

EPSU Social Dialogue and Collective Bargaining Conference

Quality Employment and Quality Public Services

6-7 June 2018, 09.00-17.00 and 09.00-15.00

ITUH, Auditorium, Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5, 1210 Brussels

This conference is part of a two-year project on quality employment and quality public services. Research for the project has been examining the nature of quality employment in general but has also focused on two sectors in particular: **childcare** and **prison services**. This conference provides the first opportunity to discuss this new research based on case studies from five countries – Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Sweden and the UK.

The conference sessions in the afternoon of the first day and on the second day will cover more general issues related to quality employment. In each case, the debates will highlight **new research**, including:

- Comparison of pay trends in the public and private sectors;
- Tackling low pay and undervalued jobs in sectors dominated by women;
- The impact of digitalisation on public service jobs; and
- Young workers and public service employment.

The final session will be a general debate on **collective bargaining**, its importance in delivering quality employment and the challenge to defend, extend and strengthen collective bargaining in the public services.

LANGUAGES: Active: Croatian (BCSM), Czech, English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, Swedish. **Passive:** Italian and Portuguese

Wednesday 6th June 9.00-17.00

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Welcome and introduction to conference and project**

Quality employment in childcare

9.10 **Quality childcare and quality employment**
Key findings from country case studies: Bulgaria, Italy, Sweden and UK
Monique Ramioul and Yennef Vereycken, HIVA, Leuven University

9.40 **Input and reaction from EPSU affiliates**

10.30 Coffee

11.00 **Conclusions and debate on developing the childcare sector in EPSU**

Quality employment in prison services

11.30 **Quality prison services and quality employment**
Key findings from country case studies: Greece, Italy, Sweden and UK
Monique Ramioul and Yennef Vereycken, HIVA, Leuven University

12.00 **Input and reaction from EPSU affiliates**

12.30 Buffet lunch provided

14.00 **Conclusions and debate on next steps for EPSU's prison services network**

Pay in the public services

Pay is a fundamental part of a quality job and two new research reports are presented here that examine key issues for public service workers. The first report compares trends in public and private sector pay over the last 10-12 years and the second investigates the problem of low pay in sectors where women form the majority of workers and trade union initiatives to improve pay and revalue "women's" jobs.

14.30 **Comparing pay trends in the public services and private sector**
Lionel Fulton, Labour Research Department

15.30 Coffee

16.00 **Pay in sectors dominated by women**
Torsten Müller, *Senior Researcher, European Trade Union Institute*

Thursday 7th June 9.00-15.00

Digitalisation

There have been lots of warnings about the impact of digitalisation on jobs but not so much concrete information on how this really affects workers. EPSU has commissioned a new study from the OSE research organisation to investigate this by using surveys of EPSU affiliates and interviews with workers in specific jobs.

9.00 **Digitalisation – impact on jobs and job content in the public services**
 OSE

10.30 Coffee

Young workers

In 2012, EPSU published research which included stark figures on the low levels of employment of young workers across the public services in many countries. This research has now been updated and will give an indication of the current challenges facing young workers.

11.00 **Young workers and quality employment in public services**
 Nick Clarke, University of Middlesex and EPSU youth network members

12.30 Coffee

Collective bargaining

Collective bargaining plays a vital role in delivering quality employment for public service workers but it is often denied to certain groups of workers or has been blocked or frozen. This final panel session will discuss what has been done and can be done to (re)establish and strengthen collective bargaining across the public services.

13.00 **Collective bargaining and quality employment in the public services – panel debate**

14.00 Buffet lunch provided