

Making Europe the best place to work!

How social innovation contributes to competitive and inclusive labour markets

5th December 2018, 9:00 – 15:15 CET

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Rue Gineste 3, 1210 Brussels

2019 will be a decisive year for the European Union. European Parliament elections will be taking place and a new European Commission will take office at a time, where euroscepticism and populism are on the rise. Incoming policy makers need a new vision to respond to the current trends affecting labour markets. This new vision should focus on social innovation.

Social innovation, understood as the implementation of new solutions for working, learning and social protection for the benefits of workers, employers and society will be put forward as an instrument to address current challenges linked to demographic trends, technological innovation and new attitudes to work. During our “ideas fair”, experts from the private employment industry will showcase social innovation practices developed across Europe. We will then debate with participants how to take the concept further to build competitive and inclusive labour markets in Europe.

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| 9:00 – 9:15 | Arrival of participants and welcome coffee |
| 9:15 – 9:30 | Opening address
Jurriën Koops, Executive Committee Vice-President, WEC-Europe |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Social innovation in the employment industry: Diverse forms of work and new social safety nets for the 21st century
Denis Pennel, Managing Director, WEC-Europe |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Skills as the motor behind competitive and inclusive labour markets
Manuela Geleng, Director for the Directorate ‘Skills’, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
Q&A session |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee break |

Conference programme

- 11:00 – 12:30 **Ideas Lab: Social innovation practices in the employment industry**
- France - New forms of social protection and safety nets (Mathilde Bonnichon, Prism'emploi)
 - Belgium - Building a career with skill: bipartite training fund tools (Vincent Vandenameele, FFI)
 - The Netherlands - Flexible but predictable: easing access to mortgages for agency workers (Jurriën Koops, ABU)
 - Italy – Cooperation between public and private employment services: the voucher system in Lombardy Region (Agostino Di Maio, Assolavoro)
 - The United Kingdom - Future of Jobs Ambassadors: preparing the next generations for the changing world of work (Tom Hadley, REC)
 - Spain - Safety first! Guaranteeing decent working conditions for all workers (Marta Lucas, Asempleo)
- 12:30 – 14:00 *Networking lunch*
- 14:00 – 15:00 **What drives social innovation and contributes to more inclusive labour markets?**
- Panel debate (moderated by Cathy Smith)**
- Alexandra Tzvetkova, European Commission Political Strategy Centre
 - Erik Pentenga, FNV uitzend/flex - UNI-Europa (European services workers union)
 - Bettina Schaller, WEC-Europe President
 - Mark Keese, Head of Skills and Employability Division, OECD
 - Dariusz Sikora, Co-founder and Manager of Limitless - the leader of the Social Innovation Academy
- Q&A session
- 15:00 – 15:15 **Closing remarks: Making Europe the best place to work – our 2024 vision for people, companies and societies**
- Bettina Schaller, President, WEC-Europe**

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