Dear Madam, dear Sir,

We would like to cordially invite you for a NEUJOBS Round Table on “Job Quality in EU Research: Building Up the Knowledge Base” which will be held in Brussels (Belgian National Labour Council) on 2nd July 2013.

Although more jobs have been created in Europe since 2001, it would seem that at least some of this growth has been created in a context of problematic working conditions, precarious employment and low wages. By now, quite a bit is known about the quality of these jobs, their impact on employees’ quality of life and about the organisational and institutional preconditions that could encourage the development of ‘better’ jobs within the EU. Indeed, several research projects funded by the European Commission’s 6th and 7th Framework Programmes have addressed, and are currently studying, the issue of job quality:

- **RECWOWE (FP6)** aimed to promote the research excellence required to identify and understand the multiple tensions between work and welfare, as well as strategies for managing or resolving them. One particular work package brought together various activities relating to the tension between the quantity and the quality of employment. More info: [http://recwowe.vitamib.com/](http://recwowe.vitamib.com/)

- The **WALQING (FP7)** project identified (quantitatively) and analysed (qualitatively) economic sectors with significant job growth and below-average job quality: waste collection, (green) construction, (elderly) care, (domestic & contract) cleaning, and catering staff. Publications and recommendations, including many best practices to improve job quality, are accessible online. More info: [http://www.walqing.eu/webresource](http://www.walqing.eu/webresource)

- The ongoing **NEUJOBS (FP7)** project analyses future possible developments of the European labour market(s) under the main assumption that European societies are now facing or preparing to face a number of transitions that will have a major impact on employment, in particular for some groups in the labour force or sectors of the economy. More info: [http://www.neujobs.eu/](http://www.neujobs.eu/)

With a view to providing a platform for exchange of knowledge and experiences between these EU networks of excellence, the European Commission (DG Research & Innovation) has asked the NEUJOBS dissemination partners to organise a **half-day Round Table** to promote a pooling of knowledge on the issue of job quality. We envisage it as follows:
During the first session - *Job Quality in EU Research: Networks, Approaches, and Findings* - speakers from each FP6/7 project will briefly introduce their respective networks (goals, partners, key output) and explain how the issue of Job Quality has been studied and measured in that specific project (methods used, indicators developed, challenges faced); most importantly, they will address the *key empirical findings and policy recommendations* that have resulted from the research.

After this ‘framing’ session, a professional moderator will lead an interactive and policy-oriented debate between the speakers and the audience as to the question “Why does Job Quality Matter from a European Policy Perspective?” The audience will include representatives of BusinessEurope, the Employment Committee, EUROFOUND, the European Commission, and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

Importantly, the seminar will give representatives of the newly launched InGRID (FP7) project an opportunity to present their project: InGRID (Inclusive Growth Research Infrastructure Diffusion) aims to integrate and innovate existing European social sciences research infrastructures on “Poverty and living conditions” and “Working conditions and vulnerability”. More info: [http://inclusivegrowth.be/](http://inclusivegrowth.be/) (under construction).

Against the background of the current unemployment crisis and the social investment initiative, questions on the nature and measurement of a “good job” or on the interaction between quantity and quality of jobs remain paramount for policy-makers and researchers alike. The seminar will provide input for the socio-economic research agenda under Horizon2020 (2014-2020).

We thank you in advance for your interest in this seminar and look forward to meeting you (again) on 2nd July 2013. Please use our [online registration form](http://www.ose.be/roundtable020713/) (link below) if you wish to attend.

This seminar is organised by the European Social Observatory.

**Date:** 2 July 2013  
**Venue/host:** National Labour Council (Conseil National du Travail), avenue de la Joyeuse entrée 17-21, 1040 Brussels, room 1  
**On line registration:** [http://www.ose.be/roundtable020713/](http://www.ose.be/roundtable020713/)  
The number of seats is limited, so if you are interested in participating, please register as soon as possible.  
Transport and accommodation costs are not covered by the organisers, except for NEUJOBS partners.  
**Language:** English  
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