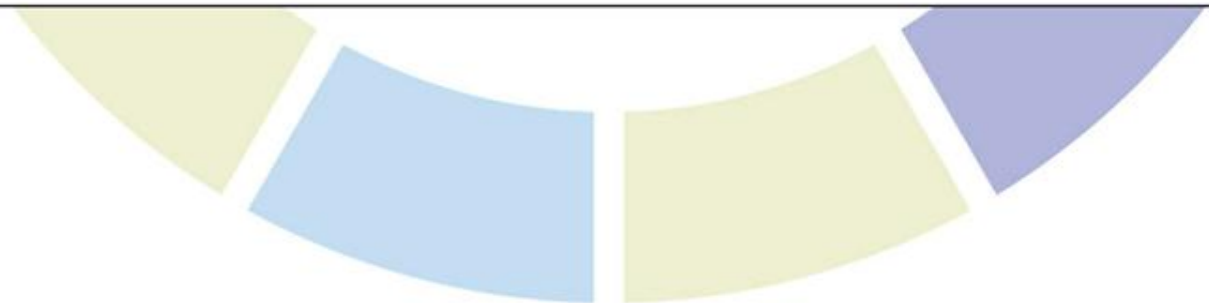




# **Kick-off meeting for the project TRASDEM**

**Latest developments at EU level:  
flexicurity, youth employment,  
quality of work...**

Ilaria Savoini  
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# EuroCommerce : short introduction

- **EuroCommerce** ⇒ **since 1993**
  - retail, wholesale, international trade
  - vis-à-vis the European Institutions
- **> 100 members**
  - Association ⇒ 31 countries
  - Companies
  - Sub-sectoral national and European organisations
  - Recognised social partner (consulted by the Commission)
    - sectoral social dialogue at EU level (informal since 80s, official since 1998)
    - Exclusive representative of the employers of the whole sector at EU level



# EU Social dialogue

- Work programme: for 2 years
- 4-5 meetings/year (consider that the EC will reduce funding, then max)
- Joint lobbying, research & project work, promotion of the sector
- No binding outcomes BUT: recommendations, joint statements, opinions etc.
- On general EU policies with a wide sectoral impact
- Avoid conflicting/typically national issues (no progress)

# EU policies: Flexicurity (1)

- The last related EU document: so-called employment package – Communication « Towards a job-rich recovery » (COM(2012) 173 final)  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0173:FIN:EN:PDF>
- The **crisis persists** and unemployment is at record levels:
  - EU 10.3% - Eurozone 11% (April 2012)
- Meeting the employment target of 75% set by Europe 2020 requires the creation of **17.6m jobs within 8 years**
- **Fiscal consolidation** needs to go **hand in hand** with economic and employment recovery plans aimed at **kick-starting labour demand**
- Employment policies are key in generating **favourable conditions** for job creation
- Need to **mobilise all** actors and resources towards a common goal

# EU policies: Flexicurity (2)

- It is a **Commission policy Communication** "Towards a job-rich recovery" and nine **Commission Staff Working Documents**, of which two are consultation papers
- It is a **medium-term agenda** for EU and Member States' action. It lays down proposals for **employment to be a driver for growth**, by:
  - Triggering job creation by stimulating labour demand through well-designed measures
  - Outlining balanced reforms to make EU labour markets more inclusive and the importance of investing in skills policies to enhance workforce mobility and adaptability prospects
  - Strengthening the employment & social dimension in EU governance, by involving Social Partners more closely in decision making
  - See <http://www.eurocommerce.be/content.aspx?PageId=42315>

# EU Policies: Youth employment (1)

- The Youth Opportunity Initiative: a set of measures to drive down youth unemployment, see <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1006>
- Goals
  - To support unemployed young people. In particular it aims to help:
    - people who left school or training without having achieved upper-secondary education to return to school or enrol in vocational training for in-demand skills
    - graduates to get a first work experience.

# EU Policies: Youth employment (2)

- Methods
  - Promoting youth employment through:
  - greater use of the [European Social Fund](#)
  - innovative approaches
  - making it easier for young people to find jobs in another EU country
  - stronger partnerships between political authorities, business and trade unions at EU, national, regional and local levels
  - policy guidance and assistance from the European Commission.
- Key actions
  - European Social Fund (ESF):
    - increased use of ESF by national governments t€1.3 million in ESF technical assistance to set up [apprenticeship schemes](#) –.
    - €3 million in ESF technical assistance for [young business starters](#) and social entrepreneurs

# EU Policies: Youth employment (3)

- **Other EU-level actions:**
  - **Youth guarantees** – €4 million to help EU countries get young people into employment, further education or (re)training within 4 months of leaving school.
- [European quality framework on traineeships](#)
- [Your First Eures Job](#) – preparatory action to help 5,000 young people find a job in another EU country (2012-13)
- [Erasmus](#) & [Leonardo da Vinci](#) – 130,000 [company placements](#) in 2012 in other EU countries for university-level and vocational students
- [Erasmus for Entrepreneurs](#) – 600 placements for young entrepreneurs in small businesses in other EU countries
- EuroCommerce works on these issues, when possible in cooperation with UNI Europa (social partner)
  - From our point of view, main issues are **apprenticeship** and **skills**



# EU Policies: quality of work

- Sometimes difficult to agree on this definition between the social partners: link with typology of contracts, etc.
- **Health and safety at workplace** is one of the main priorities related with this issue: new strategy due to be published later this year
- See also studies implemented by Eurofound on commerce, such as for example:  
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/docs/ewco/tn1109058s/tn1109058s.pdf>
- Commerce sector often faced to criticism regarding «quality of work»: importance to gather, exchange and build on good practices!

# EU policies: Mobility and migration

- Communication on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM)
- The EU's Global Approach to Migration was adopted in 2005.
- The Global Approach was evaluated in the first half of 2011 through an online public consultation and several dedicated consultative meetings.
- Main sub-items:
  - Enhancing the integration of non-EU nationals in EU societies
  - Fighting irregular migration
  - Managing migration through partnership with non-EU countries, see [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/immigration/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/immigration/index_en.htm)
- See also the link with “internal mobility” from one EU country to another (transferability of skills, targeted policies, mobility of apprentices, etc.), EURES Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp>



Do you have any questions?

Thank you for your attention!

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