



FOUNDATION P&V
*emancipation participation
citizenship solidarity*

Conference

“The integration of young people excluded by early school leaving and unemployment: challenges and solutions”

Brussels, 7-8 March 2013

Context

The Foundation P&V combats the exclusion of young people. Numerous researchers in Belgium and abroad have concluded that the lack of skills, qualifications and employment are significant sources of exclusion and a cause of future social marginalisation. Early school leaving and a lack of qualifications generally result in precarious work situations and long-term unemployment, as well as ever longer transitional periods between education and employment. This is a major social problem in Europe and Belgium, particularly in certain regions and major cities and among some minority groups.

Accordingly, the Foundation P&V has launched a far-reaching multi-annual Research/Action programme, to be implemented from 2012 to 2014 and covering various stages:

1. The sharing of scientific knowledge and ideas on the causes of and possible solutions for early school leaving, unemployment among unqualified young people and long-term youth unemployment.
2. An increase in this knowledge based on expert opinions and experience, plus the identification of policies and projects able to contribute effectively to resolving the identified problems.
3. The promotion of these policies and sharing of the initiatives and projects thus determined.

In 2012, the « *Prize for research on integration of young people excluded by early school leaving and unemployment* » was launched, which aimed at identifying the best contributions on the subject. Nine articles were selected to be awarded this prize and be published in a book “Early school leaving and youth unemployment” (LannooCampus & Amsterdam University Press). In January and February 2013, the Foundation has gathered a number of experts within two working groups (one on education, another one on employment), who were asked to discuss and to identify (new) policies and projects that could resolve the problems identified in the winning articles.

The conference of 7-8 March 2013 aims to present the results of the research done by the nine laureates (first day), but also to diffuse and feed the debates started by the two working groups (second day), thanks to the participation of a variety of public and private stakeholders who are concerned by the education and employment opportunities of young people.

The final objective of the conference is to enable politicians, foundations and civil society to identify and launch new policies and/or actions to respond more efficiently to the problem of early school leaving and unemployment of young people in Belgium and in Europe.

Programme

Thursday **7 march 2013**

European Parliament

Room Altiero Spinelli A3G-3 - Rue Wiertz 60 - 1047 Brussels
Hosted by the S&D Group



Simultaneous interpretation in French, Dutch, English and Spanish

09h00 Registration

10h00

Welcome Address

- **Kathleen Van Brempt**, MEP
- **Mark Elchardus**, President of Foundation P&V
- **Hilde Vernailen**, President of Group P&V
- **José Rodrigo**, President of PEFONDES

10h30

Keynote speeches

- **László Andor**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- **Monica De Coninck**, Belgian Minister of Employment
- **Stephen Hughes**, MEP, Vice-President of the S&D group

11h15

Prize-giving ceremony

11h30

Presentation of the winning scientific articles

Moderator: **Marc Goffart**, Research Programme Officer, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

- Unemployment amongst Early School Leavers in Europe: Institutional Education and Labour Market Mechanisms - **Stan Van Alphen**, Policy officer at DG EAC (European Commission)
- Student persistence and dropout after the transition to post-secondary vocational education in the Netherlands - **Louise Elffers**, Research Institute of Child Development and Education, University of Amsterdam
- Staying on the dole: Profiling the risk of long-term unemployment among young people in Ireland - **Elish Kelly**, the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)

12h45

Lunch

14h15

Presentation of the winning scientific articles

Moderator: **Olivier Servais**, Professor of Anthropology, Catholic University of Louvain

- School segregation and self-fulfilling prophecies as determinants of academic achievement in Flanders - **Orhan Agirdag**, CuDOS, Ghent University
- Ethnic discrimination in the Flemish labour market for school leavers. Jonas in preference to Okan? - **Stijn Baert**, Sherppa, Ghent University
- Young, jobless and hard to reach. Evidence from nine pilots in the Youth Work Plan in Flanders - **Liesbeth Van Parys & Greet Van Dooren**, HIVA, Catholic University of Leuven

15h30

Coffee break

16h00

Presentation of the winning scientific articles

Moderator: **Elizabeth Mollard**, Coordinator of French-speaking programmes, Network for Training Entrepreneurship

- Does School Time Matter? - On the impact of compulsory education age on school dropout - **Sofie J. Cabus**, Top Institute for Evidence Based Education Research, Maastricht University
- Increasing student success in disadvantaged areas: Highlights and lessons from the evaluation of the "New Approaches, New Solutions" Intervention Strategy - **Michel Janosz**, École de Psychoéducation, Université de Montréal
- The effects of the fight against early school leaving: Back to education or school-to-work transition? - **Pierre-Yves Bernard**, Centre de recherche en éducation, Université de Nantes

17h15

Closing remarks

Mark Elchardus, President of Foundation P&V

17h20

Reception

18h20

End of the first day

Friday **8 march 2013**

Halles des Tanneurs

Rue des Tanneurs 58 - 1000 Brussels

Simultaneous interpretation into English

09h30 **Registration**

10h00

Contextualization

Saskia De Groof, Coordinator of Foundation P&V

10h10

2 parallel workshops:

Which policy should be followed and which projects should be launched to improve the situation?

Workshop 1:

In the field of education

Moderator: Johan Boucneau, Educational Policy Coordinator, City of Genk

- *Rapporteur of the working group: Béatrice Ghaye, Ministry of Education of the French speaking community of Belgium*
- *Foreign examples of policies to reduce early school leaving*
 - o *Kristof De Witte, Assistant Professor, Maastricht University, the Netherlands*
 - o *Fernand Sauer and Guy Tondt, Action Locale Jeunes, Ministry of Education, Luxembourg*
- *Debate with the public*

Workshop 2:

In the field of employment

Moderator: Audrey Grandjean, Commission Consultative Formation Emploi Enseignement (CCFEE)

- *Rapporteur of the working group: Hassan Aouraghe, Project Leader Labour Market Policy, City of Antwerp*
- *Foreign examples of policies to reduce youth unemployment*
 - o *Inge Friehs, AMS, the Austrian Public Employment Service*
 - o *Jens Sibbersen, Manager, Jobcentre Copenhagen, Denmark*
- *Debate with the public*

11h00

Coffee break

11h30

2 parallel workshops (cont.)

12h30

Lunch

14h00

Round-table with Belgian Ministers and stakeholders

Moderator: Linda De Win, Journalist VRT

- *Catherine Henry, President of the Belgian Association of Women Entrepreneurs*
- *Pierre Ledecq, CSC Belgium and President of the Youth Committee of the International Trade Union Confederation*
- *Fons Leroy, CEO of VDAB, the Flemish Public Employment Service*
- *Ingrid Lieten, Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for Innovation, Public Investment, Media and Poverty Reduction*
- *Etienne Jockir, Ministerial adviser for Compulsory Education and Special Education Needs of the French Community*
- *Pascal Smet, Flemish Minister for Education, Youth, Equal Opportunities and Brussels Affairs*

15h30

Closing speech

Mark Elchardus, President of the Foundation P&V

15h35

End of the conference

Conference

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About the Foundation P&V

The cornerstone of the Foundation P&V is the fight against the exclusion of young people. The Foundation wants to guide young people regarding different aspects of social life. By giving them the necessary opportunities and by actively involving them, it helps them take their lives into their own hands. The main values of social economy drive the actions of the Foundation: solidarity, emancipation, citizenship and participation.

www.foundationpv.be

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Vlaamse overheid

