



"Economic change, inequality and social inclusion in Europe"

Joint Policy Conference European Commission DG RTD - DG EMPL EQUALSOC Network of Excellence

Brussels, February 18th, 2009

From 10:00 to 17:30

Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99, Brussels
Room JDE 5 - Jacques Delors building

This policy conference is organized by the Network of Excellence EQUALSOC, "Economic change, quality of life and social cohesion", in collaboration with the European Commission, DG Research and DG Employment, and the research project LOWER3, "The Insecure Perspectives of the Low Skilled in the Knowledge Society".

EQUALSOC (<http://www.equalsoc.org/2>) is funded by the 6th Research Framework Programme of the European Commission and is coordinated by Professor Robert Erikson of Stockholm University. It started in 2005, duration 5 years, with the aim to mobilise and develop research expertise across Europe on economic change, quality of life and social cohesion. LOWER3 (www.uva-aias.net/lower) is also funded by the 6th Framework Programme and is coordinated by Wiemer Salverda of Amsterdam University.

The objective of the conference is to investigate and discuss with researchers and policy makers, at national and European level, the relationship between growth, economic inequality and social inclusion within Europe and to answer the following questions:

- What do we know about the recent evolution of economic and social inequalities in Europe?
- Under which conditions can growth and economic inequalities stimulate each other?
- What can we learn from the relationship between knowledge-economics, globalisation and inequalities of earnings in the member states?
- In which way are inequalities of earnings and relative poverty detrimental to social inclusion?
- Can reorganisation go together with a strong employment commitment?
- Can we speak about Europeanisation of inequality?
- Can practical lessons be drawn from the research in order to refine the Social Indicators that support the Open Method of Coordination?

The EQUALSOC conference will take place the day before the meeting of the Social Protection Committee (SPC), managed by DG Employment (Dir E, Social Protection and Integration), to allow the SPC members to be present at the conference and participate in the discussion about the policy relevance of the EQUALSOC and LOWER3 results.

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AGENDA

09:00-10:00 **Registration**

10:00-10:30 **Welcome** – **Bea Cantillon**, Director Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy, Organizing Partner in the Network of Excellence EQUALSOC – **Jérôme Vignon**, Director DG EMPL/E Social Protection and Integration – **Jean Michel Baer**, Director DG RTD/L Science, economy and society

Morning session – Growth and economic inequality

Chair: Herman van de Werfhorst, Amsterdam School for Social Science Research

10:30-11:00 **Recent evolution of economic inequalities in Europe** – Key note speech – **Tony Atkinson**, Nuffield College, University of Oxford

11:00-11:20 **Inequality and economic growth** – **Sarah Voitchovsky**, University College Dublin

11:20-11:40 **Inequalities of earnings and low pay** – **Wiemer Salverda**, Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies

11:40-12:00 **Social inequalities and old age dependency** – **Chiara Saraceno**, University of Turin

12:00-12:30 **Question time**

12:30-14:00 **Lunch**

Afternoon session - Economic Inequality and Social Inclusion in Europe

Chair: Roxane Silberman, CMH/CNRS

14:00-14:30 **Well-being and inequality** – **Petra Böhnke and Ulrich Kohler**, Social Science Research Center, Berlin

14:30-15:00 **Stratification and mortality: a comparison of education, class, status and income** – **Jenny Torssander and Robert Erikson**, Stockholm University, SOFI

15:00-15:30 **Europeanisation of inequality and European reference groups** – **Christopher Whelan and Bertrand Maitre**, Economic and Social Research Institute

15:30-16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00-16:30 **Ethnic educational inequality in European countries** – **Anthony Heath**, Nuffield College, University of Oxford

16:30-17:00 **Discussion time**

17:00 **Conclusion** – **Antonia Carparelli**, DG EMPL/Head of Unit E2, "Inclusion, Social Policy Aspects of Migration, Streamlining of Social Policies"