

Rebuilding an Inclusive, Value-based Europe of Solidarity and Trust through Social Investments (Re-InVEST) – final conference

Venue & dates

Irish College, Janseniustraat 1, 3000 Leuven - 28-29 March 2019

Theme of the conference

In 2013, following a period of crisis and harsh austerity measures, the Commission launched the Social Investment Package (SIP) as a first endeavour to rebalance economic and social progress. Our ambition with the Re-InVEST project (2015-2019) is to contribute to strengthening the philosophical as well as the institutional and empirical underpinnings of the SIP – linked with the European Pillar of Social Rights – with a view to fostering a more inclusive Europe. The final conference will sketch a full panorama of the 50 research reports and aims to contribute to a dialogue between academic researchers, public and social services, civil society and policy makers around various aspects of social policy.

Target audience

Civil society organisations, social partners, public and social services, national and EU policy makers, academic researchers.

Organising team

The Re-InVEST consortium is embedded in the network 'Alliances to fight poverty', a network of civil society organisations, trade unions, policy makers and academics co-ordinated by the Flemish Christian labour movement Beweging.net, and committed to a more inclusive Europe.

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (HIVA – Research Institute for Work and Society – Ides Nicaise)	Belgium
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS – Robert Salais)	France
Soziologisches Forschungsinstitut Goettingen e.V. (SOFI – René Lehweß-Litzmann)	Germany
Internationales Forschungszentrum für Soziale und Ethische Fragen (IFZ –Ortrud Lessmann)	Austria
Universite Catholique de Louvain (UCL – Jean De Munck)	Belgium
National University of Ireland, Maynooth (NUIM – Mary Murphy)	Ireland
Loughborough University (Loughborough University – Jeremy Leaman)	UK
Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (EUR – Mahmood Meskoub)	Netherlands
Technische Universiteit Delft (TU Delft – Marja Elsinga)	Netherlands
Liverpool Hope University (Liverpool Hope University – Michael Lavalette)	UK
Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement (Jean-Luc Dubois)	France
Observatoire Social Européen asbl (Rita Baeten)	Belgium
University of Geneva (Jean-Michel Bonvin)	Switzerland
Rigas Stradina Universitate (RSU – Tana Lace)	Latvia
Beweging vzw (Michel Debruyne)	Belgium
EAPN Portugal (EAPN Portugal – Sandra Maria Lopes Mendes dos Santos)	Portugal
Fundatia The Open Network for Community Development (Fundatia TON – Christina Chert)	Romania
The Poverty Alliance (The Poverty Alliance – Peter Kelly)	UK
Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza (CNCA – Cinzia Brentari)	Italy
Groupe de Recherche et de Réalisations pour le Développement Rural (GRDR – Rafael Ricardou)	France

Programme - Thursday, March 28

09.30 – 11.15: Session I: Towards a European definition of social investment

(Chair: Ides Nicaise, HIVA – KU Leuven)

- **09.30 – 10.00: Opening addresses**
 - Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs
 - Michel Debruyne (Beweging.net) / Georgios Papanagnou (DG Research & Innovation) / Paloma Martin (Research Executive Agency)
- **10.00 – 11.15: Social investment and the European Pillar of Social Rights**
 - Testimony from Italy
 - Jean-Michel Bonvin (University of Geneva) & Ortrud Lessmann (University of Hamburg and IFZ Salzburg): Social investment, from a human capital to a human rights and capabilities approach
 - Comments: Frank Vandenbroucke (University of Amsterdam) / Olivier Bontout (Eur. Commission, DG EMPL)

11.15 – 11.45: coffee

11.45 – 13.00: Session II: Social (dis)investment and human rights during the crisis

Chair: Michel Debruyne (Beweging.net)

- Ides Nicaise (HIVA - KU Leuven): The long-term impact of the 2008-2014 crisis on vulnerable groups
- Anna Ruelens (HIVA - KU Leuven): Vulnerability, economic crisis and democratic deficit
- Jean-Luc Dubois & Guillaume Jean (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement): Poverty and vulnerability indicators based on the human rights and capabilities approach
- Comments: Sian Jones (EAPN) / Olivier Bontout (European Commission, DG EMPL)

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch

14.00 – 16.00: Session III: A social investment perspective on service markets: case studies

- 14.00 – 15.00: parallel sessions:
 - A. **Early childhood education** (chair: Sandra Araújo, EAPN Portugal)
 - Re-InVEST findings: Özgün Ünver (HIVA - KU Leuven)
 - Comment: Jana Hainsworth (Eurochild)
 - B. **Health care** (chair: Cristina Chert, Fundatia TON, Romania)
 - Re-InVEST findings: Rita Baeten (Observatoire Social Européen)
 - Comment: Dorota Sienkiewicz (Eurohealth)
 - C. **Water provision**: (chair: Peter Kelly, The Poverty Alliance, Scotland)
 - Re-InVEST findings: Mary Murphy (Maynooth University)
 - Comment: Jerry van den Berge (Right2Water)
- 15.00 – 16.00: parallel sessions:
 - D. **Housing** (chair: Mike Allen, Focus Ireland)
 - Re-InVEST findings: Marietta Haffner (TU Delft)
 - Alice Pittini (Housing Europe)
 - E. **Basic financial services** (chair: Jeremy Leaman, Loughborough University)
 - Re-InVEST findings: Mahmood Messkoub (Erasmus University Rotterdam),
 - Comments: Michel Dewolfs (MyTrusto, Antwerpen) / Angela Black (EFIN)
 - F. **Mental health care** (chair: Cinzia Brentari, CNCA Italy)
 - Re-InVEST findings: Rich Moth & Michael Lavalette (HOPE University Liverpool)
 - Comment: Luigi Leonori (SMES Europe)

16.00 – 16.30: coffee

Programme - Thursday, March 28 (continued)

16.30 – 17.30: Session IV - panel discussion: Social investment in service markets - the role of the EU

Moderator: Rob Heirbaut (VRT-journalist)

Anne Van Lancker (private consultant), Sian Jones (EAPN), Patrick De Bucquois (Social Services Europe), Mary Murphy (Maynooth University), Krzysztof Balon (European Economic and Social Committee)

19.00 – 22.00: Conference diner (Faculty Club, Groot Begijnhof)

Programme - Friday, March 29

09.00 – 11.00: Session V: Social protection and active labour market policies from a social investment perspective

Chair: Jean-Michel Bonvin (University of Geneva)

- René Lehwiss-Litzmann (SOFI Göttingen): Social protection and active labour market policies in the past decade: the European panorama
- Ides Nicaise (HIVA - KU Leuven): Social protection and active labour market policies: qualitative evaluation from a social investment perspective
- Comments: Stefan Olsson (European Commission, DG EMPL – tbc) / Martin Kronauer (HWR Berlin) / Marja Jepsen (European Trade Union Institute)

11.00 – 11.30: coffee

11.30 – 13.00: Session VI: Fostering a social investment climate: macro-economic and political conditions

Chair: Jean De Munck (UC Louvain)

- Jeremy Leaman (University of Loughborough): Ethical and fiscal boundary conditions
- Robert Salais (CNRS, Paris): Governance and participation
- Comments: Séamus Boland (European Economic and Social Committee), Claire Dhéret (European Policy Centre)

13.00 – 14.00: lunch

14.00 – 15.30: Session VII: Participatory action research with vulnerable groups – a human rights and capabilities approach

Chair: Mary Murphy (Maynooth University)

- Video fragments
- Nuala Whelan (Maynooth University), Kathleena Twomey and Emma Richardson (co-researchers): The PAHRCA approach: methodological lessons from the Re-InVEST project
- Comment: Xavier Godinot (ATD Fourth World)
- Plenary discussion

15.30 – 16.00: Closing addresses:

- Ides Nicaise (KU Leuven)
- Peter Wouters (Beweging.net)

