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Invitation to a Roundtable discussion on

Nordic social partners and the European Semester: what kind of engagement and why (not)?

Uppsala, 28th September 2018 – 9.45 am - 12.30 pm

Venue: Hörsal 2, Ekonomikum, Uppsala University, Kyrkogårdsgatan 10, Uppsala

The 'European Semester' is the European Union's annual policy cycle, through which it coordinates not only the macro-economic and fiscal policies of the Member States but also their employment and social policies. Through this process, the European Union addresses policy recommendations to the Member States. Over the years, this process has gained considerable 'bite' and is seen, at least in some countries, as a significant factor in the national policymaking cycle. As a consequence, European and national social partners alike have shown an increasing but variable interest in becoming involved in and 'having a say' on the various stages of the Semester.

Against this backdrop, European Commission-funded project 'National Trade Union Involvement in the European Semester' (INVOTUNES), is an attempt to unravel (a) whether and how national social partners are involved in the European Semester, (b) which strategies they use (if any) to get involved, and (c) whether there is any kind of interaction between European Semester activities and national social dialogue.

The final aim of the project, which is coordinated by the European Social Observatory, is to provide social partners with concrete recommendations as to how to increase their involvement - and ultimately their influence - in the Semester. At the heart of the project are eight case studies in as many countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Sweden. The focus is on three policy areas: the labour market, wage setting as well as social protection and social inclusion policies.

We have the pleasure of hereby inviting you to a **Roundtable discussion** on the topic which will take place at the University of Uppsala on 28 September 2018. The Roundtable will primarily address the **involvement of Nordic social partners in the European Semester, with a focus on Sweden and Finland**. The event is a key opportunity for an exchange of views between researchers, national and European stakeholders and policymakers. The interactive discussion will identify the opportunities arising from 'having a say' in the Semester but also the constraints encountered. Leading scholars will shed light on the recent developments, challenges and opportunities in this respect. Further details can be found in the enclosed **programme**.

The Roundtable is jointly organized by the Department of Economic History, Uppsala University and the European Social Observatory (OSE, Brussels).

We hope to meet you on 28th September.

Lars Magnusson,
Head of SALTSA and former Dean of the Faculty
of Social Sciences - Uppsala University

Bart Vanhercke,
Director
European Social Observatory

Practical information:

Venue: Hörsal 2, Ekonomikum, Uppsala University, Kyrkogårdsgatan 10, Uppsala.

Online registration (compulsory): <http://www.ose.be/form/27280918/public/>

INVOTUNES website: <http://www.ose.be/invotunes/>

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