

IIRA 2009 Study group Labour market regulations: rationales, indicators and impacts

Background and motivation

With the increasing evidence of the failure of the so-called Washington consensus, attempts have been made to attribute this failure to labour market regulations. The most recent manifestation of such arguments is found in the World Bank's *Doing Business* Indicators, which are exerting a substantial influence over policy decisions in developing and transition countries. Yet, recent events have substantially discredited deregulatory paradigms, offering hope that new approaches to the regulation of labour markets may be welcomed at the level of policy.

It is in this context that a new study group has been established to develop a coherent response to deregulatory arguments; to move beyond a superficial dichotomy between regulation and deregulation by advancing the research and policy directions which focus on making regulation more effective. This group is part of on-going efforts to create a research network, *Regulating for Decent Work*, which is intended to foster collaboration and bring together researchers who work in the field of labour regulation.

Invitation to panel discussions

The first study group meeting will take place at the IIRA World Congress in Sydney, 24 August 2009. It will be held in the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre from 10.00 to 12.30 (Panel I) and 14.00 to 15.30 (Panel II). For further information, please consult the Congress website (<http://iceaustralia.com/IIRA2009/>).

The meeting will be organized in two panels, which will provide the opportunity to debate its primary concerns. Each will involve up to six panellists.

Panel I: Theoretical and conceptual framework for the analysis of labour regulations

- assessing the existing theories and analytical frameworks
- how to measure labour regulations
- suggested improvements in theory, measurement and evaluation

Panel II: Country reports

- the major findings of recent empirical studies
- strengths and weaknesses of the studies
- future research agendas

Interested researchers are invited to send short abstracts (300 words) to the convenors.

Convenors

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