

PROGRAMME

Social dialogue in times of global economic crisis

(Project European Foundation for Improvement of Working and Life Conditions; no. 0456)

First expert workshop

22 October 2010

ASTREES – Paris

Venue: 20 rue Saint Nicolas – 75012 Paris

I. Research project: Background

The financial and economic crisis had deep consequences on political, economic and social environment in the European member states. The countries were not hit to the same degree nor to the same scope but impacts were to be felt in terms of decrease of output, decline in GDP and increases in unemployment. The current crisis challenged not only the political decision makers but also the social partners. The hypothesis of this project research is that social dialogue has been a means mobilised at different levels to respond to the crisis and to support solutions to cushion the effects of the crisis.

The present project follows three main objectives. First the researchers will map, analyse and assess the practices of social dialogue resulting from the crisis and the role social dialogue has played in order to cushion the impacts and overcome the negative effects of the crisis at various levels of social dialogue. We will address the questions of institutional innovation or path dependent practices of social partners. Secondly, the project aim at categorising the outcomes of such practices at various levels of social dialogue in an attempt to identify converging or diverging trends in the solutions supported by the social partners, on their own or together with the government. Finally, the project aim at evaluating the extent to which the social dialogue answers to the crisis are effective and sustainable from a political, economic, social and institutional point of view.

To this end the contractor will at first carry out a desk research drawing up a review of the academic literature as well as policy documents of European institutions and European and national social partners. In order to carry out a thorough and comparative analysis of the literature review, the contractor will propose an analytical framework taking into account the relevant scientific theories. This first approach will give insights of the social dialogue during the crisis in the 27 member states. This work will be complemented by 13 case studies carried out by national experts at various levels of social dialogue in 13 different countries. The case studies will be based on semi-directed interviews involving employees' and employers' representatives and other public actors, if relevant. Case studies will particularly focus on the social dialogue at company level. The case studies will enable to examine some best practices but also examples where social dialogue has been difficult and the results mitigated. The case studies shall address the nature and quality of social dialogue at European, national, regional and company levels.

II. Research workshop: Objectives

The first expert workshop is aimed at sharing experience between the contractor, academia and the stakeholders of Eurofound. It is organised by Eurofound to stimulate debate, to give confront points of

view, to give additional impetus and perspectives to the research project and to operate as a relay network for the researchers.

To stimulate exchanges, the first draft report submitted by the contractor will be discussed with the participants of the workshop. The first draft report will enable to launch discussions on the research design, the first overview of European and national social dialogue and a selection of case studies as well as the methodology proposed for the case studies. The first draft report will be presented by means of PowerPoint presentations. The recommendations resulting from this first expert workshop will be incorporated into the interim report to be delivered on November 8.

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Project: Social dialogue in times of global economic crisis

- 9:00 Registration of participants
- 9:30 Opening of the workshop: Background of the project, expectations and objectives
Christian Welz, Eurofound
- 9:45 ASTREES: missions and activities, presentation of the content of the project
Claude-Emmanuel Triomphe, Director Europe, ASTREES
- 10:00 Social dialogue in times of the crisis: presentation of the research design and analytical framework
Claude-Emmanuel Triomphe, Director Europe, ASTREES
- 10:30 Feedback by Eurofound
Christian Welz, Eurofound
- 10:45 Discussion
- 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:45 Social dialogue in times of the crisis: first findings included in the first draft report
David Tarren, Consultant, ADAPT International
Jan Czarzasty, Independent expert, Warsaw
Bernadette Allinger, FORBA, Vienna
- 12:15 Experience from Ireland
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- 12h45 Discussion
- 13h15 Lunch break
- 14:30 Case study selection, methodology, report
Rachel Guyet, Project manager, ASTREES
- 15:00 Case studies: first provisional findings
Salvo Leonardi, IRES (National agreement on agency workers);
Christophe Teissier, ASTREES (EWC ArcelorMittal)
- 15:30 General discussion
- 16:00 Coffee break

16:30 Recommendation and next steps
Eurofound?

17:00 *End of expert workshop*