

DRAFT PROGRAM

TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY IMPACT ON WELFARE SYSTEMS

COMPLETING THE INNOVATION DEBATE

During the five years of its mandate, the work of the independent, tripartite High Level Group on Innovation Policy Management (HLG) has focussed on the completion of innovation ecosystems in order to deal with the effects of new technologies on Europe's economic competitiveness and ecological sustainability.

The HLG believes that innovation of welfare state systems is of equal importance for the EU; it focuses on the third, i.e. the social, dimension of sustainability. However, it seems that the technocratic nature of EU governance and the division of competences between the EU and the Member States prevent EU policies and regulations to gain sufficient momentum to trigger the necessary changes of national welfare state systems.

The Salzburg University's Centre on European Studies has carried out, with the contribution of a number of EU scholars from different disciplines, a major study on defining the Common Good. Together with the work of the HLG, this will form the basis for the workshop, which is designed to analyse the impact of technological innovations on labour market, public health and education systems, and how the EU could or should take these into account and might facilitate their adaptation to new economic and social conditions.

KEY QUESTIONS

Is disruptive innovation in economic systems, relentlessly driven by technology and globalization, threatening national welfare state systems? As they form a key part of national identities, political stability and the European solidarity system, how can more be done to assist people threatened by these developments?

The benefits and the collateral effects of new technologies, in particular the spread of digitalization, have profound effects on the way people live and work. But the multiple, interdependent effects of digitalization still require deep examination in order to adapt public policies, in particular in education, labour market and public health.

Can the key pillars of public welfare of the past industrial age be transformed into a welfare society concept adapted to the digital economic age, with wider sharing of responsibilities and better coordination between public, corporate and civic actors?

How could European economic and monetary integration policies help to finance the necessary transition costs in labour markets, education and health systems in Member States and avoid a widening of innovation and welfare gaps within and between them ? OECD has made clear that inequality drags down growth, but what needs to be done to overcome inequalities within welfare provision systems? How can innovative welfare state policies respond to current and future needs and obtain customer satisfaction, taking account of demographic developments (such as aging and migration)? How can public sector innovation at EU and national level lead to more collaboration to manage the complexity and the multiple inter-actions of welfare issues in the Single Market ?

TARGET AUDIENCE

Approx. 30 experts from the business, academic and public sector.

DATE & VENUE

13 December 2018

Europasaal (HS 240) - Salzburg Centre of European Union Studies
Edmundsburg, 2nd floor
Mönchsberg 2
5020 Salzburg

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Under the Patronage of the Austrian Presidency

10-11h

Key note speeches :

The Welfare State and the Common Good

What does it mean for citizens, how can it be defined in a diverse and complex European Union

By Sonja Puntscher-Riekman



Multiple effects of new technologies

Challenges for the welfare state

By Matthias Weber

Coffee

11h15-13h

Session I Digitalization and labour market reform

NN, Digitalization in the services sector

NN, Digitalization in the industry sector

Lunch

14h00-16h00

Session II, Science & technology driven change in health

Nicky Yates (GSK), Prevention and cure

Frank Lehmann (Nestlé) : Nutrition and life style

Coffee

16h15-18h

Session III Education for new living and working conditions

Prof. Cathérine Paradeise, French Institute on Innovation in Society : Dealing with social challenges

Prof. Jean-Claude Thoenig (HLG) : Creating top schools & universities

18h *Conclusions*