

DRAFT

High-Level Seminar on Public Sector Innovation

9th July 2013, salle Ortoli, 13th Floor, Berlaymont, European Commission, Brussels

In this era where public budgets are under severe strain, strengthening competitiveness is a priority and new technologies, especially ICT, are revolutionising the economy, the issue of public-sector innovation is increasingly vital. A modernised public sector – and the social sector more broadly – needs to find creative new ways to flexibly and more effectively deliver better services tailored to individuals' increasing needs and demands – with fewer resources. New information and communication technologies are one way to help achieve this; another is experimentation with new institutional models, including social innovation. Given the importance of the public sector in European economies, public-sector innovation is essential to President Barroso's priorities of boosting economic competitiveness and growth while safeguarding Europe's social model.

This high-level seminar will bring together top specialists and practitioners to share their insights and experience in the field of public-sector innovation and discuss the opportunities for, and challenges to, further progress at a European and member-state level. It will be opened by President Barroso, whose personal commitment to these issues is well-known. It will also highlight the valuable role that the Commission is playing to inspire public-sector innovation and suggest ways in which it might do more. In particular, Luc Soete will present the European Commission's new "Public Innovation Scoreboard". Esther Duflo, winner of the John Bates Clark Medal for brilliant young economists, will give a keynote speech on scientifically testing public-policy innovations.

The seminar will also highlight initiatives undertaken in member states that can serve as inspiration for others. For example, Ireland is implementing an ambitious public-service-reform plan, Estonia is a global leader in e-government, Denmark has established MINDLAB, an internal mechanism to co-design innovative solutions in the public services, the Basque region's "Social Innovation Park" initiatives for economic renewal are being emulated in Croatia and the city of Malmö is breaking new grounds on the rehabilitation of building blocks.

Agenda

9:00–9:30 Welcome coffee and arrival of participants and speakers

9:30–10:00 Welcome by Jean-Claude Thébault, Director General, BEPA

- **Opening remarks: José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission**
- Brendan Howlin, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Republic of Ireland

10:00–11:00 **Keynote: Testing public-policy innovations**

- Esther Duflo, Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics, MIT

11:00–11:15 Coffee break

11:15–12:00 **Measuring innovation: the EU's Public-Sector Innovation Scoreboard**

- Introduction: Daniel Calleja DG ENTR
- Presentation: Luc Soete, Rector Magnificus, Maastricht University

12:00–13:00 **Innovations in Public Sectors: Good Practice**

- Taavi Kotka, IT Adviser, Government of Estonia
- Katarina Pelin, Environmental Director, City of Malmö
- Gorka Espiau, Director, Social Innovation Laboratory Koop, Bilbao
- William L. Dorotinsky, The World Bank

Chair: Philippe Legrain, Principal Adviser and Head of the Analysis Team, BEPA

13:00–14:30 Lunch

- Introduction: Laurence de Richemont, Member of President Barroso's Cabinet
- Keynote: Geoff Mulgan, Chief Executive, Nesta

14:30–16:00 **What role for European Policies?**

Introductory remarks: Christian Bason, Director, MINDLAB and chair of the High-Level Expert Group on Public-Sector Innovation

- Koos Richelle, Director General, DG EMPL
- Xavier Prats Monné, Deputy Director General, DG EAC
- Roberto Viola, Deputy Director General, DG CNECT
- John Bell, Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn

Chair: Agnès Hubert, Adviser, BEPA