



**Keynote Lecture Series**  
**The Covid-19 Crisis and Pathways to Sustainable Recovery in**  
**in the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean**

**- Programme -**

1 July 2021		Focus theme of the Lecture: SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
16:30 – 18:00 CEST	<p><b>Invited Speaker</b></p> <p><b>Dr Andreas Schleicher</b></p> <p>Director for Education and Skills and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</p> 	<p><b>Abstract of lecture</b></p> <p><b>The state of education – one year into the pandemic</b></p> <p>In an unprecedented education crisis like the one caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is difficult to derive insights from the past. But it helps to look outwards to how other education systems are responding to similar challenges. The presentation tracks developments throughout the pandemic with data collected by the OECD. The data show that some countries were able to keep schools open and safe even in difficult pandemic situations. Social distancing and hygiene practices proved to be the most widely used measures to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, but they imposed significant capacity constraints on schools and required education systems to make difficult choices when it comes to the allocation of educational opportunity.</p> <p>Where school closures were needed, many countries made major efforts to mitigate their impact for learners, families and educators, often with particular attention to those in the most marginalised groups. Where school capacity was limited because of social distancing, most countries prioritised young children and students from disadvantaged backgrounds for learning in presence, reflecting that the social context of learning is most important for these groups, while digital alternatives are least effective for them. During school closures, digital resources became the lifeline for education and the pandemic pushed teachers and students to quickly adapt to teach and learn online. Virtually all countries have rapidly enhanced digital learning opportunities for both students and teachers and encouraged new forms of teacher collaboration. Countries have also relied on a range of approaches to ensure inclusiveness in distance education.</p>



		<p>This included flexible and self-paced digital platforms as well as agreements with mobile communications operators and internet firms to enhance access, particularly at the primary level of education.</p> <p>Significant efforts were made to ensure reliability and predictability of services for students and parents, and to ensure that all students have a regular and dedicated contact, even when schools were closed. Many countries put in place new channels to facilitate communication between students, families, teachers and school or local authorities.</p> <p>Local capacity was key for a safe opening of schools. Success often depended on combining transparent and well-communicated criteria for service operability, with flexibility to implement them at the frontline. The latter often included local decisions as to when to implement measures of social distancing, health, quarantine or the closures of classes or schools.</p>
15 July 2021	<b>Focus theme of the Lecture: SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY OF THE ECONOMIC SECTOR</b>	
16:30 – 18:00 CEST	<p><b>Invited Speakers</b></p> <p><b>Dulce Baptista</b></p> <p>Labour Markets and Social Security Specialist Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)</p>	<p><b>Abstracts of lectures</b></p> <p><b>The Covid-19 Crisis and Pathways to Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean</b></p> <p>The Covid-19 crisis had important effects on labour markets in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is estimated that at least 25 million jobs were lost. The crisis has extinguished at least 3.4 million jobs. The employment loss was stronger for the most vulnerable, women, young people and informal workers. Countries in the Region have provided some sort of mitigation measures to protect the employment and income of its citizens during the worst recession ever recorded. It is expected that, after the pandemic, good employment opportunities will be rarer and traditionally excluded groups will suffer more. Without bold action, this crisis threatens to leave scars for a generation of LAC citizens and undo the progress on poverty and inequality gained in</p>



**Dr Georg Fischer**

Senior Research Associate  
Vienna Institute for international  
Economic Studies, Austria; former  
Director for Social Affairs at the  
European Commission




previous decades. The region needs to take advantage of the positive impacts of the crisis in terms of expanded digitalization and remote work, advances that are here to stay. A sustainable and inclusive recovery will require countries to balance the critical need to accelerate the recovery of employment today while addressing structural labour market challenges that existed before the pandemic. The lecture will discuss how the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated structural challenges in Latin America and Caribbean, the effects of the sanitary crisis over the labour markets and the characteristics a sustainable and inclusive recovery in the region.


#### **Employment and social impacts of the pandemics and European policy response**

The Covid 19 crisis affected all EU countries and posed common challenges to which the EU reacted with a set of EU level measures that complemented efforts by member states. The lecture will start with discussing the differential starting point and the labour market and social impact of the pandemics also highlighting differences to the impact of the Great Recession. One focus will be job retention schemes widely used in the EU and co-funded by the EU with a new and innovative programme "SURE". As our economies face long-term structural changes likely accelerated by the Covid 19 pandemic the sustainability of job retention schemes and options how to transform them will be discussed. However, there is a risk that some groups will be left behind: people with temporary jobs, other atypical workers, the unemployed and the young. The EU Action Plan for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and EU Porto Summit set out the next stage of EU social policies and outcomes will be reviewed.



29 July 2021		Focus theme of the Lecture: RECOVERY TOWARDS MORE BALANCED GENDER RELATIONS	
16:30 – 18:00 CEST	<p><b>Invited Speakers</b></p> <p><b>Bibiana Aído Almagro</b></p> <p>Representative of UN Women in Colombia</p> 	<p><b>Abstracts of lectures</b></p> <p><b>Gender equality as an accelerator of recovery and transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean</b></p> <p>Since the declaration of the Beijing Platform for Action almost 26 years ago, there has been a progressive advancement of women's and girls' rights around the world, however, in the wake of the socio-economic crisis generated by the Covid-19 pandemic, progress on women's rights has slowed down, even regressed in many countries in the region. In Latin America and the Caribbean, women and girls have been particularly affected by the economic and social consequences in their role as caregivers, as leaders in charge of community response, as workers in jobs lacking social protection, or as victims of gender-based violence, which has increased dramatically across the region, establishing itself as the "shadow pandemic".</p> <p>Reactivation and recovery policies must be based on actions that guarantee real equality and the integral development of the global agenda established in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, guaranteeing the participation of women and their organisations in all phases of the process, and establishing new multi-stakeholder alliances that allow for structural changes in all spheres of society. Real equality between men and women offers the greatest opportunity for socio-economic recovery and social transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	
	<p><b>Dr Lúcia Farré</b></p> <p>Associate Professor - Universitat de Barcelona</p>	<p><b>Covid-19 and gender inequality in paid and unpaid work - Evidence for Spain</b></p> <p>My research is motivated because we think that the pandemic may have undone an important part of the progress we have made over the last decades in terms of gender equality. From our study, we can conclude that the pandemic has accentuated the gender gap in the length of the working day and has exacerbated the phenomenon of</p>	



	<p>Vice-President of Committee on the Situation of Women in Economics (COSME), Spain</p> 	<p>the double working day, whereby women, at the end of their paid working day, take on most of the unpaid work in the house. From previous research in the field of gender economics, we know that women’s increased involvement in unpaid work is a major constraint on their professional development. The results of our study show an increase in women’s specialisation in housework and childcare in the wake of the pandemic. Therefore, measures must be taken to reverse this trend. One solution could be the implementation of public policies aiming to encouraging an equal distribution of unpaid work within the household and thus favouring the path towards gender equality in the labour market: quotas for childcare when both parents are sick for the same duration, limiting teleworking to several days of the week, reforming working hours to make them compatible with school hours, and free and universal education from 0 to 3 years of age.</p>
<p>12 August 2021 <b>Focus theme of the Lecture: SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY OF CITIES</b></p>		
<p>16:30 – 18:00 CEST</p>	<p><b>Invited Speakers</b></p> <p><b>Dr Guillermo Santos</b></p> <p>Institute for Studies on Science and Technology (IESCT) University of Quilmes, Argentina</p>	<p><b>Abstracts of lectures</b></p> <p><b>Socio-technical citizenships: conceptual notes and evidence for a sustainable recovery of cities in the framework of the Covid-19 crisis</b></p> <p>All technologies are political. They mark positions and behaviours of the actors; they shape structures of social distribution, democratisation of power and political participation, production costs, access to goods and services; they generate social and environmental problems; they facilitate or hinder their resolution. They participate actively and as protagonists in the processes of generation, maintenance or change of what we call well-being and quality of life, as well as of poverty and inequality. Therefore, technologies are social constructions as much as societies are technological constructions. Recognising the impact of the Covid-19 crisis, which affects all our societies, especially those in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is necessary and urgent to conceive, plan and implement new socio-technical matrices oriented towards the generation of inclusive and sustainable development processes. Given the scope, scale</p>



**Dr Jesús Marcos Gamero Rus**

Professor in “Global Environmental Challenges” and member of Research Group “Sociology of Climate Change and Sustainable Development”  
University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain



and depth of social exclusion in the region, the development of technologies for inclusive and sustainable development is of key importance. The inclusion of communities and social groups will probably depend on the local capacity to generate adequate, effective, viable and environmentally sustainable socio-technical solutions regarding transport, housing, energy, health, communication, food, education, etc. In this context, how can we talk about sustainability without incorporating technological risk, how can we build inclusive and sustainable development strategies without knowing the material basis of social relations, how can we conceive of a desirable future for the country, the region and the planet - and prevent the undesirable ones - without understanding the relationship between technology, development and democracy?


This presentation aims to provide conceptual content and factual evidence to better understand the possible socio-technical dynamics for the sustainable recovery of cities, our cities, in the context of the crisis driven by Covid-19.

**Cities of solidarity and sustainability in the face of Covid and the climate emergency**

Major crises and disasters have the capacity to amplify or expose previous social inequalities. We have seen this during the COVID-19 pandemic, with cities as a space where structural weaknesses and social discontent have been exacerbated. But we also see it as the impacts of climate change increase. In fact, it is from the capacity of urban environments to respond with fairer, more solidarity-based and sustainable solutions that we can not only glimpse an adequate way out of this crisis, but also achieve a learning process that will allow us to address the impacts and social challenges of climate change with greater guarantees.

Have European and Latin American cities been able to understand this double challenge? It is proposed, in this sense, to study the responses of different cities, not only when facing the negative social impacts of COVID-19, but also looking to the future, understanding that the way in which we come out of this crisis and protect the most vulnerable by urban environments, will have much to do with the way in which we manage the climate emergency.



26 August 2021 Focus theme of the Lecture: SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY IN FAVOUR OF MIGRANT POPULATIONS AND SOCIALLY MINORISED GROUPS		
16:30 – 18:00 CEST	<p><b>Invited Speakers</b></p> <p><b>Dr Abbdel Camargo</b></p> <p>Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Mexico</p> 	<p><b>Abstracts of lectures</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and forecasts of the aftermath of the pandemic period on migrations and (in)mobilities in Latin America and the Caribbean</b></p> <p>The year 2020 has brought profound transformations as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic in the essential aspects of people's private and social lives around the world. It is only just possible to begin to assess the impact on the different areas of life, but in general terms, we can characterise this era as a time of exacerbated social control and limitations imposed on human mobility, the reconfiguration of the meaning of borders and the virtuality of social relations. Some effects can already be analysed: nationalism has been exacerbated by considering that risk and disease came from outside; an ideology in favour of population control for health reasons has been affirmed, which has normalised quasi-compulsory confinement, with the implementation of curfews in several countries and cities; border control has been tightened, with immediate closures and the implementation of containment and repression measures; the processes initiated to regulate migration and the international asylum and refugee system have been cancelled, halted and encouraged; the processes of detention and deportation of populations have increased; systems for the protection of human rights and care for people in transit, such as shelters and solidarity organisations, have been weakened.</p> <p>This exercise aims to account for this new reality in the mobility systems of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to carry out an initial assessment and analysis of the effects that government processes and actions have had on migration and population (in)mobility in the region.</p>



	<p><b>Dr Francisco Javier Moreno Fuentes</b></p> <p>Higher Council on Scientific Research, Institute of Public Policy and Public Goods (IPP-CSIC), Madrid</p> 	<p><b>Impact of COVID-19 on the immigrant population in Europe and future prospects in the post-pandemic period</b></p> <p>The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the immigrant population in Europe has been particularly severe. Not only have these groups suffered more directly from the economic consequences of the measures adopted to combat the disease (confinement, closure of sectors of economic and social activity, etc.), but they have often found it more difficult to benefit from the programmes put in place by European governments to alleviate the repercussions of these restrictive measures. In addition to this, European societies, affected by the pandemic, have experienced increasing levels of uncertainty and anxiety that have been exploited by political entrepreneurs who have stigmatised populations of immigrant origin.</p> <p>In this context, any reconstruction and recovery plan will have to address the particularly serious circumstances that populations of immigrant origin have suffered and will have to try to counteract the danger of an identitarian and exclusionary retreat that, once again, leaves minority groups outside the logics of solidarity that are essential to overcome the consequences of the crisis.</p>
<p><b>9 Sept. 2021</b>      <b>Focus theme of the Lecture: SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY OF PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS</b></p>		
<p><b>16:30 - 18:00 CEST</b></p>	<p><b>Invited Speakers</b></p> <p><b>Dr Paula Caffarena Barcenilla</b></p> <p>Director of Research and Documentation Centre (CIDOC) – Faculty of Humanities and Communications Finis Terrae University, Santiago, Chile</p>	<p><b>Abstracts of lectures</b></p> <p><b>Epidemics and Public Health from a historical perspective</b></p> <p>This presentation seeks to historically contextualise the main epidemics that have affected human societies. Considering diseases such as smallpox, cholera, scarlet fever, and influenza, we are interested in analysing the strategies used to deal with the crises caused by the arrival of an epidemic, highlighting the implementation of measures linked to hygiene and vaccination. This analysis will also lead us to identify the way in which diseases were understood and the main obstacles that past societies experienced.</p>





**Sabrina Montante**

ISS – National Institute of Health of Italy  
To-Reach Project Coordinator,  
Belgium



### **The project TO REACH and its work towards a Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems**

While stress on health and care systems has increased dramatically across Europe and in the world with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the current crisis has also highlighted pre-existing challenges in Europe like the need to rethink and redesign services in an effort to introduce innovation at all levels. The COVID-19 emergency has clearly demonstrated the complexity and interconnectedness of our health and care systems and shown how difficult it is to introduce change - and then adequately manage it - in such a rapidly evolving environment. TO REACH is a CSA project funded by the European Commission in 2016 and ended in May 2021 that already before the current crisis had strongly contributed to the European debate on the need for more research and innovation actions across the EU and beyond supporting the complex transformations of health and care systems and the implementation of innovative solutions. In this regard, the overall aim of TO REACH was to do the groundwork to establish a joint European research and innovation programme on health services and systems that could contribute to their resilience, effectiveness, equity, accessibility, sustainability and comprehensiveness. The project just ended but the relevant conceptual frameworks developed in the years are now supporting the work toward a future programme/Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems. The presentation will end with information on the Partnership and the work of the countries in Europe to enhance a sustainable cooperation among funding bodies and their links with other existing or new funders' networks to facilitate such a joint international R&I programme (the future Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems).