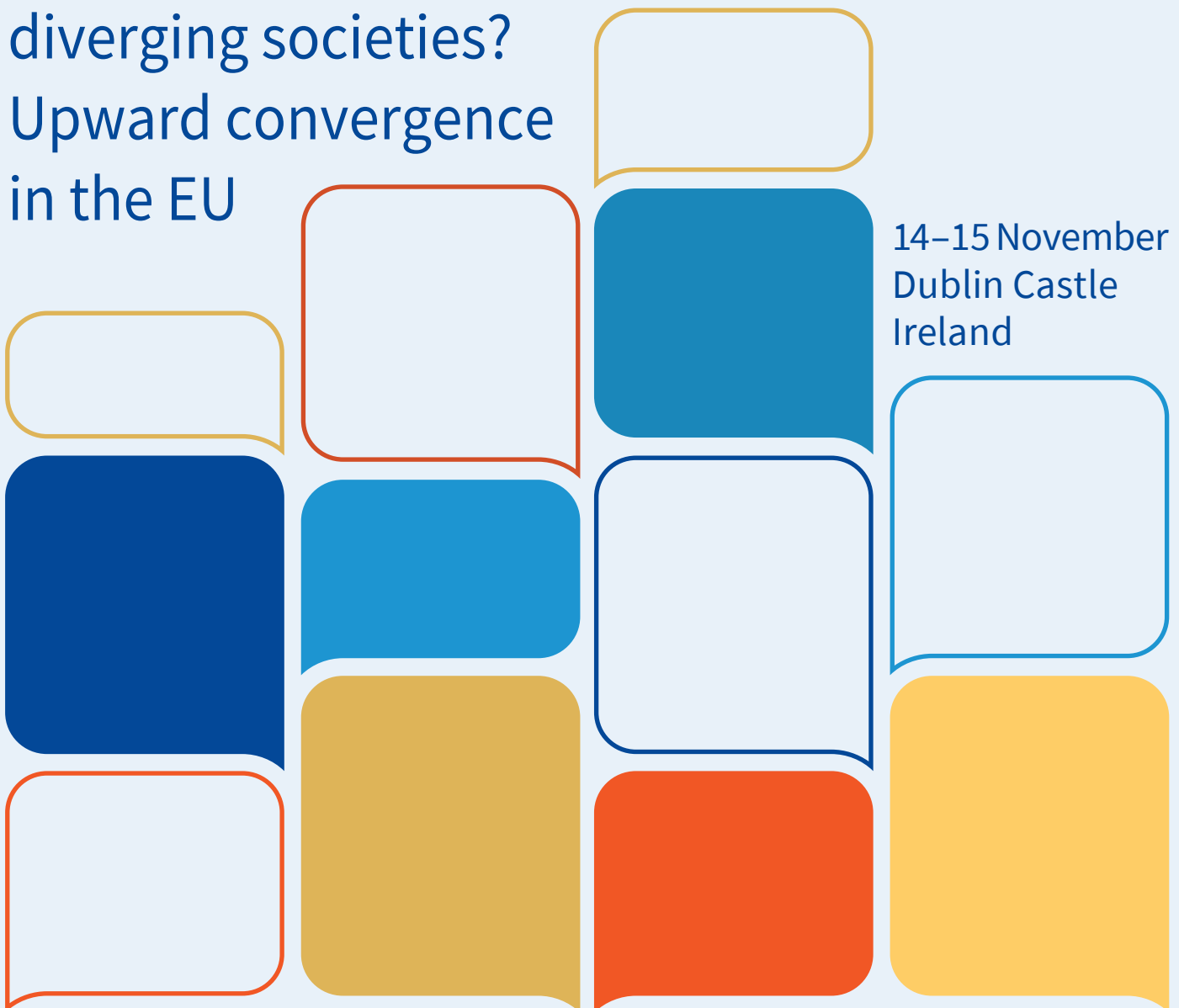


Taking the Forum forward – From Dublin to Gothenburg

Converging economies,
diverging societies?
Upward convergence
in the EU

14–15 November
Dublin Castle
Ireland



Economic and social convergence is essential for the European Union and for its political acceptability: divergence in social outcomes and in economic performance undermine the promises of shared prosperity - central to the very creation of the European Union. With a view to the construction of resilient societies, restoring economic and social convergence is now a top policy priority and with the assumption that economic and social convergence should be fully aligned, there is a window of opportunity for re-starting the engine of the 'convergence machine' of the European Union.

*In December, the discussions on the reform of Economic and Monetary Union will commence while the European Pillar of Social Rights will be proclaimed at the **#SocialSummit17** in Gothenburg. At this critical juncture for the EU **#DublinForum17** brought together high-level policymakers, social partners and academics to explore these issues.*

Some key messages that emerged from these discussions highlight the need:*

- 1. To mainstream the principles included in the European Pillar of Social Rights in policy implementation at different levels (EU, national, regional actors).**
- 2. To establish a limited number of clear priorities for action; this could include social protection for all workers regardless of their formal status, non-segmented labour markets, quality unemployment protection, activation measures, living wages.**
- 3. To establish the necessary tools to ensure Europe is ready to preserve social convergence in the next economic crisis. Economic and social priorities must be integrated in the framework of EMU.**
- 4. To level the playing field in working conditions.**
- 5. To protect employment as a core social right by improving employability and guaranteeing access and transitions to good jobs and employment trajectories.**
- 6. To base competition on good working conditions that ensures workers' engagement and optimal performance.**
- 7. To encourage companies to play a socially responsible role in adapting to changes in the world of work.**
- 8. To empower social partners to enable them to find solutions through collective negotiations.**
- 9. To align the social and economic dimensions of convergence and invest in long-term strategies for education and care, health and housing.**
- 10. To consider complementing indicators beyond the current Social Scoreboard to other measures, such as quality of life, and policy/input indicators going beyond outcomes.**
- 11. To align the use of the Structural Funds with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and focus funding on activities which have been positively evaluated and demonstrate added value.**
- 12. To support regional initiatives that develop regional partnerships (firms, social partners, civic society, local administration) to build collective capacities and avoid duplication.**

* These messages do not necessarily represent the views of Eurofound or its Governing Board.