



WELL-BEING@WORK

Towards a new European social Benchmark

There is a lack of adequate social benchmarks in Europe. This is the reason behind the project well-being@work. The aim is to discuss and evaluate the development of a flexible, broadly applicable instrument that can be used in the different social, political, cultural and economic environments in the European countries and provides comparable data in a flexible manner and quickly at regular intervals. Moreover, such an index would be a basis for initiatives for improving the quality of working life.

This project is to investigate possibilities and relevance of the installation of an Europe-wide Benchmark measure of work climate and to define, what such a measure must be like to make the results comparable and applicable in all member states of the EU.



PROJECT COORDINATOR

AK OÖ – Chamber of Labour Upper Austria, Austria

The Chamber of Labour Upper Austria represents the interests of about 570 000 workers and all consumers in Upper Austria. The Members of the Chamber of Labour elect 110 representatives to form their general assembly on a yearly basis. This body elects the president and the board and delivers basic work principles for the salaried staff. Due to the democratic electoral procedure and professional expertise of employees, the Chamber of Labour Upper Austria is an efficient and modern representative body for its members.

The areas of activity of the Chambers of Labour include in particular:

Codetermination and control of law-making:

Austrian workers and consumers are integrated into Austria law-making by the Chambers of Labour. The Chambers of Labour evaluate legislative drafts from the viewpoint of worker and consumer interests, submit proposals for amendments and are then included in the implementation of laws.

Research on behalf of workers and consumers:

The experts of the Chamber of Labour carry out studies on a host of general economic and social policy topics. The results of these studies regularly form an important part of Austria's political discourse.

Services for members:

The Chambers of Labour offer their members a broad range of services free of charge:

- Legal issues consultancy (labour-, social-, insolvency-, wage tax-, housing law and consumer rights)
- Legal representation in cases of labour-, social- and consumer law
- Professional advice and legal opinion on national and business economics,...

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PARTNER HOSTING A WORKSHOP

ISTUR – Institute for Social and Trade Union Research, Bulgaria

Main areas of activity of the Institute cover consultations and research studies on employment and unemployment (labour market and labour market policies and institutions); restructuring; social policy (cost of living, living standards, inflation and income protection, poverty and working poor); trade union activity and trade union movement (structure, social partnership and social dialogue, collective bargaining, industrial actions, labour standards and labour rights, etc.); European integration; globalisation and MNCs; gender issues.

ISTUR is the only organisation in the country that maintains parallel statistics to the National Statistical Institute in the field of cost of living.

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IRES – Economic and Social Research Institute, Italy

IRES was founded in 1979 by the Italian General Workers' Confederation (CGIL) and today it is a non-profit association, specialised in economic and social researches. IRES has always strived to develop dynamic linkages between theory and research; knowledge and trade union movement, so that researches have been focused on issues related to labour, economy and the changing society.

The areas are as follows:

Labour market and working conditions, welfare and citizenship rights, industrial relations and trade union studies, environment and sustainable development, economic and local development.

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TCO – Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees, Sweden

TCO is a confederation (central organisation) with 16 affiliated trade unions. In total the affiliated trade unions have one million members in both private and public sectors of the labour market. A majority of the members have an academic degree or similar. Women counts for 60 percent of the members.

TCO's basic mission is to organise and recruit professional and qualified people in working life. TCO is dedicated to promote and defend the needs and interests of the members in the social debate and the political decision-making process, to safeguard trade union rights and freedoms, and to represent the affiliated unions in European and international trade union work.

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EXPERT PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT

IAW – Institute Labour and Economy, Germany

The Institute Labour and Economy (IAW) is a joint institute of the University of Bremen and the Chamber of Labour Bremen. It is a research institute committed to interdisciplinary studies in the fields of social sciences and economics. Its activities are centred around the analysis of regional and macroeconomic developments as well as regional, financial, economic, and labour-market policies.

The most important research unit for the European work climate index is the research unit “Transformation of the Working Society”.



This research unit deals with the following topics:

Social change and new forms of regulation of work; Working time and employment policy; Working conditions and “good work”; Work-Life-Balance and Diversity Management; International social standards and Corporate Social Responsibility.

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GIG – Central Mining Institute, Poland

The Central Mining Institute is a restructured scientific and development organization, subordinated to the Minister of Economy, working not only for the benefit of the mining industry, but also for enterprises representing different branches. Basic areas of our activities constitute: mining engineering, environmental engineering, problems relating to quality, education and training.

Main research and development activities in GIG:

Mining and geology, sustainable energy systems, environmental engineering and sustainable environmental resources management, occupational safety in the industry, material engineering, socio-economic studies.

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ÖGB – Austrian Trade Union Federation, Austria

The Austrian Federation of Trade Unions has existed in its present form since the year 1945. It is the only trade union federation in Austria, a fact which makes Austria one of the few countries in Western Europe in which workers are organised in a single representative and unified union. It is a legal entity and an incorporated association of workers based on the principles of solidarity and effective representation of workers' interests.

Alongside social improvements the ÖGB is concerned with decision-making on enterprise level and above enterprise level and this plays an important role in the political system of the country (Social Partnership). The most important aspect of this representation is concerned with the development of real wage levels as well as the participation of the workforce in the growing wealth of the country.

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ISS – University of Ljubljana, Institute of Social Sciences, Slovenia

Faculty of Social Sciences is one of the largest members of the University of Ljubljana with over 4.000 students and more than 20 undergraduate and graduate programs in political science, sociology, communication science and cultural studies.

The Faculty consists of four departments: Sociology, Political Science, Communication, and Cultural Studies. Each department is further divided into specialized academic units whose chairs are members of the Faculty Senate, the permanent governing board of the faculty.

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SU – Šiauliai University, Social Sciences Faculty, Lithuania

Šiauliai University was founded in 1997 and has eight faculties, over 12.000 students and more than 550 lecturers.

Project management is one of underlying activities in Šiauliai University. Currently, Šiauliai University is participating in 25 international projects and in 24 EU Structural Funds projects (eight projects are coordinated by Šiauliai University). Over the last three years, the University has participated in 49 EU projects in total.

Scientific researches are being carried out in areas such as: humanities, physics, biomedical technology and social sciences.

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TIME SCHEDULE OF THE PROJECT



WORKSHOPS

1st Workshop in Sofia: April 3rd, 2009

2nd Workshop in Rome: Mai 22nd, 2009

3rd Workshop in Stockholm: June 12th, 2009

FINAL CONFERENCE

September 4th, 2009, 9 – 14 o'clock

Location: Gartenhotel Altmannsdorf

Hoffingergasse 26, 1120 Wien

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

December 1st, 2008 – November 30th, 2009

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