

# **Catching the butterflies**

**WORKS expert workshop on innovative methodologies for measuring employment effects of value chain restructuring**

**13-14 March 2008 - Leuven, Belgium**

Organised by the Higher Institute of Labour Studies (HIVA) of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, with core funding from the 6th Framework Programme of the European Community, Thematic Priority 7, Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society

## **1 General aim of the workshop**

### **1.1 Impact of globalisation on employment**

One of the major consequences of economic globalisation is the destruction and creation of jobs. These employment changes are the result of the increased pressure on firms to outsource or relocate activities or of other sorts of restructuring such as mergers, acquisitions and strategic alliances. Both researchers and policy makers stress the need and the importance of estimating the scale of these employment changes. While the downward pressure on employment of the international relocation of production activities in industry has been studied since the 1980s, recent research also focuses on the relocation of service activities, and on the effects of corporate restructuring in general. The methods applied to estimate the latter employment effects of globalisation differ widely, and are still in the process of development.

Indicators based on trade data, FDI measures, input-output tables, or layoff statistics are put forward by researchers as relevant measures. Other authors hold the opinion that reliable estimates of the impact of globalisation on employment can only be obtained from firm level data, and they use administrative sources, organisational or individual surveys to that end. Recently, some authors point out that data should be collected at business function level, which should be the main unit of analysis.

Notwithstanding the use of a wide variety of methods and data sources, authors undertaking research in this field are united in concluding that the measurement of globalisation's impact on employment is extremely difficult.

### **1.2 Expert workshop: exchange of methods and approaches**

The aim of the expert workshop is to bring together researchers from a range of different backgrounds who are developing new methodologies for measuring the employment effects of globalisation in general and value chain restructuring in particular or who are working with data sources which might shed light on these. The methodologies and results of different approaches will be presented in order to share ideas on methods, techniques, and data sources. The aim of the workshop is to allow participants to discover common ground in their approaches and methodological problems, and to make it possible for them to introduce innovations in their methods.

Workshop participants are invited from different institutional settings (university, policy institutes, national statistic offices), from different disciplines (economists, sociologists, statisticians), and from Europe and North America. Despite these different backgrounds, the methodological focus of the workshop is clear: participants are invited to present the sources and methodologies they use for measuring the employment effects of value chain restructuring; to present the possibilities and the limits of these; and to discuss problems and solutions common to different methods.

## **2 The WORKS research project**

The expert workshop will be organised in the frame of the WORKS research project. WORKS ([www.worksproject.be](http://www.worksproject.be)) is an Integrated Project with 17 EU and Accession State partners which is investigating in a comparative perspective the major changes in work in the knowledge-based society. Taking account both of global forces and of regional diversity within Europe, the project is investigating the evolving division of labour within and between organisations and the related changes at the workplace. The implications for the use of skills and knowledge, for flexibility and for the quality of work, as well as the impact on occupational identities, time use and learning of individuals are investigated in a comparative perspective. The role of the social dialogue and of the varieties of institutional shaping in Europe receive particular attention.

## 2.1 Quantitative research pillar

The core focus of WORKS is on changes in work caused by global restructuring. The 'Quantitative research' pillar of the WORKS project aims at studying the changes in work in Europe on the basis of comparative analyses on data from existing organisational and individual surveys. In a first step, major European organisational surveys and individual and household surveys have been benchmarked with regard to their strengths and weaknesses for comparative analyses on changes in work. In order to enhance the possibilities for comparative analysis on changes in work throughout Europe in the future, this has resulted in the construction of a Digital Toolkit on organisation surveys, accessible on [www.worksproject.be](http://www.worksproject.be).

In a second phase, organisational and individual surveys of the national and European statistical system have been exploited to measure both qualitative and quantitative changes in work at a European level. Quantitative employment changes, job growth and job decline related to the global restructuring of value chains have been measured on the basis of the EU Labour Force Survey and other EU survey data. More information and project reports can be downloaded from the WORKS website.

## 3 Practical information

### When and where

The workshop will take place at  
HIVA - Hoger Instituut voor de Arbeid / Higher Institute for Labour Studies  
Campus for Social Sciences  
Parkstraat 47  
3000 Leuven (25 minutes by train from Brussels Airport), Belgium  
For a route description and map we kindly refer to our website  
[http://www.hiva.be/hoe\\_hiva\\_bereiken\\_en.htm](http://www.hiva.be/hoe_hiva_bereiken_en.htm)

A limited number of parking places is available. If you come by car and need parking place, please indicate this on the attached registration form.

### Registration

Participation to the workshop is free of charge. Travel and hotel accommodation are to be arranged by yourself.

When registration forms are received, the conference secretariat will send each participant a letter of confirmation (by email).

The number of participants to the seminar is limited.

### Conference language

The official conference language is English. No simultaneous translation will be available.

### More information

For further information or if you should have some practical problems on your stay in Leuven, please contact the conference secretariat at [Sandra.volders@hiva.kuleuven.be](mailto:Sandra.volders@hiva.kuleuven.be).

## 4 Programme

Each contribution is about 30 minutes with an additional 20 minutes opportunity for discussion.

### Day 1 – Thursday, 13 March 2008

09:30 Registration and coffee

*Chair:* **Monique Ramioul**, HIVA-K.U.Leuven & WORKS project co-ordinator, Belgium

10:00 **Monique Ramioul**, HIVA-K.U.Leuven & WORKS project co-ordinator, Belgium  
*Welcome and presentation of the WORKS research project*

**Karen Geurts**, HIVA-K.U.Leuven, Belgium  
*Presentation of the research question and synthesis overview of the approaches*

#### Methods based on survey data

10:30 **Pekka Alajääskö**, Eurostat, Luxembourg  
*Eurostat International Outsourcing Survey: the European perspective*

11:20 Break

11:40 **Peter Bøegh Nielsen**, Division for Structural Business Statistics, Statistics Denmark, and **Samuli Rikama**, Statistics Finland  
*Eurostat International Outsourcing Survey: the national perspective*

12:45 Lunch

#### Methods based on survey data - continued

13:45 **Sharon P. Brown**, Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington DC, USA  
*Identifying business functions and business processes involved in mass layoffs in the United States*

14:45 **Karen Geurts**, HIVA-K.U.Leuven, Belgium  
*Measuring employment in business functions in the European Labour Force Survey*

15:35 Break

#### Methods based on macro-economic data

16:00 **Yvonne Wolfmayr**, Austrian Institute of Economic Research, Austria  
*Services and materials outsourcing to low-wage countries and employment: empirical evidence from EU countries*

17:00 End of day 1

## Day 2 – Friday, 14 March 2008

Chair: **Ursula Huws**, London Metropolitan University & member of the Scientific Board of the WORKS project, UK

### Methods based on firm level data

- 09:00 **Donald Storrie**, European Monitoring Centre on Change, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Condition, Ireland  
*European restructuring monitor*
- 10:00 **Mauro Pisu**, Research Department, National Bank of Belgium  
*Job creation, job destruction and firm-level international trade involvement*
- 10:50 Break
- 11:10 **Christian Buelens**, European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs  
*A sectoral perspective on recent trends in mergers and acquisitions*
- 12:00 Lunch

### Methods based on survey data - continued

- 13:00 **Julia Lane**, National Science Foundation, USA  
with Clair Brown, University of California, and Tim Sturgeon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA  
*Globalisation and economic insecurity: views of employees*

### Perspective on future methods

- 14:00 **Stefan Bender**, Research Data Centre, Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Germany  
*COST European Concerted Research Action: 'Comparative analysis of enterprise data: industry dynamics, firm performance, and worker outcomes'*
- 15:00 **Conclusion and discussion on possible future international collaboration**
- 16:00 End of workshop