



**SEMINAR ON  
ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR CITIZENS WITH IRREGULAR  
WORK-INCOME**

@ SMart, rue Emile Féron 70, 1060 Brussels  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

**PROGRAMME**

13H00- 13H30: welcome coffee

Moderator: Suzanne Capiou

13h30-13h45: introduction by Luca Bergamo  
The purpose of the Welfare Line & of the working session

13h45- 14h30: Practitioners' insight: reshuffling classifications: addressing social protection through the perspective of irregular income.  
- Sarah de Heusch, SMartBe  
- Joel Dullroy, freelancers' movement

14h30- 15h15: The state of the art of the debates at the European Union level  
- T. Dominique, Social Protection Committee of the European Commission (to be confirmed)  
- Pierre Baussand, European Social Platform

Quick coffee break

15h30- 16h15: Research insight into social protection & employment market evolution:  
- Prof. Annalisa Murgia, sociologa dell'Università di Trento  
- Prof. Pascale Vielle, Université Catholique de Louvain

16h15- 17h00: How to collaborate structurally & efficiently on the topic? Small groups

17h00-17h15: Conclusions by Suzanne Capiou

17h15-17h30: Next steps.





## **BACKGROUND NOTE**

People who develop portfolio careers or who have atypical forms of employment represent an important and rapidly growing portion of the European active population. If we consider these as solo-self-employed, employees with fixed-term contracts and those who work part-time (less than 20h/week) we can estimate that nearly 40 % of the European labour force<sup>1</sup> is concerned. It is a highly segmented population, even though research reveals that most of these workers have irregular income and live in or on the border of precarity.

This evolution of the labour market (that started in the 80s) has a huge impact on both the financing of social security and access to social protection. In fact, social security systems were built under the assumption that individuals work full-time with open-ended contracts (usually developing their entire career in the same structure). People who develop portfolio careers often endorse different social statutes during their professional life, are discontinuously employed/paid by different employers/contractors. This has many implications concerning access to social protection.

The academic and policy makers often address the issue of social protection in terms of professional sectors or social statutes. This approach hampers the possibility of designing innovative and sustainable solutions that preserve one of Europe's most valuable heritage: a strong social protection. Given the so called crisis and the growing inequalities in European society, there is an urgency to address the issue of an adapted social protection for all.

This seminar aims at bringing together academics, representatives of European Institutions and representatives of field organizations to share views, knowledge and approaches on the topic of access to social protection for those who develop portfolio careers. The overall objective is to raise awareness and create synergies among these different actors to tackle this crucial issue from a new perspective.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Labour\\_market\\_and\\_Labour\\_force\\_survey\\_%28LFS%29\\_statistics#Labour\\_force\\_in\\_the\\_EU](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Labour_market_and_Labour_force_survey_%28LFS%29_statistics#Labour_force_in_the_EU)

