

Urbino (Italy), 17-19 September 2009

7th Annual ESPAnet Conference 2009

**The future of the welfare state
Paths of social policy innovation between constraints and
opportunities**

**DiSSPI Department • Faculty of Sociology
University of Urbino “Carlo Bo” • Italy**

Friday, 18 September

Workshop 6

**Social Concertation in Europe: Actors, Institutional Dynamics and Welfare and Work
Reforms**

Conveners: *David Natali, Anne Peeters, Philippe Pochet*

Traxler Franz and Brandl Bernd (University of Vienna, AT)

Preconditions for Pacts on Income Policy: Bringing Structures back in. A comparison of Western Europe, 1980-2003

Rehfeldt Udo and Vincent Catherine (IRES, FR)

Trade Unions as Actors in the Social Insurance System: A Comparative Analysis of French and German Health Funds

Salvo Leonardi (IRES, Roma)

Union Organization of Employees in Atypical and Precarious Work in Italy

Anil Duman

Revitalization of the Trade Union Movement: Examples from Poland, Hungary and Serbia

This proposed stream aims to improve the knowledge of social concertation in different European countries. After the emergence of a new wave of social cooperation between governments and interest groups, further evidence is at our disposal to understand the logic of these forms of interplay: social pacts, national and local social dialogue.

While the academic and experts' debate is increasing, more efforts for the analysis of the renewed forms of social dialogue seems to be needed. What is the role of trade unions and business organizations in Welfare and Work reforms? Is social concertation experiencing some institutionalization? What is the impact of the EU integration process on the interplay between governments and social interests? What is the outcome of concerted reforms in socio-economic policies? And then what about the new member states from Central and Eastern Europe? Is it

possible to adopt for them the same concepts usually proposed for Western countries?

Papers from many disciplinary perspectives (political science, sociology, political economy, etc.) are expected to deal with these questions, and to focus on recent social agreements in both EU-15 and EU-10 members, with reference to the role of actors, the evolution of social dialogue institutions, and reforms' output and outcome.

The in-depth study of these issues (both through comparative and case studies) is interpreted as a pre-condition for the overall assessment of the existence of processes of (re-)emergence, decline and/or institutionalization of social concertation in Europe. This should then favour new insights concerning the nature of new measures affecting socio-economic policies (e.g. wage-setting, labour-market policy, social protection, local development policy, etc.). This stream encourages papers that examine the role of political and social actors in the reform processes, and analyse the link between policy and politics.

Stream Convenors

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Anne Peeters (Observatoire social européen, asbl, Brussels)

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