

Shaping the “Next Economy”: The Territorial Dimension of the Future of Work in Southern Europe

ESPON Seminar

Wednesday 30th October // Bucharest, Romania

Hotel Cismigiu

1. Outline

The **free movement of workers and of knowledge** are considered like two cornerstones of the European Union, shaping policies and programmes such as Horizon 2020 – considered as the largest science and innovation fund under a single political authority – and Cohesion Policy – which considers Employment and Labour Mobility as one of its eleven priorities. However, **recent ESPON research unveils striking trends and territorial endowments driving the locational preferences of new employment creation**: contradictory forces and tensions impact the geographical distribution of new employment creation, strongly influenced by the continuous promotion of the knowledge economy as a key pathway for growth. The uneven **territorial consequences of European migration patterns** have now become a significant political issue, giving rise to “**geographies of discontent**” and a growing Euroscepticism.

The ESPON Seminar on “*Shaping the “Next Economy”*”: *The Territorial Dimension of the Future of Work in Southern Europe*” will examine the territorial dimension of labour markets in Southern Europe, setting forth the need to **adopt a place-sensitive approach while broadening the governance perspective** for designing effective policies.

Gathering policy-makers from the European, national and regional level, together with ESPON researchers, and international practitioners, the ESPON Seminar will offer a unique framework for discussing questions such as:

- How is the European policy focus on “knowledge economy” sectors for investment, jobs and growth impacting on the geographical distribution of new employment creation and what impact does this have for regional development and territorial cohesion?
- What are the opportunities for adversely affected Southern regions to capitalise on their place-based potential?
- What are best-practice policies and territorial-administrative governance scales to reverse emigration and attract/integrate migrants and human capital?

2. Programme

Moderation by Gabriela Macoveiu, Director for Communication, Innovation and External Cooperation, North-East Romania Regional Development Agency

Interpretation will be provided in English and Romanian

09.00	<i>Registration and Welcome Coffee</i>
09.30	<p>Welcome by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Diana Tenea, Member of ESPON Monitoring Committee, Head of National Authority of ESPON 2020 Programme, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration • Mr Liviu Bailesteanu, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Coordinator of the Urban Agenda – Jobs and Skills Partnership
Part I: Territorial patterns of New Employment Dynamics in Southern Europe	
10.00	<p>Geography of New Employment Dynamics in Europe: current landscape and future evolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Manuela Samek and Ms Cristina Vasilescu, Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale
10.30	<p>Commenting the ESPON policy recommendations, together with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Oana-Elena Mitea, Senior adviser, Directorate for Employment Policies, Skills and Labour Mobility, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, RO • Mr Bogdan-Tiberius Paşca, European affairs adviser, Directorate for Employment Policies, Skills and Labour Mobility, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, RO • Mr Răzvan Munteanu, inspector, Directorate of Labour Market Analysis, Employment and Vocational Training Programs • Mr. Lazăr Comănescu, PhD, Senior adviser (Foreign Relations) to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania and former Minister of Foreign Affairs • Mr Zsolt Ruszkai, Hungarian Ministry of Finance

11.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
Part II: Bridging the Skills Gap at the Regional and Local level – the policy perspective	
12.00	<p><i>European cooperation on skills and regional smart specialisation</i> by Mr Felix Rohn, Unit “Skills & qualifications”, DG EMPL, European Commission</p> <p><i>Jobs & Skills in local economy – the main results after 3 years of implementation of Urban Agenda for the EU</i> by Mr Liviu Bailesteanu, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Coordinator of the Urban Agenda – Jobs and Skills Partnership</p> <p>Mr Ovidiu Cimpean, co-manager of Cluj Future of Work and Director of local development – UIA Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy: Cluj-Napoca Municipality</p>
13.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
Part II: Tackling Youth Unemployment: Is Enough Being Done?	
14.30	<p>Youth Unemployment: Territorial Trends and Regional Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andreea Pop, ICON INSTITUT Public Sector GmbH <p>Digital Youth Work Trends as an Engine to tackle Youth Unemployment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Gabriel Brezoiu, General Manager, Group of the European Youth for Change
15.15	<p>Commenting the ESPON policy recommendations, together with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Oana-Elena Mitea, Senior adviser, Directorate for Employment Policies, Skills and Labour Mobility, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, RO • Mr Bogdan-Tiberius Pașca, European affairs adviser, Directorate for Employment Policies, Skills and Labour Mobility, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, RO • Mr Răzvan Munteanu, Inspector, Directorate of Labour Market Analysis, Employment and Vocational Training Programs • Mr. Lazăr Comănescu, PhD, Senior adviser (Foreign Relations) to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania and former Minister of Foreign Affairs • Mr Zsolt Ruszkai, Hungarian Ministry of Finance
16.00	Concluding remarks
16.30	End