**Round table - Marie Curie Summer School 'Flexicurity, Labour Markets and Social Dialogue'**

**Thursday 5 June 2014 - 18.30 pm - 20.00 pm - Irish College – Leuven**

**What are the prospects for employment and labour markets in Europe?**

Unemployment figures continue to rise, with five million fewer people working in mid-2013 compared to the same time in 2008 and youth unemployment untenably high. Recent findings from the European Quality of Life Survey reflect a growing inability to make ends meet, accompanied by increasing feelings of social exclusion across the EU. Most concerning, the social and employment trends are diverging significantly in different parts of the EU. Especially in Southern and Eastern Europe the social situation is critical and deteriorating. It is right and proper that policymakers place jobs to the forefront of their efforts to guide the European Union towards recovery. So what are the real prospects for labour markets and employment in Europe? Wherever the answer lies, as Europe strives to move out of this recession, it is clear that it cannot afford not to explore all possible avenues which may lead to creating more and good quality jobs.

Speakers on the roundtable will address the following central questions:

* What are the prospects for labour markets and employment in Europe?
* How can European labour markets be socially sustainable?
* Is reconciliation between the security and flexibility of work key to Europe’s success?
* Is social dialogue a mechanism for seeking recovery in Europe?
* What (and how) can social dialogue help recovering from periods of economic and social difficulties?

Participants at the round table will be expert political leaders from the trade union movement (ETUC) and the employers’ organization (Business Europe) at the EU level dealing with social dialogue and labour market issues. The European Commission will participate, as both a political entity and the founding actor in establishing the Marie Curie programme, as will outstanding academics in the field of industrial relations, labour markets and flexicurity.

The host professor for this event is Valeria Pulignano. Prof. Pulignano is a sociologist at the Centre for Sociological Research (CESO) at the Faculty of Social Sciences at KU Leuven. Her expertise lies in the field of industrial and employment relations and labour markets in a comparative perspective in Europe.

**Moderator:**

* Goele Geeraert (Journalist)

**Participants:**

* Monica De Coninck (Belgium Minister of Labour)
* Jozef Niemic (ETUC Confederal Secretary)
* Maxime Cerrutti (Director Business Europe Director Social Affair)
* Tim Van Rie (European Commission - Industrial relations and sectoral social dialogue)
* Richard Hyman (Emeritus Professor – London School of Economics)

[Registration Roundtable (not summer course)](https://owa.groupware.kuleuven.be/owa/redir.aspx?C=QPBIzXazgkeEyv7EHhB6rt1jt3cjP9EIFikVFZjzyXNiZxa1LGeSWf3VtyUxEY2_vPIl3Xj85Dg.&URL=https%3a%2f%2fsoc.kuleuven.be%2fwebsecureextern%2findex.php%3faction%3droundtableadd%26entid%3d11%26subentid%3d102%26lang%3deng)

 

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