

DIACwowe - an example of best practice
Dialogue with the policy community:
"Exchange Meetings for Dialogue"

DIACwowe's objectives

The core objective of the Dialogue Center (DIACwowe) is to **create an on-going dialogue between the research community gathered within RECWOWE and the policy community in charge of labour market and welfare policies** (i.e. the actors who participate in elaborating, deciding, negotiating and implementing public policies in the field of labour market, employment and social protection).

Indeed, very often, senior civil servants, politicians, social partners complain that they do not know the results of on-going research, especially that financed from European money. The aim of the Dialogue Center is **to make research accessible to interested actors**. Another complaint is that research is often not useful. By installing a reciprocal dialogue between the research and the policy communities, RECWOWE will **improve the relationships between them and improve the sensitivity of each to the other's activities and concerns**.

Exchanges Meetings for Dialogue

DIACwowe organises short conferences, called Exchange Meetings for Dialogue, during which researchers present their on-going work and their results to actors involved in the European processes. **These Exchange Meetings for Dialogue gather researchers involved in RECWOWE and interested civil servants, experts, politicians and various actors working in Brussels.**

By grouping people working on different policies into a single series of seminars, DIACwowe aims at getting closer to European policy trends (i.e.EES and social OMCs). Most of the meetings are organised in partnership (with e.g. ETUC/ETUI, social NGOs...).

Exchange meetings: content and audience

Three public debates have already been organised with policy makers in charge of labour market and welfare policies.

Each of these exchange meetings, based on the intervention of a scholar from RECWOWE, has gathered **more than 50 people** and opened an extremely fruitful debate on key social challenges.

Most members of the audience were **European actors** from the European Commission, European-wide social NGOs (such as EAPN, European foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions), European social partners, European social protection and employment committee, etc.

The first meeting was centred on **"The politics of reform in Bismarckian welfare systems: a common trajectory?"**.

It was organised in collaboration with the Belgian Central Economic Council, the Belgian National Labour Council and the Observatoire social européen and it was held on February 21st, 2007 from 12.30 to 15.30.

The event has been introduced by Elise Willame, President of the European Social Protection Committee.

The presentation was made by Bruno PALIER (P02 FNSP). It compared the development of Bismarckian welfare systems during the last 25 years, showing the common patterns of reform in these countries which seem to be following parallel trends with respect to the timing, content and process of reforms.

The second meeting was centred on **"Flexicurity: a new paradigm for labour market and employment regulation?"**.

It was organised in collaboration with the Belgian Central Economic Council, the Belgian National Labour Council and the Observatoire social européen, with the support of the Belgian Federal Public Service on Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue, and it was held on May 3rd, 2007 from 12.30 to 15.30.

The event has been introduced by Emilio Gabaglio, President of the European Employment Committee.

The presentation was made by Ton WILTHAGEN (P10 UVT). It concentrated on flexicurity preconditions, indicators, EU Member States starting positions and on the possible flexicurity pathways.

A third meeting, organized in February 2008, was centred on **"Flexicurity: Redefining the security of European citizens"**.

It was organised by the Platform of European Social NGOs in collaboration with the Observatoire social européen and it was held on February 28th, 2008.

Pascale Vielle (P13 UCL) intervened on the consequences of flexicurity at the individual level, on the objective of security, its domains of intervention and the partners involved in this new model at the European level.

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