



**FOUNDATION P&V**  
emancipation participation  
citizenship solidarity

#School2Work\_FoundPV 

## Conference

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

#### Context

Young people are the first victims of the wave of unemployment which has struck Europe and its major cities and most vulnerable people. In December 2014, 21.4% of young people (aged 15 -24) in Europe were without work. In some countries and major cities, youth unemployment has even hit more than 50%. It affects all young people, but those with the fewest qualifications are hit hardest. In Europe, one young person in eight leaves secondary education without a diploma. Many fear a 'lost generation' which will see its chances for a better future diminish through a combination of school drop-out and unemployment. Keeping young people in school and helping them enter the labour market is therefore a fundamental challenge and priority for European society, and therefore also for Belgium and its social actors.

For the reasons outlined above, the Foundation P&V has launched an extensive programme which combines scientific research with concrete action. The programme started in 2012 with an appeal to thousands of social scientists and research institutions across the whole of Europe. From the more than 40 submissions, an international panel selected 9 winning contributions which distinguished themselves through their original and informed take on the issue. These contributions were collected in the book *Early school leaving & Youth unemployment*, published by Lannoo Campus and Amsterdam University Press, and presented in the European Parliament on 7 and 8 March 2013 in the presence of European Commissioner László Andor, various ministers and important stakeholders. These debates led to a broad call for projects that work on this issue within Belgium, which was launched on 5 June 2013. By 5 October 2013, we had received 245 dossiers from all over Belgium. After various evaluation rounds, a jury composed of Belgian experts (from the education, employment and poverty reduction sectors) selected 6 projects from these dossiers to receive grants of between €10,000 and €50,000. Two projects came from Brussels, two from Flanders and two from Wallonia. In 2014, these projects were closely monitored by the Foundation P&V.

The conference of 8 May 2015 aims to present and discuss about the best practices of those awarded Belgian organizations and several other national and international projects. This event will engage policy makers, project managers, academics and the general public to co-create a shared vision on how Belgium and Europe can address the challenges of early school leaving and youth unemployment.

#### About the Foundation P&V

The cornerstone of the P&V Foundation 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.



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# Programme

Friday **8 May 2015**

**The Egg**

**Bara Street 175, 1070 Brussels**

*Interpretation into English*

**Moderator of the day: Han Renard, Journalist at Knack**

**08h45**            **Registration and welcome coffee**

**9h15**            **Welcome address**

*Mark Elchardus, President of Foundation P&V*

**9h40-10h40**    **Inspiring speeches**

- **Céline Alvarez**, Pedagogical innovator
- **Hiltje Rookmaker**, Principal Leon van Gelder Reitdiep School in Groningen
- **Pierre Pirard**, CEO Teach for Belgium
- **Sihame El Kaouakibi**, Coordinator Let's Go Urban

**10h40-11h**      **Coffee break**

**11h-13h**        **Parallel workshops**

*Early school leaving and youth unemployment are strongly related. Indeed, employability greatly depends on the level of competence and qualifications achieved and early school leavers are therefore most at risk of unemployment. Early school leaving can be tackled by prevention, intervention and/or compensation. Preventive policies try to avoid situations or conditions that can lead to early school leaving. Intervention strategies try to detect and address emerging difficulties related to early school leaving. Finally, compensation mechanisms offer opportunities for education, training or working experiences for those who have already dropped out.*

**Workshop I: Prevention (Plenary Room)**

*Moderator/Rapporteur: Dirk Jacobs (ULB) / Dimokritos Kavadias (VUB)*

- *Scientific Reflection: Mieke Van Houtte, University of Ghent.*
- *Interventions from:*
  - **Chris Bryssinckx**, coordinator Werkvormm & **Axel Dingemans**, director Formaat Antwerpen
  - **Sofie Foets**, coordinator ToekomstAtelierDelAvenir
  - **Pierre Pirard & Laurane Vanderbecken**, Teach for Belgium
  - **Eva Franck**, project leader general educational policy city of Antwerp
  - **Fadie Hanna**, education lecturer at teacher training primary schools University of Amsterdam

## Workshop II: Intervention (Meeting Room River 6)

Moderator/Rapporteur: **Ariane Baye** (ULG) / **Carl Lamote** (KU Leuven, Flemish Department of Education)

- *Scientific Reflection*: **Louise Elffers**, Academic Workplace Education, University of Maastricht & Inspectorate of Education.
- *Interventions from*:
  - **Saida El Farkouch & Yamina Al Farisi**, vzw Schoolbrug
  - **Catherine Sztencel**, director asbl Odyssee
  - **Aurélien Constant & Stéphanie Tomsen**, La Teignouse AMO
  - **Sylvia Ruge**, director of the DKJS regional office in Saxony-Anhalt and programm manager of „Schulerfolg sichern!“ (Assuring Success in School)

## Workshop III: Compensation (Meeting Room River 1)

Moderator/Rapporteur: **Liesbeth Van Parys** (HIVA KU Leuven) / **Audrey Grandjean** (Instance bassin EFE Bruxelles)

- *Scientific Reflection*: **Pierre-Yves Bernard**, University of Nantes.
- *Interventions from*:
  - **Katelijan Schevelenbos**, coordinator Vormingscentrum Molenbeek (Foyer)
  - **Bruno Schneider & Philippe Juzwik**, asbl Perspectives
  - **Patrick Manghelinckx**, director JES
  - **Jens Bjornavold**, senior expert European Centre for Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)
  - **Wolfgang Müller**, director at German Public Employment Centre, heading the European Representation

**13h-14h**      **Lunch**

**14h-14h30**      **Keynote speech on early school leaving and youth unemployment in a comparative perspective**

**Eric Charbonnier**, Education Analyst in OECD Directorate for Education and Skills

**14h30-15h50**      **Reactions and reflections on policy recommendations from workshops**

- **Grégory Chapelle**, General Director Actiris (Brussels' Public Employment Service)
- **Fons Leroy**, Delegate Administrator VDAB (Flemish Public Employment Service)
- **Joëlle Milquet**, Vice-President, Minister of Education, Culture and Childhood of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.
- **Micheline Scheys**, General Secretary of the Education and Training Department of the Flemish Community
- **Sonja Teughels**, Senior Labour Advisor VOKA (Flanders' Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
- **Olivier Willocx**, Delegate Administrator BECI (Brussels' Chamber of Commerce and Industry) & President Economic and Social Council Brussels

**15h50-16h**      **Closing remarks**

**Mark Elchardus**, President of the Foundation P&V

**16h**      **End of the conference**

*This initiative is supported by the Belgian National Lottery*





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

#### Who are our inspiring speakers?

- **Céline Alvarez**, Pedagogical innovator  
*Céline Alvarez, who studied linguistics in France, passed the teacher’s examination in 2009 and started a pioneering experiment in 2011 within the French school system. The aim? To put forward a new environment for nursery schools based on a scientifically proven approach that stimulates the learning and developmental processes in children. For this, she builds on the work of Dr Maria Montessori, which she develops and combines with cognitive, affective and social neuroscience. After three years of trials with a mixed level class at an Education Priority Zone (ZEP) nursery school, the project has not been extended, despite its great success. Today she continues to promote her insights outside the education system.*
- **Hiltje Rookmaker**, Principal Leon van Gelder Reitdiep School in Groningen  
*Hiltje Rookmaker is an educationalist (graduated from the University of Groningen) with experience ranging from primary school level to higher education. She has used this experience since 2004 to further develop the Leon van Gelder School. This school is known for its unique teaching methodology. Pupils recommended for VMBO, HAVO and VWO streams of education share the same class for four years, with the same teachers, and can follow their lessons on various levels, without receiving grades or being held back. It's important for Hiltje to encourage educational opportunities for everyone and avoid the much used system whereby pupils are assessed on the subject they perform in the least.*
- **Pierre Pirard**, CEO Teach for Belgium  
*Pierre Pirard is a former manager with strong business experience who left his position as CEO for the classroom and taught for more than four years at a high-need high school in Brussels. He recently published "Vous n’êtes pas des élèves de merde!", a book on his teaching experience and the discovery he made of the potential of those young students, most of whom were born in North Africa. Pierre attended the Université Libre de Bruxelles where he studied law, has an MBA from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, and graduated as a certified teacher in June 2013.*
- **Sihame El Kaouakibi**, Coordinator Let’s Go Urban  
*Sihame El Kaouakibi is a young and active entrepreneur who, with her unparalleled engagement, challenges young people to do things that they never thought they would be able to do. Sihame studied to become a teacher before going on to earn a Master's Degree in Education Theory from the VUB (Free University of Brussels). She published her first book at the end of 2013: #BELIEVE, in which she promotes an alternative view on youth. Because of the huge potential*

that she sees in (urban) young people, Sihame calls for policy that appeals to them as well as unveiling to the world just how talented they are.

### **Who is our keynote speaker?**

**Éric Charbonnier**, Education Analyst in OECD Directorate for Education and Skills

Holder of a post-graduate degree in Economics and Statistics, Éric Charbonnier has been working as an analyst for the Directorate for Education and Skills of the **OECD** since 1998. More exactly, the Indicators and Analyses department for which he works releases the publication **Education at a Glance** annually, and the **results of the PISA study** triennially. Both publications have been very well received internationally. Charbonnier actively participates in communication with the Francophone media on the full range of themes dealt with in these two works.

Charbonnier has also participated in the revision of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) which enables the comparison of worldwide study programmes and qualifications.

Currently, his contribution consists of the preparation of articles and documents for various meetings with OECD countries in the context of the Indicators of Education Systems (INES) programme, which aims to develop and improve international comparisons.

Furthermore, Charbonnier regularly contributes articles on education to the digital newspaper **Le Monde.fr**. These may be found on the blog **[l'éducation déchiffrée](#)** (education deciphered).



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