

European Works Councils and transnational social dialogue: the intercultural perspective

European seminar
Thursday 6 and Friday 7, October 2011
Leuven, Belgium



In general

When and where

Thursday & Friday, October 6 & 7, 2011. Starting on Thursday afternoon and ending Friday at noon.

HIVA-K.U.Leuven, Parkstraat 47, Leuven (25 minutes by train from Brussels Airport), Belgium.

Organisation

The policy-oriented conference is organised by the HIVA – Research institute for Work and Society of the Catholic University Leuven (Belgium), in collaboration with the European Centre for Workers' Questions (EZA) and with the financial support of the European Commission.

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Objectives

In follow-up of the European Year of intercultural dialogue (2008) and the revision of the European Works Council directive (2009) a seminar will be organised, which will investigate the issue of interculturality from the perspective of employee representatives at the international level.

The global aim is to discuss and debate what are the challenges of global interculturality issues on the performance and quality of social dialogue at the level of European Works Councils (EWCs). The concrete goal is to survey what are the practical conditions and possible best practices to include this interculturality dimension in a) the social dialogue processes of this international company level and b) the training and coaching of EWC members in this regard.

In the tradition of the HIVA seminars, supported by EZA, the topic of the seminar will be tackled by confronting scientific insights with practitioners' experiences to stimulate debate and deepen knowledge. Seminar sessions will be especially dedicated to the following topics of interculturality and social dialogue:

- 1) the development of labour transnationalism and different national trade union styles
- 2) the challenge of other managerial cultures (coming from emerging multinationals)
- 3) process-based examples of dealing with intercultural issues in transnational social dialogue.

Target audience

1. Experts and representatives of workers' organisations and employers' organisations, specialised in training and coaching of EWC representatives.
2. Key members of European Works Councils
3. Academics with a scientific interest in transnational social dialogue.

Registration

Registration to the seminar is free of charge. The travel costs of participants living more than 150 kilometres from the conference venue (Leuven, Belgium) will be reimbursed to a maximum amount of 350 Euro on presentation of the original documents. The number of participants to the seminar is limited to 35 people.

More information: <http://www.hiva.be/>

Programme

Thursday, 6 October

- 13.45 Welcome: Barto Pronk, EZA president
14.00 Introduction to the seminar, Valeria Pulignano, CESO-K.U.Leuven
14.15 Transnational social dialogue: current trends and practices
Luc Triangle, ETUF:TCL (tbc)

Session 1: Labour transnationalism and different union styles

- 14.45 Labour cooperation or conflict in the enlarged EU: strategies in the automotive sector
Magdalena Bernaciak, Central European University
15.20 Break
15.45 Cultural influences on European employee interest representation
Matthias Klemm, Clemens Kraetsch, Jan Weyand, University of Erlangen

Session 2a: The challenge of other managerial cultures

- 16.20 The Islamic perspective on industrial relations
Jawad Syed, University of Kent
17.00 End of the first day
19.00 Conference dinner

Friday, 7 October

- 9.15 European Works council: the challenge for labour
Jeremy Waddington, University of Manchester

Session 2b: The challenge of other managerial cultures

- 9.50 People-management and organized labour in China
Malcolm Warner, University of Cambridge
10.25 Break

Session 3: Practices of dealing with intercultural issues

- 10.45 Intercultural effective Health, Safety, Environmental Culture
Bjørn Christian Nørbech, Kulturtolk, Norway
11.20 Intercultural project management
Lutgard Duser & Roland Waeyaert, Livingstone Belgium
12.00 Closing address: Guy Van Gyes, HIVA-K.U.Leuven
12.15 Lunch