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The 11th WAPES WORLD CONGRESS (WWC) 2018

Public Employment Services in the Context of Sustainable Development and the Digital Age

Marrakech, Morocco
19 - 20 April 2018

Draft Programme 14/03/2018

This event could be partially recorded. With your registration you agree to be recorded (image or voice), published and/or streamed on www.wapes.org.

**World Association of Public Employment Services
Association Mondiale des Services d'Emploi Publics
Asociación Mundial de los Servicios Públicos de Empleo**



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Introduction

The World of Work is changing ...

This is a reality and the question is no longer really whether this will happen but how these changes will take place and what the impacts on our economies will be, our jobs, our ways of working and, in a wider sense, on our representations of work.

It is well known that predicting the future of work in face of this digitalisation is impossible, but public stakeholders must be able to anticipate the possibility of unemployment that is not cyclical but structural, with its potential impacts on inequality.

Sharing this view, the United Nations in its "Millennium Development Goals" reaffirms its conviction that **"lasting international peace and security are possible only if the economic and social well-being of people everywhere is assured"** and that its missions promote **"higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development."**

The digitization of our economies is underway...

Since the industrial revolution, and more recently, the globalization of the economy, has generated a profound restructuring of our production tools with significant impacts on certain countries or regions that have seen their industries close or relocate and poor skilled people lose their jobs.

This digitization of the economy has added complexity by affecting existing jobs by automating all or part of the tasks.

At the same time, digitalisation creates new jobs and, consequently, jobs.

On this question, studies agree that it is less the decrease in the number of jobs created in the world that is to be feared than the distribution of these by type of qualifications as well as their geographical positions.

One of the major stakes therefore lies in the possibility of states and PES to succeed in this change in qualifications by guaranteeing citizens the maintenance or even the improvement of their working conditions, of income and this whatever their current situations.

This implies, of course, the introduction of adapted training schemes but also the taking into account of specificities including the care of the public cannot access this type of jobs for various reasons (illiteracy, situations handicap, etc...)

Some states have already introduced deep reforms in their central administrations to make digital competence a basic skill in the same way as writing or calculating, aware that this competence is a prerequisite for any job search process in a large country in a vast majority of careers.

It is in this context that the Public Employment Services have to take action. It is probably a major challenge for many of them to be able to streamline the labour market by:



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- Ensuring the transition from one qualification to another,
- Taking into account and finding solutions for publics with difficulties adapting to these new work contexts,
- Proposing alternative solutions,
- Responding to the specific needs of their users (adaptation to new professions, training),
- Responding to the needs of companies that want more flexibility, adaptability and responsiveness,
- Ensuring fair and efficient management of Unemployment Insurance (in countries where this is practiced).

PES also have to take into account new forms of work (new contracts, combined curriculums, pluriactivities, etc.), which often represents a difficulty due, in particular, to the lack of accountability of certain activities and their location when it is beyond national borders.

We invite you to come to Marrakech on April 19th and 20th, 2018 to discuss all of these issues.

We have chosen to organize the exchanges around plenary sessions and five parallel sessions, each containing the following five sub-topics:

Sub-topic 1: The impacts of digital technology on employment

The entire community of experts agrees that digitalization reforms and will continue to reform the labour market around the world in a significant way.

However, the analyses may differ on the impact that this digitization may have on unemployment levels.

These differences of opinion are due, in particular, to the complexity of this inevitable digitization process that affects countries with different levels of development, different economies, different levels of digital development, and so on.

Digitization of existing jobs

On this issue the OECD, in a study published in 2016, evaluates the percentage of jobs that could see their contents automated between 9 and 40% depending on the level of industrialization of countries.

This is also what many studies mention as the polarization of jobs defining the simultaneous increase in the share of the most and less skilled trades, inducing a decrease in the average skilled trades.

We can then easily see the risks of marginalization of certain untrained and/or untrainable audiences that would not be able to follow this evolution.



The creation of new professions

Indeed, emerging businesses, mainly focused on the design of automation systems, support for digital economies, remote work on activities in the tertiary sector, etc. are a reality.

They can clearly enable people far away from major production centers to find job opportunities, which is a good thing, but there are also some risks at stake.

Indeed, these types of economies are shaking up our traditional models by proposing activities that are not fully covered or not covered at all by contracts and thus leaving a large proportion of workers without social protection.

Another impact also lies in the fact that the income generated by these new types of economy often escape the levy of social contributions and therefore represent a significant risk of a significant decline in the income of a state.

So it's a very complex equation that is played out on a global scale. The process is running and no one can stop it. Therefore, the question is how to revisit our ways of thinking, our legislative texts, and our modes of operation to cope with these drastic changes.

Some countries are asking themselves whether to define digital literacy as a compulsory basic skill in the same way that reading, writing or arithmetic are in order to enable future generations to have, with certainty, these skills that today are so essential to work.

The work of this session, organized by SECO, Switzerland, will focus on the following topics:

How best to manage these transitions for the benefit of the public so that some are not marginalized and can benefit from satisfactory working conditions and social coverage?

How can Public Employment Services organize the social protection and sustainability of Unemployment Insurance (in countries where this is practiced) with these new contexts?

Sub-topic 2: Entrepreneurship for job creation in the digital age

By 2030, on the African continent alone, more than 120 million young people will enter the labor market.

Unfortunately, the existing economies will not be able to absorb this influx of skills and the countries, aware of this situation, are reflecting on the solutions that could help to stem the scourge of unemployment.

Entrepreneurship, a solution,

Some studies put forward the hypothesis that entrepreneurship encourages economic growth, while others argue that economic growth encourages entrepreneurship.



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Each one will make his own opinion with regards to the national realities but force is to note that today this way is identified as one of the most successful in the countries which are not able to create industrial or tertiary employment following the traditional models.

The obstacles,

Barriers to entrepreneurship exist, why deny it? Of course, they vary from country to country, but may be due to the complexity of procedures, high costs, lack of relevant information, or lack of entrepreneurial skills.

The role of Public Employment Services,

Public Employment Services clearly have a crucial role to play in providing specific benefits to job seekers with a creative project or even in presenting opportunities to young people. Many Public Employment Services have developed service offers for these audiences. These are protean and can cover very different fields.

Of different importance according to the sectors of activity targeted, it is however essential today, for all the candidates for the creation, to master and to use the tools of digital communication to prepare, to realize and to ensure the sustainability of their activity.

Public Employment Services have developed service offerings in this regard. It can be entrepreneurship awareness so that potential candidates are informed of the benefits but also the constraints of this type of project.

It can also be devices to evaluate the entrepreneurial predispositions of a candidate aiming to ensure career paths and to help avoid post-creation failures that unfortunately are plentiful.

The services offered both in the development of the business plan and in the completion of administrative formalities or the search of financing.

Finally, the creation of a company made of devices exists to create all the conditions necessary for the sustainability of the activity through the provision of e-learning on marketing, the search for new markets, etc.

The work of this session, organized by ANAPEC, Morocco, will focus particularly on the measures taken by the Public Employment Services to promote self-entrepreneurship through the use of new technologies.

Sub-topic 3: Digital technology in the delivery of services of PES

This session will be organised by Pôle emploi, France

Sub-topic 4: E-learning and increased employability



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Sub-topic 5: Digital Literacy: a basic skill to survive in the digital age

Digital literacy has multiple definitions, as it is a social concept open to dynamic revisions of meaning. However, practically speaking, digital literacy can be defined as the basic skills to find, understand, analyse, produce and share knowledge using digital tools in the digital age. Digital literacy is also defined through three different levels starting from digital competence, then climbing up to digital usage and finally reaching digital transformation levels.

Considering the popularly coined phrase “Industry 4.0”, or the digital age that is defined by the rising role of artificial intelligence and machine learning like digital technologies in all the social institutions from economics to public administration and science, digital literacy is becoming an indispensable basic skill to survive in the modern social organisation. Labour market and employment services are not detached from this digital transformation, either.

In this respect, the following issues will be analysed in this session by contributions from PESs, businesspersons from technology sector, NGOs and academicians working on the topic.

- Transition from conventional literacy to digital literacy
- Digital literacy and its importance in the life cycle in the digital age: digital competence, digital usage and digital transformation as levels of digital literacy
- New skills in the new labour markets: policies, resources and tools utilised for developing digital literacy across the world
- Role and perspectives from the private sector, cooperation between public-private and civil society sectors to develop digital literacy
- Digital illiteracy as a factor of unemployment
- Active Labour Market Programmes to develop digital literacy of adults
- Digital services and digital literacy of employment counsellors
- New functions of public libraries: investing in digital literacy through new public libraries

Participants

The WAPES World Congress (WWC) addresses all WAPES member PES and is thus the biggest event in the WAPES activity portfolio. It gathers members of WAPES (Director Generals and contact persons of PES), decision-makers in labour market institutions, stakeholders from international organisations, academia, experts from government bodies, especially public employment services, representatives of international organisations dealing with the topics of labour, employment and social inclusion, stakeholders of the private sector, local entities and non-profit organisations.

Participants are coming from all over the world, including members and invited non-members of WAPES.

The panels will be broadcasted live on www.wapes.org



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Objectives

The 11th WAPES World Congress aims:

- To encourage member delegates to contribute through innovative ideas, solutions and strategies, to better address the impacts of digital technology in the deployment of actions, programs and solutions tailored to job seekers and businesses.
- To bring input on how to address the issues and the main challenges faced in this evolution via presentations of best practices by PES representatives and external speakers.
- To provide a platform and networking possibilities for established WAPES members, potential new members and key players in the field of labour and employment.

Venue

Palais des Congrès of Marrakech



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Managing Board and General Assembly Programmes

The latest version of the programme will be available at www.wapes.org

Tuesday, 17 April 2018	
14h00	Registration Managing Board Members
14h00 18h00	WAPES preparatory Managing Board – for MB members only (see separate programme)

Wednesday, 18 April 2018	
09h00	Registration General Assembly
09h00 18h00	WAPES General Assembly and Managing Board – for WAPES members only (see separate programmes) Chairman of elections: tbc
19h00	Inauguration of the photo exhibition of the 30th Anniversary of WAPES Reception for the 30th Anniversary of WAPES



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WAPES World Congress Programme

Working languages: English, French, Spanish and Arabic (the languages interpreted may be different according to the workshops)

Moderators:

Thursday, 19 April 2018	
08h30	Registration
09h00	Welcoming note by Moderator
09h15	<p>Opening speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name tbc, Director General of ANAPEC • Camille MOUTE A BIDIAS, WAPES President of honour • Cafer UZUNKAYA, outgoing WAPES President • The newly elected WAPES President • Moroccan Authority (name tbc)
10h15	Coffee & Tea break
10h45	<p><i>"Public Employment Services in the Context of Sustainable Development and the Digital Age"</i></p> <p>Introductory session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luc CORTEBEECK, Chair Governing Body, ILO • OECD (name tbc) • David ROSAS SHADY (tbc), Inter-American development Bank • Othman EL FERDAOUS (tbc), Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and the Digital Economy • Fons LEROY, PES NetWork President, Belgium
12h30	Lunch



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<p>Parallel sessions</p> <p>First round 14h-16h15</p> <p>Coffee/tea break 16h15-16h45</p> <p>Second round 16h45-19h</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>"The impacts of digital technology on employment", organised by SECO (Switzerland's PES)</i> Moderator: Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janine BERG, Senior Economist, ILO • Name tbc, OCDE • Céline GRATADOUR, Project Manager, AFD, France • Dominik HAURI, Economist, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland • Max UEBE, Head of Unit – Employment Strategy, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission ❖ <i>"E-learning and increased employability" organised by HRSDC (Canada's PES)</i> Moderator: Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name tbc, Openclassrooms, France • Name tbc, KEIS, Korea • • ❖ <i>"Entrepreneurship for job creation in the digital age", organised by ANAPEC, (Morocco's PES)</i> Moderator: Name tbc, ANAPEC Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pierre SOUDAN, "Molengeek", Actiris, Belgium • Saïd MTAICH, Agence Digitale, Morocco • M. LAVALLEE, International Labour Office, Morocco • Sub-Saharan Africa's PES ❖ <i>"Digital technology in the delivery of services of PES", organised by Pôle emploi, France</i> Moderator: Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name tbc, NASWA, USA
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name tbc, Arbetsförmedlingen, Sweden • Name tbc, Eesti Töötukassa, Estonia <p>❖ "Digital Literacy: a basic skill to survive in the digital age", organised by İŞKUR (Turkey's PES)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name tbc, Arbetsförmedlingen, Sweden • •
Evening	Official dinner

Friday, 20 April 2018	
09h30 10h30	<p>Conclusion of Workshops</p> <p>Summaries of the workshops shared with the audience</p>
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee & Tea break
11h00 – 11h30	<p>Lessons to be learnt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie GAUVIN, Director of International affairs and relationships, Pôle emploi, France
11h30	<p>Closing ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New President of WAPES • Moroccan Authorities
14h30 – 17h00	Cultural visit