



Social Policy

Expert Forum – Liberal White Book Europe 2030

Zoom Meeting

29 October 2020, 09h30 – 14h00 (CET)

ABOUT THE EVENT

European welfare states are increasingly strained by various forces, including changes in the nature of work, family structures, aging of the society and the transformation towards complex, articulated communities, whose needs are constantly changing. We need to re-examine how we educate our citizens and how we organise our labour markets in a way that ensures both protection for workers and the global competitiveness of the EU.

The nature of work is changing in the 21st century, while relationships are becoming less stable and the new digitalised economy is becoming more prominent. The demographic challenge of aging means that we have to think hard about how we can still have efficient, equitable and fiscally sustainable social insurance programmes and provide the required level of care. Finally, “diversity” is a defining factor of our current and future societies: liberal policies must be responsive and responsible to the needs of vulnerable groups from immigrants to the disabled, from single parents to LGBTI individuals and their families.

This Expert Forum brings together scholars, researchers, and policymakers to discuss possible - and liberal - answers on how the welfare system can be restructured with these challenges in mind. Looking at a “Europe 2030”, it seems clear that our society should evolve together with these profound changes, starting together is the only path to ensure a flourishing future for all.

EVENT SCHEDULE

09h25 Participants connect to the online Expert Forum

09h30 Welcome & Presentation of the Liberal White Book Europe 2030 project
Daniel Kaddik, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum

09h40 Introduction to this Expert Forum
András Pleszel, President of the Board, Indítsuk Be Magyarországot Foundation

09h45 Message from the Patron
Dragoş Pîslaru, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

09h50 Keynote Speech
Kenneth Nelson, PhD, Professor of Sociology, Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University

10h30 Break

10h35 Work in the 21st Century – Employment, Unemployment, Technological Change, Gig Economy, Education

Moderator: Áron Iker, Director of Public Policy, Momentum Movement

Short input statements:

- Ágota Scharle, Executive Partner and Senior Researcher, Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis
- Wolfgang Spiess-Knafl, PhD, Faculty Member, University Witten / Herdecke and Author of “You Had One Job – Transforming Social Security Systems into the Digital Working Age ” (ELF publication)
- Piotr Lewandowski, Labour economist, Co-founder and President of the Board, Institute for Structural Research (IBS)

followed by a discussion among all participants.

Discussion topics / Description:

How to adapt schools, social and labour market institutions to automation, digitalisation and new forms of work?

The nature of work is changing in the 21st century. Employment relationships are becoming less stable, large companies are fissuring, the gig economy is becoming more prominent. Workers need to be prepared through education for an ever-changing labour market. Government policies need to be able to accommodate more flexible employment. In this panel, we will discuss approaches to ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to succeed in the evolving labour market, including possible changes in education and training and employment policies.

11h35 Break

11h40 The Future of the Welfare State – Ageing, Social Protections, Disability Insurance

Moderator: Anna Vindics, Economist and Policy Analyst, OECD

Short input statements:

- Lukas Sustala, Director, NEOS Lab (Austria)
- Irena E. Kotowska, Professor in Economics and Demography, Head of Centre for Demography, Institute of Statistics and Demography, Warsaw School of Economics
- Dragoş Pişlaru, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

followed by a discussion among all participants.

Discussion topics / Description:

How to sustain equitable, efficient, and fiscally sustainable policies as demographic change takes place in our societies?

European welfare states are increasingly strained by various forces, including changes in the nature of work, family structures, as well as aging. Governments around Europe are trying to reform the systems. In this panel, we will discuss what types of policies are most likely to deliver equitable, efficient, and fiscally sustainable systems.

12h40 Break

12h45 Integrating Vulnerable Groups in Our Evolving Welfare States

Moderator: Tamás Molnár, Social Policy Analyst

Short input statements:

- Alfonso Lara Montero, Chief Executive Officer, European Social Network
- Nora Milotay, Policy Analyst (education, social and employment policy), European Parliament
- Emmanuele Pavolini, Università di Macerata; Editor, Journal of European Social Policy

followed by a discussion among all participants.

Discussion topics / Description:

How can our welfare states evolve as our societies become more diverse, integrating immigrants, the disabled, and other vulnerable groups?

European societies are becoming increasingly diverse with immigration but also other social changes. We need to be responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups from immigrants to the disabled, from single parents to LGBTI individuals and their families. In this panel, we will discuss what policies may be most helpful to these groups and what the EU can do to improve their integration across member nations.

13h45 **Conclusions**

Polly Mackenzie, Chief Executive, Demos (UK)

Author of the Social Policy chapter, Liberal White Book Europe 2030

14h00 **End of Expert Forum**

With the support of:



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