

### /// FOREWORD

Last year was a challenging one for the OSE: the team underwent many changes and new projects and tasks were launched. What is more, 2010 was notable for the Belgian Presidency of the EU. Now that the year has ended, we can be satisfied (and grateful) for all that the team did: many of its activities have led to new publications, and its analyses have been used as inspiration by domestic and EU policymakers. Now, we can focus on what 2011 holds in store for us.

As the present issue shows, the team is fully involved in new projects: our healthcare experts are already active in the FP7 Project ECAB (Evaluating Care Across Borders); our employment policy analysts are finalising an edited book on in-work poverty (in the context of the FP6 Network of Excellence – RECOWE – Reconciling Work and Welfare). And one of the key publications resulting from the Belgian Presidency (Europe 2020: Towards a more social EU?) is now available. Moreover, new projects are getting under way on the monitoring of social coordination processes, the free movement of EU citizens and the coordination of pension schemes, as well as the analysis of socio-economic and ecological transitions of European labour markets (the latter through the new FP7 project, NEUJOBS).

The new year will put a lot of pressure on the social policy domain: the revision of the Stability and Growth Pact, and the full implementation of the new Europe 2020 Strategy will sorely test the still faltering social dimension of the EU, in a context of very limited economic recovery. All of this will challenge the capacity of policymakers to defend EU citizens in the face of social risks and economic uncertainty.

The OSE will be actively analysing both risks and opportunities while disseminating its expertise and knowledge. In that respect, a new tool has recently been activated: the first Digest on Social Europe has appeared in the Italian Journal of Social Policy. Thus a new collaboration has begun and will be developed in parallel with the Newsletters, the Working Paper series, the Lunchtime Sessions and the other tools we have at our disposal to promote greater social EU integration. We hope you will enjoy reading this edition.

David Natali and Bart Vanhercke, Co-directors

### Publications update

#### **Semestre européen ou Pacte de compétitivité : bonnet blanc et blanc bonnet ?**

Cécile Barbier, OSE Paper Series, Opinion Paper No. 4, March 2011.

This Opinion Paper (in French) contends that the drafting of a 'pact for competitiveness' among Eurozone economies presents a smokescreen meant to hide the scale of the challenges that result from reforming the Stability and Growth Pact.

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

## **Quelle « appropriation » de la nouvelle gouvernance économique européenne ?**

Cécile Barbier, OSE Paper Series, Briefing Paper No. 5, March 2011.

This briefing paper (In French) presents a critical summary of 20 years of European economic integration and argues that the alignment of the EU on a neo-liberal orthodoxy has not been translated into a legitimate socio-economic governance framework.

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

## **Forthcoming Book on In-Work Poverty in Europe**

As a result of the work carried out in the European Network of Excellence RECOWE (Reconciling Work and Welfare in Europe), Ramón Peña-Casas of the OSE is co-editing, with Neil Fraser of Edinburgh University and Rodolfo Gutierrez of the University of Oviedo, a book entitled "**Working Poverty in Europe**", to be published by Palgrave-McMillan in the collection "Work and Welfare in Europe". Ramón Peña-Casas and Dalila Ghailani also co-authored a chapter on the individualisation of in-work poverty risks from a gender perspective, and Anna Safuta wrote a chapter on in-work poverty in Poland.

[More info...](#)

## **The Pensions OMC: Why did it Emerge, How does it Evolve?**

David Natali (*Forthcoming*)

in U. Diedrichs, W. Reiners and W. Wessels (eds.) *The Dynamics of Change in EU Governance*, Cheltenham, Edward Elgar Publishing, Forthcoming.

[More info...](#)

## **European Health Care News**

No. 17, March 2011 (French and English version available soon)

European Health Care News provides an overview of EU-level developments of relevance to national healthcare systems, with links to a variety of official documents. It includes policy developments and European Court of Justice case law.

Subscription is free.

[More info... English | French | Dutch](#)

## **Research activities**

### **NEUJOBS Project**

The OSE is participating in a four-year study which should attest to the power and capacity of stakeholders to reduce negative impacts of the socio-economic and ecological transition on some European labour markets. A wide range of social partners and stakeholders will be involved in order to present the most comprehensive and realistic results. The OSE will be taking the lead on the creation of an interactive platform dedicated to the discussions and also on the organisation of national workshop meetings in Member States.

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

### **Digest on Social Europe - Italian Journal of Social Policies**

The OSE concluded an agreement with La Rivista delle Politiche Sociali (the Italian Journal of Social Policies) with a view to publishing, four times a year, a Digest that provides a quick overview of recent developments concerning "Social Europe". The Digest covers EU initiatives that are directly aimed at social policies, but also EU initiatives indirectly affecting these 'social' dimensions (economic and budgetary

policies, institutional changes etc.). The Digest (entitled "Osservatorio Europa") aims to reflect the full scope of (hard and soft) EU policy instruments. The first edition of Osservatorio Europa was published in the fourth issue of the Italian Journal of Social Policies of the year 2010.

[More info...](#)

### **Social Europe Fact Sheets**

Under agreements concluded with the FEC (Formation Education Culture Asbl) in 2008 and 2009, the OSE has produced several fact sheets on the EU and its main social challenges. In 2010, the OSE likewise participated in various trade-union training courses dealing with Europe. Furthermore, the OSE authored a report (Cahiers FEC) on European taxation.

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

### **Scope of the Co-ordination System in the Field of Pensions**

The OSE has delivered the first research products for the project on the 'Scope of the co-ordination system in the pension field' which is aimed at providing a snapshot of the EU legal framework on pensions, the major challenges confronting it, and the most effective strategy for facing up to the risk of legislative loopholes. This research project, financed by DG Employment, brings together the expertise of the OSE, the University of Milan (Maurizio Ferrera, Matteo Jessoula) and the European University Institute in Florence (Igor Guardiancich). Results are expected before the summer of 2011.

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

## **Forthcoming events**

### **18 March 2011 Final Exchange Meeting RECWOWE : Reconciling Work and Welfare in Europe: Research Findings and Policy Challenges**

With Denis Bouget, Bruno Palier, Tine Rostgaard, Sophie Jacquot, David Natali, Pascale Vielle and Philippe Pochet. The idea behind this meeting is to provide scope for EU-level dialogue among social and employment policy analysts and representatives of the European political foundations regarding present and future challenges to the European social model following the recent economic and financial crisis.

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

### **14 April 2011 OSE Luchtime Session: Closing the Gap in Educational Outcomes between Roma and Non-Roma: Why the European Union Matters**

The next OSE Luchtime Session will be devoted to the educational gaps between Roma and non-Roma and to the role of the European Union in this matter. Costel Bercus, Chairman of Roma Education Fund (Hungary), will be the speaker. The OSE Luchtime Sessions bring together the OSE team and their guests. A short and well-structured presentation is followed by an informal debate.

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

### **19 May 2011 OSE Luchtime Session: A Smart Social Inclusion Policy for Europe 2020: the Role of Education and Training**

The 14 April Session will be followed by another one in mid-May. Ides Nicaise, Professor at HIVA (KULeuven) will discuss the issue of education and training as tools to set up a smart social inclusion policy in the framework of Europe 2020.

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

## **15-17 June 2011 RECOWE Final Conference : Work and Welfare in Europe: New Compromises or On-Going Demise?**

The RECOWE final conference will be held in Brussels, at the Hotel Bloom. The objective of RECOWE was to create a European research network of excellence (funded by the 6th EU Framework Programme) in the field of work and social welfare in Europe, in order to gain an understanding of the tensions between these fields and provide strategies to manage them. The aim of this conference will be to present the project's principal achievements, in which seven OSE members were involved.

[More info...](#) ([RECOWE Website](#))

## **Past events**

### **Dialogue social européen : bilan et perspectives** (25-26 January 2011)

OSE researchers participated in this conference, organised by the European Trade Union Congress (ETUC). The conference outlined the main research findings of the project carried out by the OSE team in the field of European social dialogue (both cross-industry and sectoral). It will serve as input for the next ETUC Statutory Congress, to be held in Athens, May 16-19 2011.

### **OSE Lunchtime Session : Assainissement budgétaire et politique fiscale : quels enjeux pour les Etats membres et l'Union européenne ?** (21 February 2011)

With Christian Valenduc, General Advisor at the Federal Public Service Finance and Senior Lecturer at the University of Mons-Fucam and Louvain-La-Neuve.

[More info and slides of the presentation ...](#) [EN](#) | [FR](#)

### **Encounter OSE - FEC** (22 February 2011)

An OSE delegation, consisting of Cécile Barbier, Dalila Ghailani and Ramón Peña-Casas, held a meeting with the [FEC](#) team of the Belgian trade union CSC. They discussed several topics, including the outcomes of the conference organised by the OSE during the Belgian presidency of the EU on the role of social partners in fighting poverty and social exclusion, quality of work and employment, in-work poverty and the challenges of the new Europe 2020 Strategy.

[Slides of the presentation ...](#) [EN](#) | [FR](#)

### **Seminar at the Einaudi Foundation - Turin** (24 February 2011)

David Natali presented the book 'Europe 2020: Towards a more social EU?' edited by E. Marlier and D. Natali with R. Van Dam, Brussels, PIE-Peter Lang, 2010. Maurizio Ferrera (University of Milan) and Edoardo Greppi (University of Turin) commented on the key issues relating to EU integration, its social dimension and the risks for the future legitimacy of the EU project. Matteo Jessoula (University of Milan) chaired the seminar.

[More info...](#)

## **Activities**

### **Social Protection and Social Inclusion in the EU: Interactions between Policy and Law** (10-11 February 2011)

Prof. Bea Cantillon and Herwig Verschueren of the University of Antwerp organised an Expert [Seminar](#) on the interactions between policy and law on 10-11 February 2011. It explored whether the substance given to social protection and social inclusion through EU soft law is consistent with that envisaged by EU legislation and

the interpretation given to it by the European Court of Justice. David Natali and Bart Vanhercke presented their views on EU pensions and health care governance, while Rita Baeten acted as discussant on the issue of services of general interest.

[Slides of the presentations...](#)

### **ECAB project – 2nd Meeting – Barcelona** (17-18 January 2011)

All 13 partner institutions involved in the [ECAB](#) project (Evaluating Care Across Borders) met at the Universitat de Barcelona to discuss the proposed methodologies for the work packages currently under development. Lorena San Miguel presented the approach to be followed by the OSE in investigating cross-border recognition of medical prescriptions. The meeting, coordinated by the London School of Economics (LSE) Health Research Centre (Prof. Elias Mossialos), offered a platform for all partners to discuss methodological issues relating to the different aspects covered by the broad umbrella of the ECAB project (7th Framework Programme).

### **IPSA ECPR Joint Conference**

Romana Careja attended the IPSA ECPR Joint Conference "Whatever happened to North South?" in Sao Paulo, Brazil (16-19 February 2011). She presented a paper, "We Grew Here, You Flew Here. Individual and Country Level Influences on Attitudes toward Immigrants", which she co-authored with Hans-Juergen Andress.

[More info...](#)

#### **Publications in the box**



#### **Europe 2020. Towards a More Social EU?**

Eric Marlier and David Natali (eds.) with Rudi Van Dam  
P.I.E. Peter Lang: Brussels, 2010

How can Europe 2020, the EU's new Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, lead to a stronger Social EU with less poverty and greater social cohesion? This book by a number of eminent scholars and experts is the first to attempt to answer this question.

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

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