

# CEPLIS TELEGRAM



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**Youth Unemployment in the EU:  
Vocational Education & Training as a  
Chance for Economy and Society?**

## The Single Market at the core of the Competitiveness Council meeting

This 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of this December, the Competitiveness Council met in Brussels. The meeting was the occasion for EU Member States' ministers to discuss topics related to the Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space. Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry and SMEs, Elzbieta Bienkowska, was also present at the meeting.

The future development of the Single Market was at the core of the event. The Council has notably made comments on the revision of the **Small Business Act** for the period 2015-2020.



In their report, the **ministers** call for **sectorial initiatives to be pursued by the Commission,**

whenever the challenges to competitiveness and the need to maintain a strong industrial base impose it, with emphasis on sectors facing economic change and **high growth potential sectors**. They also invite the Commission to **take a modern, sustainable and innovative sectorial approach and to remove unjustified and disproportionate barriers to the development of enterprises** by mobilising all relevant policies.

The Competitiveness Council paid a special attention to the **strengthening of the tourism industry** by leveraging the EU's cultural, natural and maritime heritage.

The Council has in fact noted that **tourism is a key sector of the European economy**, generating over 5% of the EU's Gross Domestic Product, employing around 11.9 million people in 2.2 million enterprises, and having an **increasingly positive impact on economic growth and employment in Europe**.

The Ministers have declared at the same time that they totally support measures aiming at improving through digitalisation, education, training, including vocational

training, the skills of tourism workers, employers and managers as well as of heritage professionals in order for the latter **to deliver high quality tourism products. They also supported measures to facilitate labour mobility in the tourism sector.** The Council called upon Member States and the Commission to **engage actively with industry and stakeholders**, in particular SMEs with the aim to deliver more services digitally and to remove all unjustified and disproportionate barriers to innovative market entrants;

Finally the **European Commission's Vice-President for jobs, growth, investment and competitiveness, Mr. Jyrki Katainen**, has presented the EU Investment Plan to the national Ministers, with a particular focus on deepening the Single Market.

*For more information about this event, do not hesitate to contact our Secretariat.*

## The 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress of UNAPL

The fifth of this December, 600 liberal professionals met at the *Palais Brogniart* in Paris for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual congress of UNAPL-France, an active member of CEPLIS. During the event, the important role of the liberal professions in the social and economic landscape of France was underlined. The Congress took place at a time when the French government has expressed the wish to deregulate the liberal sector.



Mr Chassang, President of UNAPL, and Mr Macron, French Minister of Economy.

**Mr Michel Chassang**, President of UNAPL, launched the Congress by reminding the position of UNAPL concerning the government-proposed reform supported by the **French Minister of Economy, Emmanuel Macron who was present**. *“The congress takes place in the context of a **reform that does not satisfy us.**”* underlined Mr Chassang. *“We will say it again to Emmanuel Macron, Minister of Economy, who supports this bill”*.

Later in the morning, a round table on the same subject brought together the principal actors of social dialogue in France around **Yves Thréard, Deputy Managing Editor of Le Figaro, who animated the debate**.

Later in the day, **President Chassang** had a direct discussion with **Minister Macron**. The President of UNAPL said that the professions were revolted by the outrageous ideas of Mr Macron’s predecessor : *“We are not profiteers and even less thieves. **The tone has changed since you arrived but not the bottom.** You persist on this bill. We*

were waiting for a reform that allows us to work better and grow." But the **proposal of reform will destroy a sector that creates jobs and activities for France**. "*We feel like victims of a "swop" with Brussels*".

When Minister Macron took the floor, he declared that he wants to **preserve the model of the liberal professions, in its diversity** : "*I understand the uncertainties, but there has been a lot of misinformation and excess*". He then firmly said that "**he would not back down in front of the protests**". He added that action is needed on the distribution of professions in the territory, which is not optimal and on rates, since some are more in line with actual costs and some are not, with sometimes obsolete training conditions.

The **President of UNAPL** repeated that the bill was unacceptable "*because it violates the very foundations of the liberal exercise*". He announced a **new manifestation of the liberal professionals the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January in Paris**.

In the afternoon, a round table on European Affairs was organised by UNAPL's President of EU Committee and CEPLIS' Treasurer, **Mr François Blanchecotte**. Among the speakers were **Mr Eric Thiry**, President of our Belgian member UNPLIB and member of CEPLIS' Executive Board, **Mr Edouard de Lamaze**, a member of the EESC and **Mr Konstantinos Tomaras**, Deputy Head of the Unit Free Movement of Professionals within DG MARKT.



François Blanchecotte (UNAPL), Eric Thiry (UNPLIB) and Edouard de Lamaze (EESC).

For further information about the situation of liberal professions in France or about the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress of UNAPL, do not hesitate to contact our Secretariat.

## The first Civil Guards to be graduated in Engineering in Spain

This 11<sup>th</sup> of this December, the Spanish newspaper *“LaCerca”* published an article on the first graduation ceremony of Civil Guards in engineering safety in Spain. The event, held in the Auditorium "Padre Soler" of the Carlos III University of Madrid, was attended by the Director General of the Civil Guard, Arsenio Fernandez de Mesa, as the highest representative of the Corps.

The 45 students of this 1st Promotion have followed classes in the development of design tasks, integration and management of security systems, in order to ensure public and private safety through prevention, to respond to emergencies and to promote the excellency of the services provided.

The graduation ceremony was chaired by the Rector Magnificus of the University Carlos III de Madrid, Daniel Peña and concerned students of Industrial Engineering, Aerospace, Biomedical and Industrial technologies. The 45 students of the Degree of Safety Engineering (42 men and 3 women) studied at the University Centre of the Civil Guard, which is attached to the Carlos III University of Madrid.

The Director General of the Civil Guard, Arsenio Fernandez de Mesa, as Head of the Corps, declared that *"this day becomes a milestone in the history of the Civil Guard. Today, for the first time in history, and in uniform, Safety Engineers, who are also policemen, receive their scholarships along with other students, which is the representation of normality, of the union and symbiosis between the Guardia Civil and the Spanish society"*.

Fernandez de Mesa also thanked the full availability of the Carlos III University of Madrid and the great effort made by the University Centre of the Civil Guard. Both centres have managed to bring to fruition the great curriculum leading to the academic training of the 1st Promotion of Civil Guards graduated in Engineering Security.

The official university Degree in Safety Engineering, which is worth 240 European credits (ECTS), entails a real integration of training of officers of the Civil Guard in the general education system in Spain and the European Higher Education Area.

With this diploma, future officers of the Corps in the development of design tasks, integration and management of security systems, are formed in order to **ensure public and private security through prevention and action in emergencies.**

The degree in Safety Engineering has a basic content that matches with the first two years program of the University Centre of Defence in Zaragoza. The third and fourth course has **three technology options:** computer security, infrastructure and staff security, and electronics and communications security; as well as an additional block in which the legislative framework, humanities, ethics, forensic science and leadership are taught.

This training is completed with **specific vocational training received in the 5th year with the university Master in Operations Directorate of Security** (public security, judicial police, terrorist threat, police and international judicial coordination, fiscal, borders, immigration, steering units, crisis management and practices), culminating in July 2015 with receiving the grand of lieutenant of the Civil Guard.

The article is available on the following link:

[http://www.lacerca.com/noticias/espana/graduados\\_primeros\\_guardias\\_civiles\\_titulos\\_ingenieria\\_seguridad-237353-1.html](http://www.lacerca.com/noticias/espana/graduados_primeros_guardias_civiles_titulos_ingenieria_seguridad-237353-1.html)

*For further information about this purpose, do not hesitate to write to our Secretariat.*

## When Engineering meets Human Rights

This 11<sup>th</sup> of December, the University of Connecticut published an article on the impact of Engineering in social life across the world.

The School of Engineering and the Human Rights Institute have created a track of courses within University of Connecticut's human rights minor that explores the social aspects of engineering, including energy, infrastructure, and water resources management.

To quote Shareen Hertel, associate professor of political science and human rights: *"we looked to develop courses that contextualize **human rights concepts and theories** in an engineering practice. We on the human rights side found it really advantageous to reach out to the students who were going to do work with **serious human rights implications** but hadn't thought about it that way before."*

The article in question underlines the **importance of the social purpose at the educational level**. Indeed, although corporations increasingly are required to consider the social implications of their work, Human Rights and Engineering rarely intersect at **universities**.



For example, the Bhumibol Dam in Thailand may have a devastating impact on the people living in the immediate vicinity.

*"If you're going to build a bridge, and you're going to have to **resettle a tribe of indigenous people** because their land is no longer going to be accessible to them," Hertel says, "that adds implications for cultural rights and their capacity to continue*

*to exist as an indigenous people. It also adds implications for economic rights, because they used to live and work on that land – they don't know what else to do."*

**Prof. Hertel and Allison MacKay**, also Associate Professor, note that *"you hear about all the doodads and gadgets on your cell phone, but then you don't talk about how the availability of cell phones has allowed people in developing countries to just skip a whole lot of hard-wired infrastructure. **There're more cell phones in Africa right now than there are in the United States.**"*

Of course, this fact has a **real impact in the social but also economic life of thousands of African workers**. That allows farmers, for instance, to skip middle men in getting their products to market, and can keep them from getting swindled because now they have access to information about the going rate for their products.

This kind of issue **needs to be considered at University**. Courses in the human rights/engineering track have included assignments and lectures focusing on everything from biofuels and e-waste to the structural engineering of Bangladeshi factories.

**Kazem Kazerounian, Dean of the School of Engineering**, said he's pleased the new track of courses has caught the interest of engineering students. *"**Engineering is a field that has a huge social impact** and by making the human rights minor available to our engineering students, they can now consider these impacts in depth and objectively."*

The organisation of the classes is a new challenge for the University. Indeed, about two-third of the students in MacKay and Hertel's class are engineering majors. The rest are mostly from the social sciences and humanities. The **mix** is new for many of them.

According to Prof. Hertel says *"Engineering students and social sciences students have never had to do projects together, so this brings together a **multi-skill set approach** to look at things like the life cycle of a product, or sourcing challenges."*

That's important, they say, as these are the kinds of the things that major corporations have to consider now. Doing so requires a multidisciplinary approach, yet it's rare for people fresh out of school to have that kind of background.

**Faheem Dalal, a senior majoring in electrical engineering,** enrolled in the Assessment for Human Rights and Sustainability class. He and three other students recently presented a report on the ethics of Microsoft's operations. Before taking the class, Dalal says, he hadn't given much thought to engineering's social impact. *"Hopefully this class **will help me understand my work, with respect to human rights and environmental awareness,**" he says. "After I graduate, I'll have a better understanding and be able to raise concerns and suggestions."*

The social implications of the engineering development **seem to interest more Universities.** This could be a source of new ethical code of conducts in the field of engineering and especially in the developing countries.

The article, written by William Weir, is available on the following cyber link: <http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2014/12/the-social-impact-of-engineering/>

For further information about this subject, do not hesitate to contact our Secretariat.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Youth Unemployment in the EU – Vocational Education & Training as a Chance for Economy and Society?

<b>When?</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> of January 2015, from 18:30 until 20:30
<b>Who?</b>	The Chambers of Skilled Crafts in Rhineland-Palatinate, the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry for Economic Affairs, Climate Protection and Energy and the Representation of Rhineland-Palatinate
<b>Where?</b>	Representation of Rhineland-Palatinate  Avenue de Tervueren 60  1040 Brussels - BELGIUM
<b>Speakers?</b>	<b>Pierre Delsaux</b> (European Commission, Deputy Director-General, DG Growth), <b>Heinz K. Becker</b> , (MEP - EPP - Committee on Employment and Social Affairs) and <b>Eveline Lemke</b> , (Vice Minister-President of Rhineland-Palatinate, Minister for Economic Affairs, Climate Protection and Energy) among many others speakers.
<b>Inscription?</b>	The official invitation will follow in January.