



Social Situation Monitor

Seminar on Self-employment

21 May 2015

**Hotel Martin's Brussels EU - Boulevard
Charlemagne 80 - 1000 Brussels**

Draft agenda



Supporting entrepreneurship and self-employment is an important part of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The economic crisis and the slow recovery from it accentuate the role that self-employment can play in creating jobs and giving unemployed and disadvantaged people an opportunity to fully participate in the economy and society. Nevertheless, the scope for growth of self-employment varies markedly across Member States (its share of total employment ranging from 8% in Denmark and Luxembourg to over 30% in Greece), which implies differing policy responses to exploiting its potential.

The seminar will cover various aspects of self-employment. The first session will focus on the profile of the self-employed, as well as changes in recent years in the face of ongoing structural changes such as technological advance, globalisation and demographic trends.

The second session will consider the 'quality' of self-employment and the issue of 'dependent' self-employed, including their access to social benefits, healthcare and training.

The last session will examine labour market policies implemented in EU Member States to encourage people, especially the unemployed, to become self-employed and their effectiveness as well as the possible barriers to self-employment and to start up a business.

The seminar is part of a series of biannual seminars organised by the Social Situation Monitor (the successor to the Social Situation Observatory) which is supported by the European Commission and composed of Applica in Brussels, the Athens University of Economics and Business, the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna, ISER at the University of Essex in the UK and Tárki in Budapest.

Draft Agenda

- 8.45-9.10 Registration and welcome
- 9.10-9.20 Introduction (European Commission)
- 9.20-11.20 Session 1: Profile of the self-employed, future challenges and opportunities
- 9.20-9.40 Self-employment and the economic crisis in Europe
Antonella Baldassarini, Istat
- 9.40-10.00 Discussion
- 10.00-10.20 The rise of Europe's independent professionals (iPros)
Patricia Leighton, IPAG Business School
- 10.20-10.40 Discussion
- 10.40-11.00 Self-employment of older people in eastern EU countries
Łukasz Sienkiewicz, Warsaw School of Economics
- 11.00-11.20 Discussion
- 11.20-11.40 Coffee-break
- 11.40-13.00 Session 2: "Quality" of self-employment
- 11.40-12.00 "Dependent" self-employment in Europe
Christer Thörnqvist, University of Skövde
- 12.00-12.20 Discussion
- 12.20-12.40 Tackling informal self-employment in the EU
Colin Williams, University of Sheffield
- 12.40-13.00 Discussion
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-16.00 Session 3: Labour market policies in favour of self-employment and entrepreneurship
- 14.00-14.20 Barriers to entrepreneurship and policies for inclusive entrepreneurship in Europe
David Halabisky, OECD
- 14.20-14.40 Discussion
- 14.40-15.00 Start-up subsidies for the unemployed
Steffen Künn, IZA
- 15.00-15.20 Discussion
- 15.20-15.40 Barriers and incentives to female self-employment in Norway
Marit Rønsen, Statistics Norway
- 15.40-16.00 Discussion
- 16.00-16.10 Closing remarks (European Commission)

