

Editorial

The special thematic issue is based on the presentations in the workshop on the future of the European Employment Strategy that was part of the conference on 'Innovating Labour Market Policies; Transitional Labour Markets and Flexicurity', held in Amsterdam on 30 November and 1 December 2006. Our Guest Editors, Ton Wilthagen, Sonia Bekker and Saskia Klosse provide an overview of these issues in their introductory article, in which they also attempt an initial assessment of the Open Method of Coordination in relation to employment matters. In the view of the Guest Editors, further empirical work is required before the effectiveness of the Open Method of Coordination can be properly assessed. They then point to the issues examined in the papers by Goetschy, Madsen, Graziano, Dragičević and Obadić. Finally, this issue also features a paper by Huiskamp and Vos on flexibilization, modernization and the Lisbon strategy, pointing to the need for corrective measures to be implemented if the EU employment targets are to be reached by 2010.

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