

## The only way is up? Social Mobility and Equal Opportunities

### Joint OECD-Eurofound Conference

Date: 4 May, 2017

Location: CC4, OECD Headquarters, Paris, France

# AGENDA

The one-day high-level conference brings together an interdisciplinary group of international experts, policy makers and stakeholders from OECD and EU countries to discuss evidence on the extent of mobility between generations and identify policies supporting upward mobility particularly of disadvantaged groups of the population.

In the last decade, especially since the onset of the economic crisis people in many countries are facing lower living standards and social and income inequalities seem to be increasing. The policy attention has begun to shift towards the lack of equal opportunities and the transmission of (dis)advantage. The accumulation of disadvantage from one generation to the next impinges on the idea of social justice because it violates the principle that **everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities**.

This conference will discuss the major trends in social mobility and how these vary across countries. The sessions will consider what policies work in the field of education, labour market, urban development, health and social protection to improve equal opportunities and social mobility. The concluding panel will aim to identify how more integrated approach at different levels can underpin greater equality of opportunity and promote social mobility.

» 9.00-9.30 **Registration and coffee**

» **Opening Session** **Equal opportunities as a lever to mobility**

9.30-10.30 *This session will consider the extent an individual's outcomes are predetermined and which obstacles individuals face in moving up the social mobility ladder. The session will also explore the trends in inequality and social mobility and the implications for equal opportunities.*

**Welcoming remarks:**

**Gabriela Ramos** – Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20, OECD

**Juan Menéndez-Valdés** – Director, Eurofound

Keynote speech

**Richard V. Reeves** – Senior Fellow in Economic Studies, Brookings Foundation

**Discussant - Maria João Rodrigues** – Member of European Parliament, EP Rapporteur for the European Pillar of Social Rights

Open the floor for discussion

» **Session 1** **Moving up the ladder via education**

10.30-11.45 *The first session will consider the extent to which various socio-economic and demographic backgrounds influence individuals' learning and labour market outcomes. It will discuss the role of education and skills formation in empowering individuals to climb up the socio-economic ladder throughout their life course, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds as well as effective policy measures that tackle educational inequalities and ensure strong support for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.*

**Introduction and Chair: Dirk Van Damme** – Head of Division, OECD Education and Skills Directorate

Speakers:

**Anna Vignoles** – Professor of Education and Director of Research, Faculty of Education, Cambridge University, UK

**Mart Laidmets** – Deputy Secretary General for General and Vocational Education, Estonia

**Nina Tunon de Lara** – Project Coordinator "Une grande école pourquoi pas moi", ESSEC Business School

**Abigail McKnight** – Associate Director, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, LSE

Open the floor for discussion



11.45-12.00

**Coffee Break**



**Session 2**

**Making the labour market more inclusive**

12.00-13.15

*The second session will discuss policies to make the labour market more inclusive to improve the chances of individuals from disadvantaged background who do not have equal chances to find a good first job. The session will examine policies that help smoothen out transitions, support workers through certain labour market and life events as well as reducing high labour market segmentation that can prevent individuals to stable and good quality jobs.*

**Introduction and Chair: Stefano Scarpetta** – Director of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

Speakers:

**Margaret Kidd** – Minister-Counsellor, Department of Employment, Australia

**Barbara Kauffmann** – Director, Employment and Social Governance, European Commission

**Selma Mahfouz** – Director of DARES, Ministry of Employment, Training and Social Dialogue, France

**Tito Boeri** – Professor of Economics, Bocconi University, Italy

Open the floor for discussion



13.15-14.30

**Lunch Break**



**Session 3**

**How where you live affects your chances in life**

14.30-15.45

*The third session will look at the causes and the potential dangers of increased segregation in regional/residential areas. The panelists will discuss the challenges of reducing spatial inequalities through adapted policies particularly in affordable housing and transport. In addition, the discussion will also look at the possible scope for local and regional public authorities to improve employment opportunities in local labour markets.*

**Introduction and Chair: Robert Anderson** – Head, Living Conditions and Quality of Life Unit, Eurofound

Speakers:

**Lamia Kamal-Chaoui** – Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Local Development and Tourism and Head of OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative, OECD

**Emile Klep** – Director of Urban Planning, City of Rotterdam

**Bryna Lipper** – Chief Resilience Advisor and Senior Vice President, 100 Resilient Cities

**Rakesh Kochhar** – Associate Director of Research, Pew Research Center

Open the floor for discussion



15.45-16.00

**Coffee Break**



**Closing Session**

**Policy interventions across the life cycle**

16.00-17.30

*The closing session will address the issue of how to design more coordinated action and public policy packages to promote upward mobility. In addition to the previous policies in the field of education, labour market and urban planning, it will also look at how to address health inequalities and how to prevent them as well as the role of social assistance and family policies to buffer the impact of parental disadvantage.*

**Introduction and Chair: Henning Meyer** – Managing Director of New Global Strategy Ltd, Editor-in-Chief of Social Europe and Research Associate at LSE.

Speakers:

**Shamina Singh** – President, MasterCard Center for Inclusive Growth

**David Willetts** – Executive Chair, Resolution Foundation, UK

**Paweł Świeboda** – Deputy Head, European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), European Commission