About the research project SPEEED (2016–2018)

SPEEED (Social Partner Engagement and Effectiveness in European Dialogue) – funded by the European Commission („Improving expertise in the field of industrial relations“, VS/2016/0092).

Led by Durham University Business School and carried out in collaboration with project partners in Sweden (University of Gothenburg) and the UK (University of Warwick, Cardiff University).

The aim of this project is to identify how social partners – trade unions and employer organisations in the EU-28 – facing different structural challenges engage in European sectoral social dialogue (ESSD). Through the social dialogue the social partners are given the possibility to take part in European policy making. However, not all partners make effective use of this forum. The study therefore investigates potential barriers that prevent national social partners from engaging more comprehensively in ESSD.

The sample comprises trade unions and employer organisations affiliated to European level sectoral institutions in 43 sectors and 28 member states. To account for differences in the capacity and engagement of social partners the study compares in detail two sectors and five countries. The sectors investigated are hospitals and metal and the countries covered are Germany (DE), Italy (IT), Poland (PL), Sweden (SE) and the UK.

For more information on the project please follow the link http://www.speeed.uk.

Publications by Sabrina Weber relating to the field of social dialogue


Presentations by Sabrina Weber relating to the field of social dialogue


European sectoral social dialogue for better employment conditions – coordinating interests in the private and public sector. Paper to be presented at the 18th International Labour and Employment Relations Association (ILERA) World Congress “Employment for a Sustainable Society: What Is To Be Done?”, Seoul/Korea, July 2018 (with Barbara Bechter).


One voice? The interplay between social partners at the EU and the national level in European sectoral social dialogue. Paper presented at the Industrial Relations in Europe (IREC) Conference “Converging or diverging industrial relations in Europe?”, Gothenburg/SE, September 2015.

Transnational private actors and social regulation beyond the Open Method of Coordination. The case of European social dialogue. Paper presented at the Council for European Studies (CES) 18th International Conference of Europeanists, Barcelona/ES, June 2011 (with Berndt Keller).


