

International Conference  
*Bucharest, 24 - 26 November 2005*

## **Extending EU Labor Markets Eastward**

### **Issues to be considered within the panels**

#### **PANEL I      Formal and Informal Markets for a Growing Economy**

Job protection restricts employment creation, but a certain extent of income security is essential for a “decent” life perspective. How to reach an optimal compromise?

Non-wage labor costs act as a tax on employment. How then to best finance pensions and health?

Informal work is not only about avoiding tax. It is a survival strategy of those without formal jobs. With formal full employment being out of reach, informal work might deserve encouragement, legal protection and support. How to do this without eroding the tax base, destroying formal employment and opening the door to crude exploitation?

#### **PANEL II      Migration vs. Industrial Relocation**

Does labor migration abroad provide a significant relief perspective for South Eastern European labor markets? How to deal with the brain-drain effect?

Industrial relocation in Europe: how does it affect employment and wages in the West and in the East?

#### **PANEL III      Competitiveness through low wages vs. higher wages for stimulating demand**

Should average wages grow with average productivity to ensure demand or should they lag behind productivity growth to boost competitiveness?

#### **PANEL IV      How to reduce/avoid rural overpopulation**

What is the perspective for the low-productivity work force locked up at present in the countryside? How to prevent that it will boost urban unemployment?