

Confronting uncertainty in European labour markets in the crisis

Joint ETUI-GUSTO one-day conference

Brussels, 15 February 2012, 9h30-16h30

ITUH, Blvd du Roi Albert II, 5, 1210 Brussels, Belgium

1st floor, Auditorium

The 2008 financial crisis and its continuing aftermath have thrown into question earlier European policies concerning flexibility and security in labour markets. New approaches and policies are needed. For the past three years a team of researchers from across Europe has been working on these issues, in research project GUSTO, funded by the Commission's FP7 programme.

A degree of uncertainty is necessary and even desirable to a successful programme of economic change. But GUSTO's work reveals several areas such as pension systems, immigration policy, labour market 'reforms' where policies are unnecessarily and negatively intensifying the uncertainty of workers' lives, at precisely the moment when demands are being made on those workers' commitment. What is more, frequent policy change creates uncertainty in itself, quite apart from the substance of the changes.

At this conference the GUSTO team debates these conclusions and the positive policy conclusions that should flow from them with policy-makers and social partner representatives.

Agenda

—
9.30 Arrival, coffee

10.00

Opening

Maria Jepsen, ETUI

10.30

Labour market uncertainty in Europe in the crisis: central messages from the GUSTO research

Colin Crouch, University of Warwick Business School



11.00

Panel 1: Europe's outsiders? Young people, old people, and immigrants

Chair:

Noel Whiteside, University of Warwick

Speakers:

Stefania Rossi, Confindustria and chair of board of Eurofound

ETUC representative (to be confirmed)

Ute Klammer, University of Essen

Guglielmo Meardi, University of Warwick Business School

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30

Panel 2: Managing uncertainty in Europe's labour markets: The role of the Commission, governments and social partners

Chair:

Prof Maarten Keune, University of Amsterdam

Speakers:

Bernadette Ségol, ETUC (to be confirmed)

Renate Hornung Draus, BDA

Prof Dorothee Bohle, Central European University, Budapest

Miriam Hartlapp, Wissenschaftszentrum, Berlin

16.30

Closing remarks

EN/FR/DE interpretation will be available.

The GUSTO project (The Governance of Uncertainty and Sustainability: Tensions and Opportunities) brings together labour market and social policy researchers from the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, the UK and also Canada. The research has focussed on uncertainty in labour markets in the following policy areas:

- Individuals' labour market transitions
- Immigration
- Pensions
- The role of the EU
- Collective bargaining and local employment strategies

The ETUI is financially supported by the European Union.