-politique" (CRISP) on "Better lawmaking: state of play and perspectives". Eric van den Abeele, Professor at the University of Mons-Hainaut and invited researcher at the OSE, was the keynote speaker.

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## **The OSE in European Networks**

### **Research project ETOS.be receives Quality Label**

After more than three years of intensive work between six Belgian, French and Dutch research teams, the research project "European tools for social policy in Belgium" (ETOS.be) has come to a happy ending with the assignment - by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office - of a Quality label for the European Social Observatory and its ETOS.be research partners. ETOS.be focuses on the impact of different EU policy instruments (European law, the European Social Fund and OMC) on Belgian employment, social inclusion and gender equality policies. Analyses of the Europeanisation of French and Dutch social policies were undertaken to put the main findings on Belgium in a comparative perspective.

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### **The New Welfare State in Europe**

A high-level conference on "The New Welfare State in Europe" will be held at the European University Institute of Florence on 10-11 December 2009. It will be co-chaired by Giuliano Bonoli and David Natali. This event is co-organised by the European University Institute of Florence, IDHEAP of Lausanne, the University of Bologna-Forli and the European Network of Excellence RECWOWE (Reconciling Work and Welfare).

[More info...](#)

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