



Bringing the initiative on Zero Unemployment in the EU forward

Joint actions to impact policymaking

Online closed-door experts meeting

16th December 2022

14:00 – 16:00 (CET)

Link to register & connect: shorturl.at/cADT4

With unemployment rates below 7%, creating jobs risks becoming a less relevant priority for the EU, but such statistics does not capture the disconcerting picture of employment around the continent. Eurostat reports that in 2021, 31.2 million people in the EU faced an unmet demand for employment, corresponding to 14% of the extended labour force. On average at EU level, one out of five unemployed is out of the labour market for more than 2 years; more than one out of ten of those having a job is still ‘in poverty’ and over 5 million young people below 30 are out of a job.

This situation is likely to be exacerbated as economic uncertainty intensifies and megatrends such as demographic changes, the climate crisis, and technological developments endure. **We consider it a responsibility of the public sector to offer solutions that not only activate people facing social exclusion but also steer the economy in a desired direction: creating jobs for the green transition, the care sector and youth.**

Job guarantee-like initiatives exist already in Europe: in France, Austria and Belgium. In the context of giving real bite to the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, particularly **in view of supporting the headline target of 78% of the active population employed by 2030, the EU could launch an initiative to scale up and multiply the success of local and national experiences.** An EU initiative to support job guarantee programmes in the member states could help create sustainable, quality jobs, with meaningful benefits to the economy and communities and foster democracy in the workplace.

This event is dedicated to **bringing together people and organisations interested in the concept of an EU-level initiative for Zero Unemployment Areas** – borrowing from the French example of the “Territoires Zero Chômeurs de Longue Durée”. Based on a set of 10 principles for an EU Job guarantee brought forward by economist Pavlina Tcherneva, the meeting aims to gather a coalition interested in working together on refining what such an EU initiative could look like and on advocating for it collectively.

Objectives

- Discuss potential collaborations to advocate for an EU initiative for zero unemployment territories supporting job guarantee programs at local and national level
- Revise a potential common call with the 10 principles of a European action in the field
- Strategize on potential other joint activities and advocacy:
 - An official campaign
 - A joint conference
- Ensure that the policy proposal has traction in view of the run up to the European elections
- Strengthen the existing network and multiplying effect at local level



Agenda

14:00 – 14:10

Welcoming remarks, introduction and moderation

David Rinaldi, Director of Studies and Policy, FEPS & Lecturer on European Economic Governance, ULB Institute for European Studies

14:10 – 14:20

Tour de table – Presentation of all participants

14:20 – 15:00

The political moment for a European initiative supporting job guarantee programs

Inputs by:

- **Janina Urban**, Our Global Moment & Witten/Herdecke University
- **Yonnec Polet**, Deputy Secretary General, PES and Member of the European Committee of the Regions, rapporteur of the Own Initiative Report on the EU Initiative for Zero Unemployment Zones
- **Claes-Mikael Ståhl**, Deputy General Secretary, ETUC
- **Aurore Lalucq**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group and author of the policy brief "[A Job Guarantee for Europe - Economic policy innovation for Stability, Security And Sustainability](#)"

Interventions and feedback by participants

15:00 – 15:55

Presentation of the 10 key principles for an EU initiative

By **Pavlina Tcherneva**, Associate Professor of Economics, Bard College & Research Scholar at the Levy Economics Institute, Director of the Economic Democracy Initiative and author of the book "[The Case for a Job Guarantee](#)"

First respondents:

- **Isabelle Ferreras***, President of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters and Fines Arts of Belgium, Professor at the University of Louvain, Senior Research Associate of the Harvard Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard University and author of the book "[Democratize Work - The Case for Reorganizing the Economy](#)"
- **Rania Antonopoulos***, Senior Scholar and Director of the Gender Equality Program at the Levy Economics Institute, Professor at the New York University and former Member of the Hellenic Parliament, former Alternate Minister for Combatting Unemployment and former Greek Ambassador to the OECD

Interventions and feedback by participants

15:55 – 16:00

WRAP UP & NEXT STEPS

* To be confirmed.



Invited organisations:

- Aufstehn
- Democratizing Work initiative
- EAPN
- Economic Democracy Initiative
- European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- European Youth Forum
- Europe, A Patient
- FEPS
- Fondazione Pietro Nenni
- ILO
- Institut Emile Vandervelde
- Momentum
- New Economics Foundation
- Open Society Institute Europe
- Our Global Moment
- PES
- PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions
- S&D Group
- Tocca a Noi
- UIL
- Justice is global

Should you wish to invite like minded organisations or experts, feel free to do so. Share with them this document with david.rinaldi@feps-europe.eu and philine.edbauer@mailbox.org in cc.