

DRAFT PROGRAMME

**Social dialogue in times of global economic crisis
(Project no. 0456)**

First expert workshop

05-06 May 2011

ASTREES – Paris

Venue: 20 rue Saint Nicolas – 75012 Paris

I. Research project: objectives and tasks

The financial and economic crisis has had a deep impact on the political, economic and social environment in the EU Member States. Countries were not hit to the same degree, but impacts were felt in terms of decrease of production, decline in GDP and increases in unemployment and public debt. The current crisis not only challenges political decision makers but also the social partners.

The hypothesis of this project research is that social dialogue has been a means mobilised at different levels to respond to the crisis and to support solutions cushioning the effects of the crisis.

The project follows three main **objectives**.

First the researchers will map, analyse and assess the practices of social dialogue resulting from the crisis and the role social dialogue has played in order to cushion the impacts and overcome the negative effects of the crisis at various levels of social dialogue. We will address the questions of institutional innovation or path dependent practices of social partnership.

Secondly, the project aims at categorising the outcomes of such practices at various levels of social dialogue in an attempt to identify converging or diverging trends in the solutions supported by the social partners, on their own or together with the government.

Finally, the project aims at evaluating the extent to which the social dialogue answers to the crisis are effective and sustainable from a political, economic, social and institutional point of view.

II. Research project: state of play

The contractor has at first carried out a desk research drawing up a review of the academic literature as well as policy documents of European institutions and European and national social partners. In order to carry out a thorough and comparative analysis of the literature review, the contractor has proposed an analytical framework taking into account relevant scientific theories. This first task gives insights of the social dialogue during the crisis in the 27 Member States and the responses social partners contribute to give in the face of the challenges brought about by the crisis. This work has been complemented by 13 case studies carried out by national experts at various levels of social dialogue in 13 different countries.

- 1 case study was carried at transnational level at ArcelorMittal;
- 3 case studies at national level in Poland, Austria and Italy;
- 3 case studies at sectoral level in the Netherlands (construction), Germany (metalworking industry) and in the UK (Scottish finance sector),
- 1 case study at regional level with the 7th Social Concertation Agreement in Andalusia in 2009
- 5 case studies at company level in Bulgaria, Hungary, Belgium, Sweden and Romania.

The case studies are based on semi-structured interviews involving employees' and employers' representatives and other public actors, if relevant. The case studies examine some good practices, but also examples in which social dialogue has been difficult and results nuanced.

III. Research workshop: Objectives

The expert workshop is aimed at sharing experience between the contractor, academia and the stakeholders of Eurofound. It is organised by Eurofound to stimulate debate, to confront points of view, to give feedback on the draft final report and recommendations for the final report.

To stimulate exchanges, the draft final report submitted by the contractor will be discussed with the participants of the workshop. The main findings will be presented by means of PowerPoint presentations. The recommendations resulting from this expert workshop will be incorporated into the final report.

Project: Social dialogue in times of global economic crisis

Date: 5 May (afternoon) – 6 May (morning) 2011

Venue: Carré Saint Nicolas, 20 rue Saint Nicolas, 75012 Paris

1st Day, 5 May (afternoon)

- 13:30 Registration of participants
- 14:00 Welcome: *Stavroula Demetriades, Eurofound(tbc)* and
Opening of the workshop: Background of the project, expectations and objectives
Christian Welz, Eurofound
- 14:15 ASTREES: missions and activities, presentation of the content of the project
Claude-Emmanuel Triomphe, ASTREES
- 14:30 Social dialogue in times of crisis: research design and main findings
David Tarren, Adapt International, Rachel Guyet, ASTREES
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 Discussion with participants
Christian Welz, Eurofound
- 17:30 End of session

joint dinner

2nd day: 6 May (morning)

- 9:00 Welcome coffee
- 9:30 Presentation of the case studies methodology
Rachel Guyet, Project manager, ASTREES
- 9:50 Presentation of ArcelorMittal case study
Christophe Teissier, ASTREES, Hughes Fauville, ArcelorMittal (tbc)
- 10:20 Presentation of the German sectoral case study
Jörg Weingarten, Tim Pixa, PCG
- 10:40 Presentation of a company case study in Sweden
Tommy Isidorsson, Kristina Håkansson, University of Gothenburg
- 11:00 Discussion
- 12:00 Conclusions and next steps
Christian Welz, Eurofound
- 12:30 *End of expert workshop*