

## **Track 2: Labour market regulation etc.**

**Title:** Industrial Relations and Inequality in Europe

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### **Short profile:**

Maarten Keune is Professor of Social Security and Labour Relations and Co-Director of the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced labour Studies at the University of Amsterdam. He is a member of the Executive Committee of ILERA. His main research interests concern (the relationships between) industrial relations, labour markets, the welfare state and EU integration.

### **Abstract**

In recent years, inequality has returned to the top of the agenda of international organisations, governments and other policy makers. There is a renewed acceptance of the importance of inequality in understanding economic and social development, with more and more studies pointing to the detrimental effects of inequality on economies and societies. Whereas in most studies the focus is on the role of factors such as globalisation, technological change, educational differences or fiscal policy, the present paper analyses the role of industrial relations in shaping inequality. It discusses the relationships between (monetary and non-monetary types of) inequality and industrial relation factors like the strength of industrial relations actors, the coverage of collective bargaining, cooperation or conflict and the participation of industrial relations actors in policy making processes in Europe. It will be demonstrated that, in Europe, industrial relations play a decisive role in the extent and shape of inequality.