

Changing working conditions in Europe: Moving towards better work

First findings from Eurofound's 6th European Working Conditions Survey

*Joint conference organised by Eurofound in cooperation with the
Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union*

Juan Menéndez-Valdés - Closing remarks

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues

It has been a long day of thought-provoking interventions and fruitful discussion. And since the Chairman of Eurofound's Governing Board has so aptly summarised the key points of our debate and highlighted the challenges ahead of us, I can limit myself to outlining the next steps Eurofound will

undertake with regard to the European Working Conditions Survey.

The first findings that you take home in your conference pack with you today will be followed by a much more extensive overview report next year.

Changes over time and job quality will be a particular focus in this report which we plan to publish in October of next year.

Our second priority is the global report. This will include the findings from the five countries where fieldwork is currently ongoing: Albania, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey

and Serbia as well as analysis from the non-European countries where EWCS questions have been used for a survey of working conditions. This report will be published in 2017 – but first findings from the five European countries will already be available next year.

In-depth analysis on three topics will start next year: we will make a contribution to the joint report of Agencies on the ageing workforce coordinated by EU OSHA. A more extensive report on working conditions of workers of different ages is planned for 2017.

Secondly, we will analyse data on working time from the 6th EWCS to feed into our project on working time patterns and sustainable work.

Thirdly, we will pick-up on the strong policy interest in the blurring boundaries between dependent employment and self-employment and fast-track our analysis of working conditions of self-employed.

Additional questions on self-employment were added to the 6th EWCS so we expect highly relevant results already in 2016.

The future of work – as we discussed today – will also be shaped by technological change. We will investigate

the impact of digitalisation by looking at the working conditions of e-nomads. Also for this topic additional questions had been added to the 6th EWCS questionnaire. This report will be available in 2017.

An analysis of the link between working conditions and employee engagement and development is also planned for 2017.

And by 2018, two further reports – on work and health and on the link between employment status and working conditions – will be ready for your consumption.

We also plan to investigate work-life balance issues in more depths. Some first analysis could already be made available next year to support the Commission's planned package on a 'fresh start' for reconciliation of work and life. For a more substantial report we would like to explore the possibility to link EWCS findings with results from the 4th European Quality of Life Survey. This survey will go into the field next year and covers the issue also from the perspective of those not in paid employment.

Gender issues and the situation of those working with chronic diseases could also be the subject of further analysis.

This programme of analysis will stretch over the best part of the next four years. We have made a commitment in our draft Programming Document to conduct a further wave of the European Working Conditions Survey which would then happen in 2020.

This is looking very far ahead. Back to the present: for the moment I would like to encourage you to explore the information available in the Survey Mapping Tool – which is already available in five languages and covers about 35% of the questions.

I would like to thank the Luxembourgish Presidency once again for agreeing to organise this launch event

together with Eurofound. Your help and support is highly appreciated.

Thank you all for your contributions to this important debate. And have a safe journey home.