

Venue

Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales
Kleisthaus, Mauerstraße 53
D-10117 Berlin

Registration (by 12 September)

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Human Capital in Europe

A Challenge for Public Finances

18th September 2007

Berlin

Conference Programme online

www.bruegel.org

Conference Languages

English and German

[simultaneous interpretation]

Organiser

Bruegel (Brussels)

in collaboration with ifo Institute for Economic

Research (Munich)

and the Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin)



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Human Capital in Europe A Challenge for Public Finances

In our dynamic global environment standing still means falling back. While the USA actively maintains a human capital lead, developing countries (especially China and India) are swiftly catching up with their rapid expansion of university education. Europe, however, has high levels of physical capital but is less dynamic in generating and attracting human capital.

Europe risks being squeezed out of the core value-creation chains of the knowledge economy. At the same time, the global competition for mobile talent is increasingly fierce. World class locations for economic activity need top talent - including foreign talent. Failure to attract it also makes it more difficult to retain local high-potentials.

Secondary and higher education policies in Europe, as well as conditions for high-skilled immigrants, are critical in determining the future growth dynamic of the European economies. Thus, Europe's stock of human capital and its future expansion are of central importance to the long-term sustainability of public finances.

But which tasks in the education system should, in the long run, be carried out by the state and which by the markets? Since education policy in Germany is autonomously decided by the Länder, what role should Europe or indeed the Federal Government play? What growth and distributional effects will emerge from investments in education and high-skilled immigration?

We are delighted to invite you to a conference that will seek to address these questions with a view to their public finance implications.

14:15

Accepting the Challenge

Welcome

Barbara Hendricks (Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance)

Introduction

Jean Pisani-Ferry (Director, Bruegel)

14:45

Europe's Human Capital: Stocks, Flows, and the Role of the State

Towards Greater Efficiency and Equity in European Education Policies: Why and How

Ludger Wößmann (Professor, University of Munich & Department Head, ifo Institute)

A Strategy for the Future of the European Universities

André Sapir (Professor, Free University of Brussels (ULB) & Senior Fellow, Bruegel)

Discussant: Detlef Müller-Böling (Director, CHE Centre for Higher Education Development)

Discussion

16:00

Break

16:15

The Global Competition for Talent

Immigration by Points: The Canadian Experience

Don DeVoretz (Professor, Simon Fraser University & Senior Fellow, IZA Institute for the Study of Labour)

The Blue Card Proposal

Jakob von Weizsäcker (Fellow, Bruegel)

Discussion

17:00

Policy Options (Panel)

Thomas Mirow (State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance)

Detlef Müller-Böling (Director, CHE Centre for Higher Education Development)

Andreas Schleicher (Division Head, OECD)

Chair: Dalia Marin (Professor, University of Munich)

18:15

Conference ends