

Boosting Employment in the EU:

Developing Skills and Reducing Social Exclusion



Tuesday 18th February 2014
NH Hotel du Grand Sablon
Brussels



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Overview

In the face of the recent economic downturn, the labour market and social conditions remain extremely challenging in Europe. In October 2013, *Eurostat* estimated that over 26 million people were unemployed in the EU-28, of whom over 19 million were in the Eurozone. Boosting employment in the EU is, therefore, one of the main priorities of policy makers.

The European Employment Strategy (EES) seeks to promote a life-cycle approach to work, lifelong learning and improved support for those seeking a job, as well as ensuring equal opportunities. For its actions to be effective, the EU must invest in jobs and people and improve the functioning of its labour market by addressing skills mismatches and segmentation.

In line with the Europe 2020 Strategy, the 'Social Investment Package' seeks to promote social investment across Member States to prevent any form of exclusion or discrimination of vulnerable groups and to ensure their participation in society. High unemployment rates among young people and seniors should also be addressed through the implementation of active inclusion policies at national level.

This timely International Symposium provides a valuable opportunity to discuss the challenges behind current unemployment trends in the EU. Delegates will have the opportunity to examine initiatives and innovative projects that have been implemented to tackle unemployment and social exclusion at national and EU levels. This Symposium will also allow delegates to exchange best practices and discuss solutions to boost employment in the EU.

“The Europe 2020 Strategy sets ambitious targets for increasing employment and reducing poverty. We have put in place the European Semester, the Employment Package and the Social Investment Package in order to guide the Member States in implementing their structural reforms.”

- László Andor, EU Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion,
October 2013

“Smart social policies – such as programmes that help the unemployed find jobs or systems that provide social security to vulnerable members of our society – cannot just be considered a cost. They are an investment in our future.”

- Guy Ryder, ILO Director General, February 2013

Venue and Accommodation

NH Hotel Grand Sablon,
Rue Bodenbroek 2/4. B-1000 Brussels
Belgium



Why Attend?

- ✓ Explore solutions to encourage jobs creation in the EU
- ✓ Discuss social investment and innovative approaches to improve social inclusion
- ✓ Assess trends and causes for skills mismatch and its impact on the labour market
- ✓ Share best practices in the field of innovative and experimental policy-making and implementation

Who Should Attend?

- Ministries of Employment and Social Affairs
- Social Services
- Employment Agencies
- Research Institutes
- Social Innovation Centres
- National Departments for Social and Family Affairs
- Lifelong Learning Institutes
- Social Advisers
- Active Ageing Organisations
- Voluntary Organisations
- Local Authorities
- Employment and Social Inclusion Institutes
- Labour Economy Research Centres
- Labour Market Institutes
- Academics
- PhD Candidates
- European Social Organisational Science Consultancies
- European Employment Associations
- Social Partners
- Pension Organisations
- Associations of Social Enterprises
- Sheltered Employment and Labour Integration Organisations
- Physical and Social Rehabilitation Centres
- Disabled People's Rehabilitation and Employment Unions
- Vocational Training Centres
- Innovation and Personal Development Centres
- Special Employment Unions

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Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Tackling Social Exclusion Through a Multi-level Approach - Helping Disadvantaged Group to Increase Life and Job Opportunities**
- Multiplying Actions at Different Policy Levels - Housing, Health Care, Education and Social Support
 - Evaluating and Identifying Shortcomings in Existing Social Policies
 - Preventing Financial Exclusion and Discrimination of Vulnerable Groups
 - Developing Partnerships with Civil Society to Improve Cohesion Policies
 - Progress Made in Achieving the Europe 2020 Employment Strategy
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Promoting Social Investment in the EU**
- Discussing the 'Social Investment Package' and its Challenges
 - Improving Social and Health Services in Member States
 - Social Experiments and Innovative Solutions
 - Implementing Active Inclusion Policies - Ensuring Young People, Seniors and Vulnerable Groups' Participation in Society
 - Recommendations and Best Practices
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Addressing Skills Mismatches - Exploring Trends and Causes**
- Understanding the Costs of Skills Mismatch to Jobseekers, Employers and Society
 - Fostering Better Skills and Turning Them into Better Jobs
 - Finding Innovative Solutions and Anticipating Mismatches: Aligning Education and Training with Labour Market Needs
 - Policy Recommendations
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Promoting the Potential of Jobs-Rich Sectors and New Skills**
- Examining the 'New Skills for New Jobs' Initiative
 - Analysing Current Trends on the European Job Market and Collecting Better Data on Labour Market Needs
 - Encouraging Training and Lifelong Learning Systems in Member States
 - Promoting Long-Term Employment in the EU
 - Exchanging Knowledge and Best Practices
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception

Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact:

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or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk

Event Details

Date: Tuesday 18th February 2014

Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: NH Hotel du Grand Sablon,
Brussels



Speakers include

- ✓ **Egbert Holthuis**, Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission (confirmed)
- ✓ **Vincenzo Spiezia**, Senior Economist, International Institute for Labour Studies, International Labour Organization (confirmed)

Forthcoming Events

Transforming Long-term Care in Europe: Improving Quality and Ensuring Access
28th January 2014

Green Growth, Green Jobs: Integrating Employment and Environmental Policies Across Europe
29th January 2014

Implementing the Common European Asylum System
19th February 2014