



Towards a strong Social Europe in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis: reducing disparities and addressing distributional impacts

Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2021

Hybrid Conference, 12 October 2021, 09:15-13:00

Format:

Hybrid conference including short presentations by the Commission of the main findings of the [ESDE 2021 report](#) and panel discussions on their relevance to policy action in the context of the COVID-19 crisis and in view of the European Social Pillar Action Plan.

Participants: Representatives from Member States, social partners, EU and international organisations and civil society, as well as academics and researchers.

Moderation: Ms. Marlene de Wouters

AGENDA

9:15 am to 09:30 am	Connection to the streaming - link to Webex and welcoming of participants
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Welcome and opening session

Welcome remarks

- **Marlene de Wouters**, moderator

Opening speeches

- **Nicolas Schmit**, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights
- **Christa Schweng**, President, European Economic and Social Committee
- **Janez Cigler Kralj**, Minister for Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia's Presidency of the Council [pre-recorded]

Presentation of ESDE 2021 – main findings

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| 10:15 am to 10:30 am | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barbara Kauffmann, Director for Employment and Social Governance, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission |
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10:30 am to 11:15 am	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Holger Bonin, Director, IZA • Esther Lynch, Deputy General Secretary ETUC • Maxime Cerutti, Social Affairs Director, BusinessEurope
11:15 am to 11:30 am	Virtual coffee break
11:30 am to 12:30 pm - Parallel thematic sessions	
Session 1 Link to Webex “Socio-economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on people, groups, occupations, sectors”	Introduction: ESDE 2021: Chapter 2 ‘A severe crisis affecting everyone - socio-economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic’ – main findings and SLIDO polls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter author Tim van Rie Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heinz Koller, Regional Director of the International Labour Organization, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia • Michele Raitano, Full Professor of Economic Policy, Sapienza University of Rome • Alva Finn, Secretary-General, Social Platform • Ivailo Kalfin, Executive Director, Eurofound
Session 2 Link to Webex “Spatial impacts of the crisis and recovery prospects”	Introduction: ESDE 2021: chapter 3 ‘Spatial impacts in a crisis context: promoting inclusive recovery and structural changes’ – main findings and SLIDO polls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter authors Stefano Filauro and Giuseppe Piroli Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities • Carmelo Petraglia, Professor of Economics, University of Basilicata • Emiliano Rustichelli, Chair, EMCO
Closing session: Early research findings and further policy actions (Input into the Conference on the Future of Europe)	
12:30 pm to 13:00 pm	SLIDO poll results Closing remarks/next steps: how the EU is fostering the recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, MEP (Renew Europe) and Chair, European Parliament’s Committee on Employment and Social Affairs • Joost Korte, Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), European Commission
13:00 pm to 13:30 pm	Short reception (if sanitary situation and rules allow)