

OSE Newsletter 5 – June 2010

/// FOREWORD

On Wednesday 19 May the European Social Observatory reinvented itself to a certain degree. Well over a hundred people gathered at the European Economic and Social Committee for the presentation of the 2009 issue of “Social developments in the European Union”. They included the OSE’s ‘traditional’ partners such as Belgian, Italian and European trade unions, but equally scholars and students of European integration from different Belgian and European universities and think tanks, a fine sample of civil servants and representatives of ministers for social affairs, employment and health, as well as from the Permanent Representations of several countries.

As new directors we cannot stress enough how valuable it is for the European Social Observatory to be continuously surrounded by such a large network of supporters, for the task ahead is immense. There is a severe economic crisis raging – the prospects for social Europe have rarely been so bleak – so we will have to rethink some of the EU policy instruments and objectives.

In such a context, providing critical analysis and tools for policymakers is even more necessary than before. This is also clear from the new publications referred to in this fifth issue of the Newsletter. A broad range of social and economic policies are at the core of our research effort. EU action in the field of health care, the stepping stones towards the launch of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the most recent events related to the Euro crisis and the EU financial services regulation are some of the issues analysed. Last but not least, “Social developments in the European Union 2009” provides a large overview of the key issues at the top of the European agenda. By bringing together the OSE’s research efforts, publications and events, this Newsletter illustrates our determination to shed light on the social dimension of Europe.

Bart Vanhercke and David Natali, Co-directors

Publications Update

Social developments in the European Union 2009

The OSE and European Trade Union Institute have just published the 2009 issue of “Social developments in the European Union”. It is a special issue in that it attempts to assess the impact of the financial and economic crisis on European social policies. Amongst the contributions that stand out, Sherle Schwenninger’s (New America Foundation) compares the way the United States and Europe have tried to absorb the social consequences of the crisis and Pierre Defraigne (Madariaga Foundation) discusses the role the EU should play in European and international financial regulation. Issues such as the future of pensions, employment, social exclusion and the European social dialogue are also tackled in this 2009 issue.

[More info...](#) [EN](#) | [FR](#)

Ose Paper Series

L'UE et les soins de santé : Développements politiques et juridiques de l'année 2009

Rita Baeten, Briefing Paper N°3, May 2010

De Lisbonne à Europe 2020 : une nouvelle direction pour la stratégie économique de l'Union européenne ?

Cécile Barbier, Briefing Paper N°2, April 2010

The «Old» and «New» Politics of the Financial Services Regulation in the EU

Lucia Quaglia, Research Paper N°2, April 2010

Vers le «gouvernement économique» de la zone euro : pour le meilleur ou pour le pire ?

Cécile Barbier, Opinion Paper N°2, April 2010

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The Role of the OECD and the EU in the Development of Labour Market Policy in the Czech Republic

Caroline de la Porte, JCER 5(4), 2010, pp. 539-556.

Caroline de la Porte, Associate Researcher at the OSE, published this article in a special issue of the Journal of Contemporary European Research on (the social dimension of) the enlargement of the single market.

[More info...](#) (JCER website: [Free download after login](#))

RECWOWE Network Newsletter

The latest issue of the RECWOWE (European Network of Excellence on Reconciling Work and Welfare) Newsletter opens with an interview with Dalila Ghailani and Ramón Peña-Casas. It provides an overview of the meetings organized by the network's Publication and Dialogue Centre (PUDIACwowe). All the forthcoming publications resulting from research within RECWOWE are also announced in this issue, while the European News section contains a special feature on the Europe 2020 strategy.

[More info...](#) (RECWOWE website)

Research activities

Ensuring an Adequate Pension in a European Context

Igor Guardiancich's in-depth country reports provide a detailed picture of the institutional and administrative structures and the information requirements of public and private retirement plans in Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The main focus of the ten reports, written at the request of DG Strategy and Research of the Belgian Federal Public Social Security Service, is the social adequacy of pension systems (both poverty alleviation and income maintenance objectives).

[More info...](#) [EN](#) | [FR](#)

Belgian Presidency of the EU 2010

The OSE organized two high-level seminars to support the future Belgian Presidency of the EU. During an 'Integrated Guidelines' seminar (19 April 2010) representatives of the Belgian Social Affairs Cabinet and SPC members exchanged views with a variety of experts (OSE, EAPN, academics, national administrations) on the different scenarios which could secure a role for the social OMC in the Europe 2020 Strategy. Another seminar (16 April 2010) brought together the 2001 Belgian Presidency 'Social Affairs Task Force', with a view to learning lessons for the forthcoming EU Presidency.

Women's Rights

At a request of DG Internal Policies of the European Parliament, Dalila Ghailani is currently drafting a briefing note on Gender Equality Policy in Belgium for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. The note will review the measures implemented by the Belgian authorities to address the six priorities identified in the "Roadmap for Equality between Women and Men 2006-2010".

[More info... Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality](#)

Forthcoming events

8 June 2010 Local and Regional Responses to Poverty and Social Exclusion

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) is organising an exchange of good practices and expertise with some 400 local and regional authorities, organisations and EU institutions. Bart Vanhercke will participate in the opening debate which will launch the CoR's Flagship Forum during the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

[More info... \(COR website\)](#)

16 June 2010 The Social Profit Sector between General Interest and the Market

The OSE, Kleis (Kennisnetwerk Sociaal Europa voor de Vlaamse socialprofitsector), VLEVA (Liaison Agency Flanders-Europe) and Pour la Solidarité are organizing a seminar (in Dutch) on the social profit sector, the application of European internal market rules and the services directive.

[More info... \(Website in Dutch\)](#)

2 July 2010 Understanding the Europeanisation of Domestic Welfare States

The European Network of Excellence on Reconciling Work and Welfare (RECWOWE) and the OSE in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions (CoR) are organising a seminar on "Understanding the Europeanisation of Domestic Welfare States: How does the EU affect national and regional social policies?". The Pudiac meeting seminar will be an opportunity to present the empirical results of the ETOS.be research and discuss questions such as: Can small member states influence EU level decision making (and if so, how)? What is the role of the EU in social affairs? How do policy instruments differ (law, policy coordination, European Social Fund)?

[More info... EN | FR](#) [ETOS.be Project... EN | FR](#)

21 September 2010 Decent Work

OSE Lunchtime Session with Mathias Maucher, Social Affairs coordinator, SOLIDAR (European network of NGOs working to advance social justice). The OSE Lunchtime Sessions (Midis de l'OSE) bring together the OSE team and their guests. A short presentation is followed by an informal debate.

Past events

Doing something about it: How member states influence EU health policymaking.

OSE Lunchtime Session on 3 June 2010 with [Scott L. Greer](#), Assistant Professor of Health Management and Policy, University of Michigan School of Public Health

[Download background paper... EN | FR](#)

The implications of the crisis for the labour market

During a conference organised on 4 and 5 May 2010 in Madrid by inter alia TURI (Trade Union-related Research Institutes) and the European Trade Union Institute on "The implications of the crisis for the labour market", the OSE organised a seminar on "Exchange of Research Agendas on the Crisis between the RECWOWE and TURI networks". Dalila Ghailani (OSE/RECWOWE) and Mariya Nikolova (ETUI/TURI) presented their respective network before giving the floor to Paolo Graziano, Wim Van Oorschot, Hans van den Broeck, Florence Lefresne and Kevin O'Kelly.

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Conference Social Developments

The OSE organised a well-attended conference marking the publication of "Social Developments in the European Union 2009" on 19 May 2010. Speakers such as Frank Vandenbroucke (former Belgian Minister for Social Affairs), Pierre Defraigne (former Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Lamy) and George Dassis (European Economic and Social Committee) presented their views on the Economic and Social Crisis and Europe's successes and failures in addressing it.

[Download presentations...](#) [EN](#) | [FR](#)

Seventeenth International Conference of the Council for European Studies (CES)

The OSE participated in the Seventeenth International Conference of the Council for European Studies ([CES](#)) held in Montreal from 15 to 17 April 2010. The CES – set up in 1970 - is an international academic network for the study of Europe. David Natali, Caroline de la Porte and Ramón Peña-Casas presented several papers and chaired various sessions. Ramón Peña-Casas also contributed to a seminar organised at the University of Montréal by the Centre de Recherche Interuniversitaire sur la Mondialisation et le Travail ([CRIMT](#)), a transnational research institute associated with the OSE.

[More info...](#) ([CES website](#)) [Program](#) (PDF)

The OSE in European Networks

Annual integration week, RECWOWE network, 8-12 June 2010

Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas and Anna Safuta will participate in the annual integration week of RECWOWE (European Network of Excellence on Reconciling Work and Welfare), to be held in Nantes from 8 to 12 June 2010. During the sessions which will discuss a forthcoming book on in-work poverty in Europe (co-written by Ramón Peña-Casas) Dalila Ghailani and Ramón Peña-Casas will present their chapter on the gender dimension of in-work poverty, while Anna Safuta will present her case study on in-work poverty in Poland. In another research area Dalila Ghailani and Ramón Peña-Casas will present their paper on the legal aspects of job quality in the EU.

On 10 June 2010, Dalila Ghailani will also present OSE activities and the EU gender equality framework at the Law and Political Sciences Faculty of the University of Nantes.

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Activities

"Social OMC Lab"

The Public Policy and Management Institute (PPMI, Lithuania) organised a "Social OMC Lab" on 19 May (Brussels) which discussed a model ('reference methodology') for measuring the effectiveness and impact of the Social OMC with a variety of national and European experts and stakeholders. Bart Vanhercke introduced the

debate by presenting a state of the art report on the literature regarding the effectiveness and impact of the Social (and other) OMCs.

[More info and Slides...](#) [EN](#) | [FR](#)

Is the European Union the Trojan Horse of National Healthcare Systems?

Bart Vanhercke was invited to be guest lecturer at the Centre for Sociological Research of the K.U.Leuven. On 5 May 2010, he spoke on the question, "Is the European Union the Trojan Horse of National Healthcare Systems?". On 11 May 2010, he offered a view on "Political Decision-Making in Belgium" from the insider point of view (as a former member of a ministerial cabinet).

[More info and Slides...](#) [EN](#) | [FR](#)



Social developments in the European Union 2009

Edited by Christophe Degryse
ETUI, OSE, Brussels, 2010.

This book, available in English and French, explores the social policy issues that featured on the European agenda during the past year. [More info...](#) [EN](#) | [FR](#)

Cécile Barbier, newsletter coordinator - Bart Vanhercke, responsible editor

OSE asbl 13, rue P.E. Janson 1050 Bruxelles tel :32-2-5371971 www.ose.be

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www.ose.be/newsletter**