



Networked Coordination of Industrial Relations

# *Newsletter*

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## NETWIR in brief

NETWIR - Networked Coordination of Industrial Relations is a research project funded by the EU – DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (agreement number VP/2018/0023).

Despite growing research on the comparative analysis of collective bargaining coordination and its impact, we still lack deeper knowledge about the mechanisms sustaining coordination.

In this way, most studies have paid attention to the level where coordination occurs (firm, sector, and national), assuming a correspondence between formal roles across levels and actors.

Against this background, the NETWIR project aims to shed light on actual mechanisms that industrial relations actors deploy to solve coordination problems by applying a new methodology to the field of industrial relations and in particular, to the analysis of collective bargaining coordination, the Social Network Analysis.

Further information on: <http://netw-ir.eu/>

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## The preliminary work: an overview of the first year research

During the first year, the coordinator team analysed existing literature on Social Network Analysis and its application to the field of industrial relations. In particular, the desk research tried to analyse those works that tried to depart from the dominant institutionalist approaches to the analysis of collective bargaining coordination and adopt a relational approach to it. Another element of the desk research phase was the analysis of collective bargaining coordination literature and concepts, especially on the two sectors studied (Pharmaceutical and Retail).



Applying the methodology of Social Network Analysis, the NETWIR research adopts a relational approach to the analysis of collective bargaining coordination in order to complement dominant institutionalist analyses. A strong focus on structures has resulted in limited knowledge about the actual mechanisms that industrial relations actors deploy in order to solve coordination problems or the role of informal relations. The relational view on coordination pays attention to the actual roles and interactions of actors. Social network methods are particularly well suited for dealing with multiple levels of analysis and multi-modal data structures, as is the case of collective bargaining systems in the four countries analysed.

## Field work/

Field work relies upon an on-line questionnaire. The survey has been designed and adapted to each country and level of collective bargaining, operationalising it in an online platform in the different languages while creating the dataset with the census of actors to be surveyed. In that regard, in-depth interviews with key actors at national level will be conducted to track most relevant actors and events of each collective bargaining process analysed.



The analysis will provide a very detailed description of the way coordination works (thus, intensity together with quantity of relations, central actors and their power, type of relations, etc.). Concretely, two elements will contribute to enhance the analytical capacity of SNA-based evidence: first, the comparative approach (cross-countries and cross-sectoral) will allow to provide analytical insights into the implications and outcomes of these coordination mechanisms. Secondly, in-depth semi-structured interviews will be also used in order to complement and help to interpret social networks.

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# Partner in depth

The **Department of Political and Social Sciences (DPS)** gather together professors and researchers in political and social sciences of the University of Florence. The research and higher education program of the Department places emphasis on a multidisciplinary approach, based on the long-lasting tradition of the first Italian School of political and social sciences -- the "Cesare Alfieri" Faculty of political sciences -- nowadays updated and enriched with the contribution of professors and researchers coming from others faculties and departments of the University of Florence.

The DPS is therefore an institution hosting the different disciplinary specializations of modern social sciences -- political science, sociology, political philosophy, contemporary history and international relations history -- oriented to the study of national, sub-national and transnational societies, of international relations, of contemporary social and political phenomena, analysed in their inter-dependence, in their historical roots and in their recent changes, through empirical and comparative research.

## Department of Political and Social Sciences (DPS)

Within the DPS play a major role a number of Research centers, being the coordinator of the Italian team, professor Luigi Burroni the director of the Research Unit "TIES - Trajectories of inclusion and growth in contemporary societies".

TIES is a research unit of the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the University of Florence. The research team studies democratic capitalism trajectories by adopting the comparative political economy approach. The analysis of economic development and social inclusion in contemporary societies is addressed through the study of labor markets, welfare and inclusion policies, development and innovation programs. A multilevel governance perspective allows to include into the analysis the different territorial levels of regulation, the role of supranational organization as well as the role of the state, of industrial relations and other institutional and social actors.

More information: <http://www.ties-unifi.eu/>



# News and Events

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Coordination Meeting & Training Session

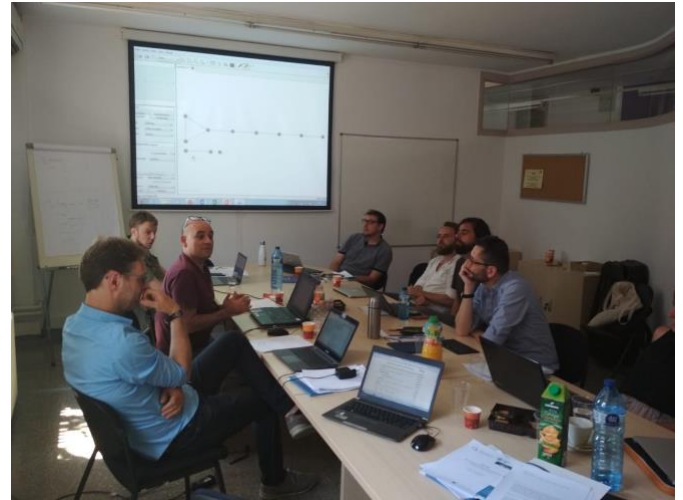
Organised by the Sociological Research Centre QUIT, 9 - 10 July 2018

The second general meeting of the NETWIR project took place in Barcelona, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The meeting had two main objectives:

- First, to provide some training on SNA, and more specifically, on those approaches, tools and concepts that can be more relevant to the analysis of collective bargaining coordination.
- Second, to start thinking and preparing the questionnaire and interview guidelines for the implementation phase, starting in September.

Professor Joel Martí has joined the project as an expert on Networks and Methodology. He will provide the training and expertise during the project.



## Training Meeting

Organised by the Dipartimento de Scienze Politiche e Sociali, 22 January 2019

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019, the University of Florence organised a Training Meeting day focused on the discussion of online questionnaire and its implementation, including the use of the online application, and a brief introduction to the software to be used as well.



# SASE 31st Annual Meeting



**Fathomless Futures:  
Algorithmic and Imagined**  
27-29 June 2019 | New York  
The New School - New York City, USA

**27-29 June 2019**

## The New School - New York City, USA

As an output of the project a paper entitled “Coffee, Cigarettes and Social Networks: Explaining the Resilience of Wage-Setting in Europe” was presented by Aidan Regan in the SASE conference.

This paper presents a theoretical overview of the determinants behind the resilience of wage setting in Europe, through an analysis of pattern bargaining in the retail and pharmaceutical sectors in Ireland, Netherlands, Spain and Italy. The paper presents the theoretical relevance of provisional research findings from a collaborative EC funded project in Ireland, Netherlands, Italy and Spain.

## Project Consortium

The NETWIR consortium consists of four research centres from four European countries, Spain (QUIT-UAB), Ireland (UCD), Italy (DSPS-UNIFI) and The Netherlands (AIAS-UVA).

The researchers involved cover a varied expertise in the areas of industrial relations, labour market, comparative political economy, local and regional development and social network analysis.



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