



International Society for Labour and Social Security Law

Société internationale de droit du travail et de la sécurité sociale

Sociedad Internacional de Derecho del Trabajo y de la Seguridad Social

International Society for Labour and Social Security Law (ISLSSL)

Young Scholars Session – European Regional Congress

Dublin, 17-19 September 2014

Discussion Documents / Call for Participation

*To the European National Associations and Institutional Members of ISLSSL*

The aim of this document is to draw up for guidelines for the national reports to be presented at the Dublin Congress on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 from 12,15 (beginning of participants' registration) to 2,30 p.m. in the Sutherland School of Law.

The reports will be delivered by individual scholars or scholars as a research group, appointed by the institutional members of the ISLSSL to whom will be sent this document.

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### **I) ISLSSL guidelines to promote research by young scholars in comparative labour law**

According to the decisions taken by the Executive Committee on 25 September 2012 at the World Congress in Santiago (Chile), one of the priorities of the current ISLSSL Presidency is to promote the participation of young scholars in the academic initiatives

and conferences of the ISLSSL. In this connection the Servais Report, approved by the Executive Committee, stated:

Mention has already been made of the emphasis put by the by-laws on the promotion of the study of labour and social security law amongst young academics and lawyers. *A number of recommendations have been made* with a view to attracting scholars, including young ones, coming from more countries. It has been traditionally observed that the main responsibility in this regard relies upon the national associations. When however scholars look for suitable conferences to attend, they look at the scholarly programme of the conference, whether it is refereed, what other internationally known scholars will be attending and so on. All of this is also the clear responsibility of the Society. In accordance with Article 1§2 of the by-laws, on the other hand, the Executive Committee facilitates the integration of young scholars into the labour law community and their networking by the assistance it gives to international seminars of comparative labour law, industrial relations and social security. It has recently promoted the organization of new colloquiums of this kind. *It could be further encouraged to do so and to provide the organizers with more fellowships.*

In pursuit of this aim, the ISLSSL Officers Group consisting of the President, Adrian Goldin, the General Secretary, Giuseppe Casale and the Treasurer, Stefano Bellomo, encouraged the Regional Conferences organizers, namely the Guayaquil American Regional Congress and the Dublin European Regional Congress, to schedule a specific conference session for young labour law scholars to discuss topics across the board for all the countries within the Region.

Two consequences arise from this. As the Servais report pointed out, the main responsibility for promoting the activities of young scholars lies with the national associations.

However, input from the International Society can facilitate the process even within each national association: for example, by means of a national young scholars section or specific seminars or awards for younger scholars.

The second and more immediate consequence is to make space for participation within the programme of each Congress for early career scholars with a significant interest in comparative labour law, in other words who are at an earlier stage in their career than

established academics acting as rapporteurs or as discussants or participants in round tables.

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## **II) Initial experience at the Guayaquil Regional American Congress**

An initial but very positive attempt to attract scholars of the younger generation and to promote an exchange of views among them was made at the Ninth Regional American Congress in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 1-4 October 2013. The papers presented at that Congress were posted on the ISLSSL website and can be consulted at <[www.islssl.org/home/young-lawyers](http://www.islssl.org/home/young-lawyers)>.

Considering the success of this initiative, in connection with the forthcoming Regional Congress to be held in Dublin in September 2014, each European National Association is encouraged to appoint one or more young scholars (leaving the choice of criteria that qualify a scholar as “young” to the discretion of each Association) and to invite them, as members of an embryonic European ISLSSL young scholars’ group, to present a brief report to the Congress. The report should address the issues indicated in the next section of this document.

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## **III) Discussion topics for Dublin 2014**

As regards the evolution of labour law in European legal systems, the global economic crisis represents the most important research topic and the main reason of intervention.

**First**, the direct or indirect impact of the crisis has characterized many countries that are dealing with a sharp increase in unemployment, especially among young people. The response to the issues arising from this phenomenon has been in many cases an attempt to reform the regulation of employment contracts, trade unions and collective bargaining, as well as important developments in the field of social security law (pension systems, protection against unemployment, welfare to work).

These developments in many cases, did not take place solely at the initiative of national legislatures, but in response to indications coming from the political-economic institutions that operate more directly in Europe, particularly the *troika*, comprising the

European Commission, the European Central Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

**Second**, even in countries where the economic crisis has opened up new market opportunities relating to outsourcing of production and to the relocation of production, changes in the labour market have highlighted the need to provide assistance for the modernization of labour law regulations.

It is also necessary to consider how these changes, in the various countries, have affected the legislation linked to the implementation of the Conventions of the International Labour Organization.

For this reason, the most appropriate topics for the first meeting scheduled as the European Regional Congress in Dublin can be summarized in the following questions:

- 1) What are the most significant changes that the legal system of your country has undergone since the start of the global economic crisis (2008), with particular reference to the following areas: a) employment contracts law; b) trade union law and collective bargaining; c) social security law (pension systems, protection against unemployment, welfare to work)?**
- 2) What role has the input from the international and supranational authorities (ILO, IMF, European Union, Council of Europe, Eurasian Customs Union, etc.) played in the elaboration of these reform measures?**

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#### **IV) Organization of the Session**

Representatives from the various European National Associations and Institutions affiliated to the ISLSSL will be invited to submit a brief report answering the questions raised in Section III. This report is to be written in one of the official languages of the Congress (English, French, Spanish).

The reports will be initially published on the website dedicated to this initiative:

<[www.euryoungscholars.unimi.it](http://www.euryoungscholars.unimi.it)>

After the end of the Congress, the reports will be also available on the ISLSSL website:

<[www.islssl.org](http://www.islssl.org)> and <[www.sidtss.org](http://www.sidtss.org)>

The first of these websites will contain documents, contributions and papers to be uploaded by the participants at the time of registration.

During the Session the representatives will be asked to present their own report. The duration of the presentation will be decided according to the number of national reports submitted.

The national associations and institutions are kindly requested to appoint their representatives by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The representatives should submit the final reports no later than 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Communications and final reports by representatives will be sent to the following e-mail address: [euryoung.scholars@unimi.it](mailto:euryoung.scholars@unimi.it)

Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014

The coordinator of the European «embryo»  
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