

CEPLIS TELEGRAM



**European Council of the Liberal
Professions**

66 Rue du Tabellion, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium

Tél.: + 3225361367
secretariat@ceplis.org
<http://www.ceplis.org>



Date: 17 /05/2024

Pages: 7.

N°8/24

- **SD4EU – A Project to Transform Social Dialogue**
- **Exploring the Future: “Professions Libérales Digitales 2023-2024” Closing Event**
- **The ECEC unveils its Manifesto ahead of the European Elections**
- **Confprofessioni Spearheads Italy’s Engagement in African Development**
- **UNAPL Leads Environmental Initiative: Empowering Professions for a Sustainable Future**

SD4EU – A Project to Transform Social Dialogue

On May 6th and 7th, CEPLIS actively participated in the kick-off meeting of the project *Social Dialogue For the European Union* (SD4EU), in the premises of our member Confprofessioni in Rome. This event inaugurates a new chapter towards gender equality in the EU and a new challenge for our organisation. Represented by Policy Advisor Jr. Baptiste Deprez, CEPLIS was very eager to bring to the project the feedback of our different Working Groups towards a transformation of the social dialogue at the European level.

Launched in April 2024, with nine partners and associated partners, including CEPLIS, under the leadership of Confprofessioni, who had the initiative and acts as coordinator, the project is co-financed by the European Union. SD4EU is also in line with the Commission's political priorities on gender equality.



From left to right: Elaine HARVEY (EQUAL Ireland), Ruth FALZON (MFPA), James LICARI (MFPA), Baptiste DEPREZ (CEPLIS), Jean-Yves PIRLOT (UNPLIB), Martina GHERLEND (Confprofessioni), Francesco MONTICELLI (Confprofessioni), Enrico TEZZA (Confprofessioni)

Focusing on the selected topics of gender pay gap, work-life balance, and social protection, the partners aim to propose a fresh look at gender-related social dialogue and transform the labour market for professionals. As women still suffer from various systemic

inequalities in and out of the workplace, our project not only aims to assess gender-based statistical data and regulations, but also to question the underlying power dynamics that block the road towards a truly equal society. As such, SD4EU aims to reframe entirely the vision of gender equality in industrial relations.

This event was the opportunity for all participants to discuss the technical details of the implementation of the project. Fruitful debates enabled us all to grasp and engage with the topics. The project is going to span over two years, CEPLIS will, of course, keep you updated in future newsletters and on our social media.

Exploring the Future: “Professions Libérales Digitales 2023-2024” Closing Event

In a rapidly evolving digital landscape, the convergence of new technologies and liberal professions is inevitable. To delve into the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for liberal professions, UNPLIB, SNI, and “*l’Agence du Numérique*”, hosted on May 13th the closing event of “Professions Libérales Digitales 2023-2024.” at the Golf des 7 Fontaines. At this event, CEPLIS, co-organisier with UNPLIB & SNI of the first of this series of events in Belgium (cf. CT 5), was represented by Policy Advisor Jr. Charles Bary.



Mr. Willy Borsus, Vice-president of the Government of Wallonia, Mr. Bernard Jacquemin, President of UNPLIB, Mr Jean Ruwet, Vice president of UNPLIB & Mr. Christophe Wabersie, Secretary General of SNI.

The event began with a speech by **Minister Willy Borsus**, Vice-President the Wallonian Region of Belgium, who set the tone with opening remarks, underlining technology's multifaceted role in shaping the future economy and society at large. **Ms. Fanny Delière**, Director of the Digital Sector and Economy Division at “*L’Agence du Numérique*”, and **Mr. Bernard Jacquemin**, President of

UNPLIB, echoed the minister's speech underlining the collaborative effort towards embracing digital transformation.

A significant moment of the event was the presentation of findings from the January 2024 impact survey by **Ms. Hélène Raimond**, shedding light on the tangible outcomes of the Professions Libérales Digitales initiative. Ms. **Elodie Trojanski**, an AI specialist, has then delivered a keynote address highlighting the many opportunities AI presents for liberal professions.

The ensuing panel discussion, moderated by **Mr. Christophe Wambersie**, Secretary General of SNI, offered firsthand accounts of the program's benefits. **Dr. Gibert Bejjani**, President of the Belgian Association of Medical Unions (ABSYM), **Mr. Vincent Hesbois** from the Royal Company of Belgian Accountants (CRECCB), and **Mr. Max de Brouwer**, President of the Belgian Chamber of Translators, Interpreters, and Philologists (CBTI), shared insightful perspectives on leveraging technology to enhance their respective fields.

At the end of the event, Mr. Christophe Wambersie, delivered a pertinent conclusion, emphasizing the collective commitment to fostering innovation and adaptability. The convivial atmosphere continued with a walking dinner, fostering networking opportunities and informal exchanges among attendees.

The ECEC Unveils its Manifesto Ahead of the European Elections

On Monday, May 6th, the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) held its General Assembly at the premises of CEPLIS in Brussels.

At the heart of the discussion was the ECEC Manifesto for the upcoming European elections. Through a series of proposals, this document calls upon the European Parliament to ensure the quality, security, and future of the profession of civil engineers within the European Union.

Following the results on a survey the ECEC conducted, the General Assembly also decided to modify its advocacy strategy to enable a more individual approach for each Member State.

During the General Assembly Meeting (GAM), the ECEC introduced its new Junior Policy Advisor, **Alexandre De Blauwe**, to the entire organization. He will be responsible for representing the ECEC at the European Level.

In the evening, the ECEC held a reception at the Cercle Royal Gaulois Artistique et Littéraire, one of the most exclusive private clubs of the European Capital. ECEC President **Klaus Thürriedl**, along with Secretary-General **Juan Blanco Lino**, Vice-President Dr Ing. **Hubertus Brauer**, Vice-President **Nina Dražin Lovrec**, and Vice-President **Roberto Orvieto** Dr Eng. P.E. presented the central points of the ECEC manifesto. During the event, the President Honour of CEPLIS, **Mr. Rudolf Kolbe**, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Klaus Thürriedl. This recognition was for his contributions within the field of chartered engineers within the institutions of the European Union and his work at the European Economic and Social Committee, especially the liberal professions category. President Klaus Thürriedl, also a member of our Executive Board, underlined the role of CEPLIS in promoting common goals between the liberal professions.



Professor Dr. Theodors Koutroubas, Director General of CEPLIS & Mr. Rudolf Kolbe, President of Honor of CEPLIS, & Mr. Klaus Thürriedl, President of ECEC.

Confprofessioni Spearheads Italy's Engagement in African Development

On the 22nd of May, an important conference will take place in Rome, focusing on Africa and the Mattei Plan. This event marks a pivotal moment to evaluate ongoing efforts, explore potential collaborations between Italy and Africa, and devise innovative strategies for progress.

The recent decision to dedicate the renowned Mattei Plan to Africa underscores Italy's strategic commitment to the continent of the future. Initially conceived for economic cooperation between Italy and developing countries, the Mattei Plan has evolved and been rebranded to meet current needs. This new orientation towards Africa is a tangible signal of recognizing the continent's importance and potential.



Mr. Antonio Tajani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic

Our Italian member

Confprofessioni, through **Aprinternational**, becomes a key player in this context of development towards the African continent. It can rely on the expertise and experience of Italian freelance professionals who can undoubtedly make a concrete and significant contribution to Africa's growth and sustainable development. Italian expertise in engineering, architecture, healthcare, finance, and law can be invaluable in addressing the continent's infrastructural, social, and economic challenges.

The second edition of AIM 2024 will see the participation of political leaders and experts in the field of internationalization, notably the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy, **Mr. Antonio Tajani**. It will also serve as the occasion to launch the new free platform conceived by Aprinternational: **Aprilink**. This tool networks Italian professionals, providing resources and support to expand their activities abroad, creates international partnerships, and participates in cross-border cooperation projects.

Italy has an important opportunity to consolidate its presence in Africa and contribute to its development. The partnership between Italy and Africa is not only advantageous for both parties but also a step towards a more interconnected and supportive world. Fully harnessing the potential of this collaboration will require commitment, vision, and cooperation, but the results will undoubtedly be rewarding and enduring.

Among the driving forces behind this initiative is **Confprofessioni and CEPLIS President, Mr. Gaetano Stella**, whose leadership has been instrumental in guiding Italian Liberal Professions' strategic engagement with Africa. Furthermore, the presence of the Italian Minister of Foreign Relations, Antonio Tajani, underscores the government's commitment to fostering robust ties with the African countries.

As Italy embarks on this journey of collaboration and mutual growth with Africa, it reinforces its role as a global partner committed to shaping a more prosperous and interconnected future.



Mr. Gaetano Stella, President of CEPLIS and Confprofessioni

UNAPL Leads Environmental Initiative: Empowering Professions for a Sustainable Future

The National Union of Liberal Professions of France (UNAPL) is taking a proactive approach to environmental challenges through its latest sustainability initiative. This endeavor is focused on assisting liberal professionals in integrating eco-friendly practices into their work, representing a significant stride towards a more sustainable future.

This initiative addresses a wide array of areas, including energy conservation, waste



reduction, and the promotion of sustainable procurement. Its approach ensures accessibility across various sectors, accommodating the diverse needs of professionals.

Beyond individual practice adjustments, UNAPL is actively advocating for supportive policies within the liberal professions sector. Collaborating with policymakers and industry leaders, the union seeks to establish a regulatory environment conducive to sustainable practices.

To equip professionals with the necessary tools and knowledge, UNAPL is offering workshops, training sessions, and platforms for knowledge exchange. By instilling a culture of innovation and responsibility, the initiative aims to make sustainability an integral part of daily professional activities.

With UNAPL's initiative, liberal professionals are not only adapting to current environmental challenges but also actively contributing to the creation of a more sustainable and prosperous future.