



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY & HEALTH

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update

30.07.10

Contents



1. Commission

- EU-level sectoral committee dialogue
- July Monthly Labour Market Monitor
- EU Health Portal
- Mental Health Conference

2. Eurostat

- European demography



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

... Commission

Commission report on the sectoral social dialogue at EU level

Since 1998, the European Commission has created 40 sectoral social dialogue committees. They cover 145 million workers in the EU and include key sectors like transport, energy, agriculture, construction, trade, fisheries, public services, metal, shipyards and education. The Commission has published a staff working document on the sectoral social dialogue at European level which aims to take stock of the main achievements of the European-level sectoral social dialogue and to review the functioning of its committees.

The document highlights the dynamics, concrete impact and possible improvements of the sectoral social dialogue committees' work and identifies possible improvements with a view to extending the scope and quality of the consultation and negotiation processes.

European social dialogue refers to discussions, consultations, negotiations and joint actions involving organisations representing the two sides of industry (employers' and workers' representatives), the so-called "EU social partners". The sectoral social dialogue brings together the trade unions and employers' organisations in a specific sector (such as construction, textiles or hospitals) and is conducted through sectoral social dialogue committees.

The EU recognises social dialogue as one of the pillars of the European social model, and as a tool for social cohesion and resilience.

The European sectoral social dialogue committees work on issues such as health and safety at work, vocational training, skills, equal opportunities, mobility, corporate social responsibility, working conditions and sustainable development.

EU countries have to implement five Directives as a direct result of legally-binding texts agreed by social partners in sectoral social dialogue committees:

- to prevent injuries and infections to healthcare workers;
- to improve working conditions for the estimated 300,000 maritime transport workers;
- to set minimum standards for working hours and rest periods for maritime workers;
- to set minimum standards for working hours and rest periods for aircraft crews;
- to ensure satisfactory conditions for people working in cross-border rail services.

In addition to these and other formal agreements, social partners take other concrete measures at national or company level to raise awareness, support social dialogue at national/regional or company level or influence policy-making. Joint opinions, presentations of good practices or involvement in common projects (seminars, conferences, studies, workshops) offer opportunities for social partners to learn from one another and build trust.

Commission Staff Working Document

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=329&langId=en>



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

Monthly Labour Market Monitor July 2010



According to the latest Monthly Labour Market Monitor from the European Commission, the labour market in the EU is stabilising and may be reaching a turning point, but it may take some time before the fragile pick-up in economic activity triggers a solid impetus in the labour market.

Rises in the unemployment rate have eased in all Member States, and in May the rate remained unchanged or declined in a majority of EU countries. Nevertheless, the rate is still higher than a year ago in all but five Member States.

This month's edition focuses on the labour market situations in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the UK, and on recent developments in the manufacture of basic metals sector.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=850&furtherNews=yes>

Health-EU – the Public Health Portal of the European Union

Health-EU is the official Public Health Portal of the European Union in 22 languages launched on 10 May 2006.

It provides a single point of entry where citizens, administrations and health specialists can find and exchange reliable health related information and data from EU, national and sub-national levels, NGOs and international organisations.

The Portal is also an important source of information for health professionals, administrations, policy makers and stakeholders.

The portal is intended to help meet EU objectives in the Public Health field. It is an important instrument to positively influence behaviour and promote the steady improvement of public health in the 27 EU Member States. It has a multilingual thematic newsletter (in 22 languages) published every two weeks.

EU Public Health Portal

http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/index_en.htm



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

« Mental health and well-being in older people – making it happen »

This conference, which was the third thematic event under the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being, identified several horizontal issues needed for consideration in order to improve the mental health and well-being of older people :

- ageing starts at birth and it is determined by experiences in earlier life;
- the elderly are a heterogeneous group both between and within the Member States;
- the relevance of close relationships, physical, social and mental health, economic and cultural determinants;
- gender aspects ; and
- research into the mental health and well-being of older people.

Priority fields and key actions identified:

- mental health promotion in old age, healthy ageing and well-being – a healthy lifestyle, safe living environment and meaningful active participation in society and the community;
- prevention of mental disorders and promotion of autonomy – through addressing the risk factors for mental health problems in old age;
- older people in vulnerable situations – especially older women, persons with disabilities, those living in or at risk of poverty, experiencing chronic illness, suffering abuse and belonging to minority groups (ethnic, religious, sexual);
- health systems for care and treatment – community and outpatient oriented, proactive collaboration between physical and mental health treatment systems (esp. primary health care strengthened) and health and social sectors;
- supporting the informal carers – gender dimension.

The conference was jointly organised towards the end of June by DG SANCO, the Spanish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Spanish Presidency of the EU.

Report on the Conference:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/mental_health/docs/ev_20100628_report_en.pdf



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

... Eurostat

European Demography EU27 population - 501 million 5 million children born in the EU27 in 2009

On 1 January 2010, the population of the EU27 was estimated at 501.1 million, compared with 499.7 million on 1 January 2009. The population of the EU27 grew by 1.4 million in 2009, an annual rate of 2.7 per 1000 inhabitants, due to a natural increase of 0.5 million (+1.0%) and net migration of 0.9 million (+1.7%).

Compared with 2008, the demographic situation in 2009 in the EU27 is characterised by a slight decrease in the crude birth rate and a constant crude death rate, while net migration fell more significantly.

The highest birth rates were in Ireland, United Kingdom and France and the lowest in Germany and Austria. In 2009, 5.4 million children were born in the EU27. The crude birth rate was 10.7 per 1000 inhabitants, slightly down compared with 2008.

There were 4.8 million deaths registered in the EU27 in 2009. The crude death rate was 9.7 per 1000 inhabitants, the same as in 2008. The highest death rates were observed in Bulgaria, Latvia, Hungary and Lithuania and the lowest rates in Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta.

Full report

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/3-27072010-AP/EN/3-27072010-AP-EN.PDF