

MONDES: Globalisation, Restructuring, and Social and Professional Downgrading

This project analyses the dynamics of inequalities and social exclusion induced by under-education within advanced countries (the North) in a globalized World.

The project has three major objectives:

1. The analysis and measurement of the influence of globalization-induced industrial restructuring upon the intergenerational skill mobility in the North, by focusing on the emergence of under-education and exclusion traps.
2. The study of the education and/or social policies that make it possible to escape from these unwilling developments.
3. The analysis and estimation of the impact of globalization and technical progress on these policies, their funding and efficiency, and on the developments of the labour market institutions (trade union power, bargaining etc.).

Within such a framework, four workpackages (WPs) are presented. The first (Globalisation, Restructuring and Poverty Trap) investigates (i) the impact of technical progress combined with globalisation on the inequality versus unemployment trade-off in the North countries, and (ii) the impact of the globalization-induced industrial restructuring on unemployment, professional downgrading, under-education traps and social exclusion. The second WP (Education and Globalisation: Intergenerational Analysis) explores (i) the impact of the interactions between globalisation and the different educational systems on intergenerational mobility and social segmentation, and (ii) the influence of several educational policies upon human capital accumulation and upon the fight against under-education and exclusion, by focusing on the trade-offs between basic and higher education, between specific and general education, and between general action and affirmative action.

The third package (The probability to fall in a poverty trap) aims at estimating the impact of globalization-induced restructurings on the probability to become a working poor and to fall in an exclusion trap. The fourth WP (Technical progress and labour market adjustments in globalized economies) analyses social competition between North countries and the influence of technical progress and globalization upon the union's bargaining power.

This programme combines several complementary analytical tools: (i) the building of theoretical models (general equilibrium modelling in comparative static and intergenerational dynamics, games between employers and trade unions) that make it possible to represent the main operating mechanisms; (ii) simulation exercises based on observed data and calculated parameters that allow to extend the models to more complex configurations with no simple analytical solutions; (iii) econometric estimations of the results.

The project puts together junior as well as senior researchers within four countries and seven Research Centres (EQUIPPE, Univ. of Lille; LEN, Univ. of Nantes; Federal Planning Bureau, Belgium; SHERPPA – University of Gent, Belgium; University of Antwerp, Belgium; Loughborough, UK; European University of St Petersburg, Russia). All these researchers are working on inequalities and/or poverty, and they are highly complementary in their expertise: international economics, labour economics, growth, intergenerational modelling and CGE modelling, econometrics, microeconomics and measure of poverty.