

ERC Workshop: Labour Politics and the EU's New Economic Governance Regime

28-30 October 2019, European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole (Firenze)

Trade unions play a major role in democratic interest intermediation. This role, however, is threatened by the much more vertical aspects of the EU's new economic governance regime (NEG). Our joint EUI-SNS-UCD workshop therefore aims to explore the challenges that the NEG poses for labour politics.

Until recently, **European labour politics has mainly been shaped by horizontal market integration** through the free movement of goods, capital, services and people. Since the financial crisis, the latter has been **complemented by more vertical integration** effected through direct surveillance of member states. The resulting NEG opens contradictory possibilities for labour movements (Erne 2019): On the one hand, the reliance of NEG on vertical surveillance makes decisions taken in its name more tangible, offering concrete targets for transnational collective action.

On the other hand, NEG mimics the governance by numbers approach of multinationals in relation to subsidiaries by using scoreboards that put countries in competition with one another. This constitutes a deterrent to transnational collective action. NEG may therefore also trigger nationalist counter-movements, which is making European collective action ever more vital for the future of EU integration and democracy.

At the workshop we will discuss first findings of the UCD **ERC project** (www.erc-europeanunions.eu) that assesses the shifts in EU governance caused by NEG and its effects on labour politics across countries (Germany, Italy, Ireland, Romania) and public service areas (healthcare, water and transport services) and aims to open novel approaches that are able to account for the interplay between EU economic governance, labour politics and European democracy.

Understanding the EU's New Economic Governance Regime (NEG)

Monday 14:00-16:30, Sala Triaria, [Villa Schifanoia](#), EUI

Horizontal and Vertical Integration. A pivotal distinction for the understanding of NEG
Roland Erne (UCD)

Discussants: Stefano Bartolini, Brigid Laffan and Philippe Schmitter (EUI)

NEG and its Effects on Employment Relations and Public Services. First Project Findings

Tuesday 9:30-12:00, Sala Triaria, [Villa Schifanoia](#), EUI

Has the European Semester been socialised? Prescriptions for Germany, Italy, Ireland & Romania

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| - on Employment Relations | Jamie Jordan, Vincenzo Maccarrone, Roland Erne |
| - on Public Services in Health Care | Sabina Stan & Roland Erne |
| - in Water Services | Imre Szabó |
| - in Public Transport | Darragh Golden |

Discussants: Guglielmo Meardi, SNS; Adrienne Héritier, EUI; Mark Dawson, Hertie School

Politicising the EU's New Economic Governance Regime

Wednesday 9:30-12:00, Sala Triaria, [Villa Schifanoia](#), EUI

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| Austerity and the Rise of Right-Wing Nationalism | Dorothee Bohle, EUI |
| Workers and Unions in Past EU Referendum Debates | E. Bethoux, D. Golden & R. Erne |
| The "Right2Water" & "Fair Transport" ECIs | I. Szabó, D. Golden & R. Erne |
| Analysing European Labour Protests: What is to be done | Jörg Nowak |

Discussants: Lorenzo Cini, SNS and Devi Sacchetto, Univ. Padua

Everybody is welcome! To participate please register [ONLINE](#)

<https://www.eui.eu/events/detail?eventid=159340>