



Fragmentation? The future of work in Europe in a global economy

WORKS final international conference

Rome - Italy, 8-9 October 2008

Introduction

It is generally agreed that we are witnessing a historically unprecedented transformation of work. Under the combined impact of globalisation and technological innovation, organisational structures, work processes, skill requirements and occupational identities are changing beyond recognition with social impacts that spread beyond the workplace. These changes pose challenges to companies, to trade unions, to training agencies and to regional, national and European policymakers as well as to workers themselves and their families who have to live with the daily consequences for their physical and psychological well-being and their future employment prospects.

In 2005, the European Commission funded a ground-breaking research project, Work Organisation Restructuring in the Knowledge Society (WORKS) to investigate these changes in depth. Combining theoretical work and a detailed analysis of a wide range of statistics with in-depth case studies, the team have analysed the forces that bring about these changes, including global value chain restructuring and the policy environment, and have produced a series of publications highlighting different aspects of these changes: in work organisation, employers' use of technology, skills and knowledge requirements, career trajectories, occupational segregation and the quality of working life.

At this important international conference, these results will be presented and subjected to the scrutiny of leading European policymakers and experts from around the world.

Visit the WORKS conference website (<http://www.worksproject.be/conference2/welcome.htm>)
for the latest news on the conference and
registration of your participation!

Programme

Wednesday, 8 October 2008

Jolly Hotel, Corso Italia 1, Rome

13:00 Registration and coffee

● ● ● PLENARY OPENING

Work in Europe in the 21st Century. Current trends and policy challenges

Chair: Giovanna Altieri, director IRES - Italy

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Welcome

13:45 Monique Ramioul, research manager, HIVA-K.U.Leuven & WORKS project co-ordinator - Belgium
The WORKS project: some conclusions and insights on changes in work in Europe

14:15 Will Hutton, director Work Foundation - UK
The future of work in Europe in a global knowledge economy

14:45 General discussion

15:10 Coffee break

Chair: Rumiana Jeleva, head of the Bulgarian Delegation in the EPP-ED Group, European Parliament - Bulgaria

15:30 Jörg Flecker, scientific director FORBA - Austria
Fragmentation of labour processes

16:00 Jean-Michel Baer, director for Science, Economy and Society, research Directorate General - European Commission (to be confirmed)

16:30 Philippe Pochet, director ETUI-REHS - Belgium
The future of work in Europe: the social dialogue agenda

17:00 Summary of the day
Emilio Reyneri, professor, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan - Italy
Birgit Stimmer, acting director of the Labour Relations and Equality between women and men division, Federal Ministry for Economics Affairs and Labour - Austria

17:40 General discussion

18:00 Cocktail reception

Thursday, 9 October 2008

CGIL (Confederazione Generale Italiana di Lavoro), Corso Italia 25, Rome

08:45 Registration and coffee

09:15 Agostino Megale, president IRES, Italy
Welcome speech

● ● ● PARALLEL SESSION 1

Session 1a

Global value chain restructuring and organisational change

Chair: Stavros P. Gavroglou, head of labour market studies, Employment Observatory PAEP - Greece

09:30 Ursula Huws, professor, WLRI, London Metropolitan University - United Kingdom
Global value chain restructuring

09:50 Karen Geurts, senior research associate HIVA-K.U.Leuven - Belgium
Measuring global value chain restructuring

10:10 Interventions
Christian Bellak, associate professor at the Department of Economics, Vienna University of Economics - Austria
Timothy J. Sturgeon, senior research affiliate Institute of Technology - Massachusetts, USA

10:40 General discussion

Session 1b

The impact on workers. Wellbeing, autonomy and representation

Chair: Peter Hasle, senior researcher National Research Centre for Working Environment - Denmark

09:30 Daniele Di Nunzio, research associate IRES - Italy
Health, safety and the quality of working life

09:50 Per Tengblad, labour consultant/researcher ATK - Sweden
Changes in worker organisation and representation at the workplace

10:10 Interventions
Kenneth Abrahamsson, adjunct professor, Lulea Technical University - Sweden
Hans-Joachim Schulz, director for division 'Innovation and Quality of Work', National Executive Board ver.di - Germany

10:40 General discussion

11:00 Coffee break

● ● ● PARALLEL SESSION 2

Session 2a

Flexibility and work-life balance

Chair: Marcello Pedaci, research associate IRES - Italy

11:30 Ursula Holtgrewe, senior researcher FORBA - Austria
Strategies to reach flexibility

11:50 Bettina-Johanna Krings, senior research fellow ITAS - Germany
Working time, gender and work-life balance

12:10 Interventions
Helge Hvid, associate professor, Roskilde University - Denmark
Jose Ramalho, professor of sociology, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

12:40 General discussion

Session 2b

Changing career patterns, risks and opportunities for women and men

Chair: Hans Torvatn, senior researcher SINTEF - Norway

11:30 Gérard Valenduc, co-director FTU - Belgium
New career trajectories and biographies

11:50 Maria Stratigaki, assistant professor, Panteion University - Greece
Changes in policy in respect to gender and ethnic power relations at the workplace

12:10 Interventions
Marcia de Paula Leite, senior researcher State University of Campinas - Brazil
Greet Vermeylen, research manager European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions - Ireland

12:40 General discussion

13:00 Lunch break

● ● ● PARALLEL SESSION 3

Session 3a

Changes in the workplace - in technologies, in skill requirements and in working conditions

Chair: Patricia Vendramin, co-director FTU - Belgium

14:00 Nathalie Greenan, research associate CEE - France
Employers' use of technology and the impact on organisational structures

14:20 Monique Ramioul, research manager HIVA-K.U.Leuven & WORKS project co-ordinator - Belgium
Global value chain restructuring: the use of knowledge and skills

14:40 Ekaterina Kalugina, researcher CEE - France
Trends in work organisations and working conditions in Europe

15:00 Interventions

Sharon Brown, chief Division of Local Area Unemployment Statistics, US Bureau of Labor Statistics
Thomas Coutrot, head of the Work Conditions and Occupational Health Department, Ministry of Labour - France
Bill Taylor, associate professor, Department of Public and Social Administration, City University of Hong Kong

15:45 General discussion

Session 3b

Changes at the regional and national level. New paths for Europe?

Chair: Willem Trommel, professor of public policy and governance, University of Amsterdam - The Netherlands

14:00 Csaba Makó, director of research ISB - Hungary
The position of transitional economies in the new global division of labour

14:20 Vassil Kirov, researcher Bulgarian Academy of Sciences - Bulgaria
Restructuring of work in transitional economies: the impact on employment

14:40 Duco Bannink, lecturer in Sociology, Social Risks and Safety Studies, University of Twente - The Netherlands
Emerging typologies

15:00 António Brandão Moniz, president IET - Portugal
Change processes and future perspectives

15:20 Interventions
Francisco Louçã, professor of Economics, School of Economics and Management, Technical University of Lisbon - Portugal
Valeria Pulignano, professor of Sociology, Centre for Sociological Research, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven - Belgium

15:45 General discussion

16:00 Coffee break

● ● ● PLENARY SESSION

The future of work in Europe in a global economy: what are the policy choices?

Chair: Donald Storrie, acting head of the Employment and Competitiveness Unit, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions - Ireland

16:20 Pamela Meil, senior research fellow ISF - Germany
Key findings from the WORKS policy pillar

16:40 Ursula Huws, professor, WLRI, London Metropolitan University - United Kingdom
The future of work in Europe in a global economy

17:00 Interventions
Chris Benner, associate professor, Department of Human and Community Development, University of California - USA
NN, DG Employment, European Commission (to be confirmed)

17:40 General discussion

18:00 Conference end

Scientific Committee

- Monique Ramioul, research manager Higher Institute of Labour Studies (HIVA) - Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium & WORKS project co-ordinator
- Ursula Huws, professor, Working Lives Research Institute (WLRI) - London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
- Jörg Flecker, scientific director, Forschungs- und Beratungsstelle Arbeitswelt (FORBA), Austria
- Gérard Valenduc, co-director, Fondation Travail-Université (FTU), Belgium
- Pamela Meil, senior research fellow, Institut für Sozialwissenschaftliche Forschung e.V. (ISF), Germany

Organising Committee

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In association with the WORKS consortium

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Practical information

Dates: 8-9 October 2008

Conference venue: Day 1: Hotel Jolly, Corso Italia 1, 00198 Rome, Italy
Day 2: CGIL (Confederazione Generale Italiana di Lavoro), Corso Italia 25, 00198 Rome, Italy

Conference language: The official conference language is English. No simultaneous translation will be available.

More information: <http://www.worksproject.be/conference2/welcome.htm>

Conference fee: Participation to the workshop is free of charge. Travel and hotel accommodation are to be arranged by yourself.
Visit the WORKS conference website (<http://www.worksproject.be/conference2/welcome.htm>) for the latest news on the conference and registration of your participation!
If you want to receive updates on the conference, please subscribe to our mailing list on <http://www.worksproject.be/Conference2/mailling.htm>.

Registration: When registration forms are received, the conference secretariat will send each participant a letter of confirmation (by email).

Cancellation: The conference secretariat must be notified in writing of cancellation of registration.
The conference secretariat reserves the right to charge an administration fee of 50 EUR for participants who are not present at the conference and who have not cancelled their registration at least 2 working days in advance.