

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.

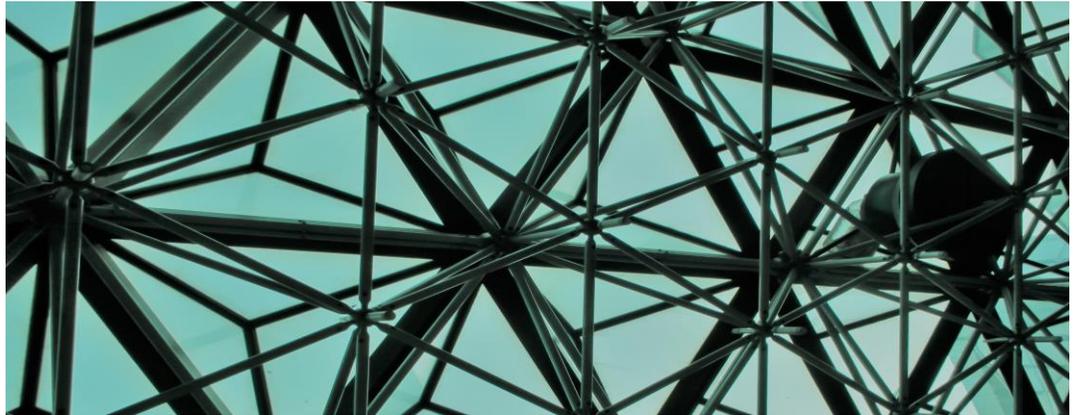
Against this background, the NETWIR project aims to shed light on actual mechanisms that industrial relations actors deploy to solve coordination problems by applying a new methodology to the field of industrial relations and in particular, to the analysis of collective bargaining coordination, the Social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

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## Editorial

This is the fourth and final NETWIR newsletter. After two years of intense work, the NETWIR project is coming to an end in a context characterized by the uncertainty surrounding the Covid19 pandemic.

The NETWIR project has a strong methodological orientation, aiming at exploring the potential benefits of adopting a relational approach to the analysis of collective bargaining processes. This has required all partners to make an effort to learn and implement a new methodology and apply it through a survey to two sectoral cases. The survey has delivered different response rates across countries, thus showing the difficulties of applying Social Network Analysis to the industrial relations field. But more importantly at the light of the project's goals, it has showed a great potential to achieve a better understanding of bargaining processes. Moreover, it has helped to extract valuable lessons about what actually works and what should be change in future work.



## Institutions vs Structures of Interactions

Institutions are assigned a key role in explaining cross-country variance in actors' behaviour and collective bargaining / wage-setting outcomes in industrial relations and political economy accounts. The comparative analysis of collective bargaining networks in different sectors and countries serves to identify common patterns of interactions that cannot be explained by differences in the institutional framework. A relational, network-based approach to industrial relations requires the combination of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to explain the role played by the structure of interactions.

For this reason, comparative political economy and comparative industrial relations may strongly benefit from the use of social network analysis to obtain new insights about the relational micro-foundations of coordination.

Oscar Molina  
Project coordinator

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## Partner in depth



### SPIRES – School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin

UCD School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe) is the oldest and the largest school of its kind in the Republic of Ireland. SPIRe is an international school offering diverse programs of study at graduate and undergraduate level.

SPIRe is a dynamic, multi-faceted and highly-international school offering exciting and professionally-valuable programmes of study at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Our academic staff are engaged in cutting-edge research on a wide variety of political issues, including ethno-political conflict, human rights, and Ireland's role in the European Union, to name just a few. The School is also home to four research centres: the UN-linked Centre for Sustainable Development Solutions, the Dublin European Institute, and the Institute for British-Irish Studies and the Centre for Connected Politics.



# NEWS AND EVENTS

## NETWIR Final Conference cancelled

Due the current outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the movement restriction measures adopted by European countries, the NETWIR project has decided to cancel its final conference planned for the 2-3 April 2020 in Brussels.

Through the final conference, the project consortium wants to share a synthesis of results and wishes to be able to organise a one-day event to conclude the project as soon as possible. In the meantime, project outputs are available at the NETWIR website.

## Consortium

The consortium consists of four partners involving twelve researchers with 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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School of Politics and  
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University College Dublin

## Project outputs

Available for download at

<http://netw-ir.eu/>

- Country reports
- Comparative report
- Policy paper
- Newsletters



You can also be informed on coming articles through social media:



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