

# Social Rights, Active Citizenship and Governance in the European Union

Berlaymont building, Rooms „Walter Hallstein“ and „Jean Rey“  
200 Rue de la Loi, Brussels [BE]

## 16 – 18 March 2009

First final conference of the CINEFOGO Network of Excellence focusing on two themes relevant for all citizens of Europe as well as all European policy makers

**Theme A** Social rights and social reality in the European Union

**Theme B** Active citizenship, participation and governance

## Conference Programme



Roskilde University



CINEFOGO Network of Excellence



Charles University in Prague



Sixth Framework Programme



Czech Council Presidency



European Commission

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Arrival of participants

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009

8:00 – 9:00 Registration

9: 00 – 10:30 Opening plenary session

*Salle Walter Hallstein*

Chair

**Thomas Boje**, Roskilde University [DK], International coordinator of CINEFOGO Network of Excellence

Speakers

**Martin Potůček**, Charles University in Prague [CZ], Coordinator of the CINEFOGO Spread of Excellence Programme

**Vladimír Špidla**, EC, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

*Janez Potočnik, EC, Commissioner for Science and Research (TBC)*

*Milena Vicenová, Czech Ambassador to the EU (TBC)*

**Adalbert Evers**, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany (CINEFOGO Network)

*“Social rights and social reality in the European Union”, presentation of Theme A*

Discussion

10:30-11:00 Coffee break / Press session

11:00-13:00 Parallel sessions 1

Topic A1

**Social protection and support**

*Salle Jean Rey*

*EU, MSs and NGOs are actors involved in delivering social protection and support to the EU citizens. There are important issues of a “competitive collaboration” of national governments and national NGOs in social welfare delivery, as well as an outcome of an emerging dialogue between the EU institutions and the European NGOs.*

Moderator

**Tomáš Sirovátka**, Masaryk University [CZ]

Panelists

**Anne-Marie Guillemard**, Centre d'Etudes des Mouvements Sociaux [FR]

**Bjørn Hvinden**, Norwegian Social Research [NO]

**Conny Reuter**, Platform of European Social NGOs (SocialPlatform) (TBC)

**Thea Meinama**, International Council on Social Welfare/Europe (ICSW) (TBC)

**Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou**, European Parliament (TBC)

**Fintan Farrell**, European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) (TBC), *The European Older People's Platform (AGE) (TBC)*, *EU officer (TBC)*, *ESPAnet (TBC)*

Discussion

Topic B1

**Civic cultures and democratic participation**

*Salle Walter Hallstein*

*Civic cultures differ a lot not only among European nations, but also in various fields of civic engagement. In general, the comprehensiveness of social protection is positively associated with the level of effective civic engagement in social affairs. This civic engagement is a matter of historical traditions as well as the specific institutional mechanisms.*

Moderator

**Tom van der Meer**, Radboud University Nijmegen [NL]

Panelists

**Marilyn Taylor**, University of West England [UK]

**Erik Amnå**, Göteborg University [SE]

**Richard Wilson**, INVOLVE [UK]

**Melody Ross**, Active Citizenship Network (ACN) (TBC)  
*European Movement CZ (TBC)*

*MEP or EU officer (TBC)*

Discussion

13:00-14:30 Buffet lunch

14:30-16:00

## Parallel sessions 2

### Topic A2

#### Social services and third sector organisations

*Salle Jean Rey*

*What are the legal and economic conditions of NGOs in delivering social welfare? Are there any specific tasks where they are indispensable? What are the commonalities and differences in their activities and functions across various EMSs? Are they ready to pursue interests of their clients vis-à-vis national governments and the EU institutions?*

#### Moderator

**Jean Claude Barbier**, Université Paris I [FR]

#### Panelists

**Adalbert Evers**, Justus Liebig University, [DK]

**Zinka Kolarič**, University of Ljubljana [SI]

**Luk Zelderloo**, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)

**Heather Roy**, Eurodiaconia

**Mathias Maucher**, European network of NGOs and labour movement organisations (SOLIDAR)

MEP or EU officer (TBC)

### Topic B2

#### New forms of governance between private and public

*Salle Walter Hallstein*

*The basic idea of participation coincides with the move from a government model towards a governance model. In this new model, a decentralization process is promoted, strong state power is replaced by innovative forms of horizontal collaboration between state actors and civil society, and networks emerge as an increasingly significant mode of coordination. What is the role of the EU in the multi-level governance?*

#### Moderator

**Detlef Sack**, University of Bielefeld, Germany

#### Panelists

**Annette Zimmer**, Westfälische Wilhelms-University [DE]

**Emanuela Bozzini**, University of Trento [IT]

**Perez Ochieng**, The European Network of Third Sector Leaders (EUCLID)

**Jacqueline Butcher**, International Society of Third-Sector Research (ISTR)

**Libor Rouček**, European Parliament

18:00 – 19:30

Buffet dinner at... (TBC)

## Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009

### 9:00-10:00 Plenary session

*Salle Walter Hallstein*

#### Chair

**Martin Potůček**, Charles University, Prague [CZ]

#### Speakers

**Thomas Boje**, Roskilde University [DK] and **Carlo Ruzza**, University of Leicester [UK]

*“Active citizenship, participation and governance”*, presentation of Theme B

**Reinhard Millner, Michael Meyer**, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien [AT]

*“European programme in civil society leadership”* – EPICS

#### Discussion

### 10:00-10:30 Coffee break

### 10:30 – 12:30 Parallel sessions 3

#### Topic A3

#### Gender division of labour.

#### Conditions for families and work-life balance

*Salle Jean Rey*

*Equality between men and women has been confirmed in numerous EU political and legal documents. At the same time, despite progress achieved in many areas, women are still exposed to less favourable living and working conditions. What are the effective ways (e.g. institutional and financial support for families with children, specific arrangements in the labour market) how to cope with these inequalities?*

#### Moderator

**Michael Meyer**, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien [AT]

#### Panelists

**Syika Kovacheva**, The New Europe Centre for Regional Studies [BG]

Anne Kovalainen, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration [FI] (TBC)

**Myria Vassiliadou** or **Mary Collins**, European Women's Lobby (EWL) (TBC)

European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) (TBC)

European Confederation of Independent Trade unions (CESI) (TBC)

The Federation of European Employers (TBC)

MEP Women's rights and gender equality (FEMM), Human rights (DROI) (TBC)

EU officer (TBC)

#### Discussion

#### Topic B3

#### European identity and diversity

*Salle Walter Hallstein*

*“Unity in diversity” is both the political slogan and a long-term political aim of the EU. There is an obvious discrepancy between the high level of the European economic integration and a patchwork of different approaches toward social welfare delivery at the national level. How to cope with this tension? Can we learn from each other? Is there an emerging European Social Model? Could it be linked with the concept of European citizenship? Under what conditions?*

#### Moderator

**Klaus Eder**, Humboldt University, Berlin [DE]

#### Panelists

Claire Wallace, University of Aberdeen [UK] (TBC)

**Lars Svedberg**, Ersta Sköndal University College [SE]

**Karel Müller**, University of Economics, Prague [CZ]

**Tony Venables**, European Citizens Action Service (ECAS)

**Giovanni Moro**, Active Citizenship Foundation (Fondaca)

European Movement CZ (TBC)

#### Discussion

### 12:30 – 13:30 Buffet lunch

## 14:00 – 16:00 Parallel sessions 4

### Topic A4

#### Social inclusion of immigrants

*Salle Jean Rey*

*Many immigrants helped the EU MSs in their economic development but have not yet been fully integrated in political and social life of their host countries. What conceptual models and political arrangements of their inclusion seem to be most promising? What can be done by NGOs to smooth this process? Are there any alternative options if there is not a real chance to achieve this goal?*

#### Moderator

(TBC)

#### Panelists

Jolanta Reingarde, Vytautas Magnus University, Vilnius, Lithuania, (CINEFOGO Network) (TBC)

**Giovanna Procacci**, University of Milan [IT]

**Sarah Isal**, Runnymede Trust

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights [FR] (TBC)

Council of Europe – European Committee on Migration (TBC)

MEP Human rights (DROI) (TBC)

EU officer (TBC)

#### Discussion

### Topic B4

#### EU governance and Civil Society

*Salle Walter Hallstein*

*The success of the European project is at stake. Lack of its democratic legitimacy belongs to one of its most serious threats. To encourage active civic involvement in European matters might narrow the undisputable gap between the EU political class and the citizens. What are the relevant ways used by the civil society and its institutions to mediate genuine citizens' interests at the regional, national, and the European level?*

#### Moderator

**Matthias Freise**, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität [DE]

#### Panelists

**Carlo Ruzza**, University of Trento [IT]

**Taco Brandsen**, Tilburg School of Politics and Public Administration [NL]

**Leatitia Sedan**, Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG)

**Ariane Rodert**, EU Platform for national non-profit umbrella organisations (CEDAG)

**Michael Hammer**, One World Trust (TBC)

#### Discussion

## 16:00 – 16:30 Closing plenary session

*Salle Walter Hallstein*

#### Chair

**Thomas Boje**, Roskilde University [DK]

#### Speakers

**Syika Kovacheva**, The New Europe Centre for Regional Studies [BG] (TBC)

**Adalbert Evers**, Justus Liebig University, Giessen [DE] (TBC)

**Carlo Ruzza**, University of Trento [IT] (TBC)

#### Discussion

# About the conference

The **CINEFOGO Network of Excellence** has been involved in deepening the understanding of the role of **civil society** and new forms of **governance** in Europe and the making of **European citizenship**.

The conference presents CINEFOGO Network findings on the relationships among **citizens, NGOs, civil servants and politicians** at the European and national levels. It identifies different roles of various actors and institutions, the ways they are (or are not) involved in the **decision-making** processes, and how their actions influence the changing human living conditions – including accessibility of **social rights** to European citizens.

The conference creates an ideal platform for a productive **discussion** between European researchers, EP members, EU officials, NGOs' representatives, and the media. Thus, the core aim of the conference, to spread the CINEFOGO research excellence at the European and national level of policy-making among the European and national policy makers, can hopefully be achieved.

The conference is structured around **two themes** which have been fundamental in the scientific activities of the CINEFOGO Network of Excellence. **Each theme** is further developed in **four topics**.

## Theme A Social rights and social reality in the European Union

*Social rights of citizens (as reflected in various European legal and political documents) will be compared with their real accessibility, including the conditions created for families, balancing the work and family responsibilities, gender division of labour, and the social inclusion of immigrants. The changing role of Welfare States as organizers, contractors, and delivering agents of social protection and support will be analysed, as well as the specific tasks of NGOs in the delivery of social services. The causes of discrepancies between the norms and the living and working conditions of Europeans, seen both in terms of objective indicators and subjective reflections, will be identified, and appropriate public policies narrowing the gap between the two will be discussed.*

The first things that come to the mind of most people when they think about social rights and social reality in the EU are perhaps **diversity** and uneven levels of **living conditions** between and within member states. However even without knowing about details, quite as much people will perhaps feel that at least in the past over a long time something developed in the European region that made it different from others: a special **social model** in terms of interplay of **economic and social development**, notions of **rights** and **democratic institutions** guaranteeing them. Many people but as well social scientists and intellectuals agree about the need to have as well a **European Model** for the future.

However while it is common sense that a European Model should be about both, economic development and social goals and ambitions, creating the appropriate social rights is difficult for many reasons. Altogether with globalisation, the Europeanisation of markets in the EU has put existing social rights under stress and led to deregulation. Such “negative” integration is difficult to be coun-

terbalanced by a positive one, an integration that entails new rule setting and securing of social rights on national and EU levels. Both levels will stay important; because different situations and traditions of building rights in member states of the EU make it difficult to create cross-national standards and not realistic to think future social policies foremost or only in supranational terms.

After all much of the credibility of a Social Union will depend from the degree social policy will count for a European Model. So far, it is widely agreed that an active social policy is a means for making the EU an economically dynamic region; some laws and social rights can be justified in that perspective. But in many instances social policies are to be understood as well as ends in their own right – aiming at upgrading the living conditions of citizens. And not every tension between economic concerns and the quest for social rights can be dissolved in a win-win game. That adds to the difficulties of strife for social rights. But it likewise makes the planned debate on social rights and social reality in the EU so important.

### Four topics of theme A

#### Topic A1

#### Social protection and support

#### Topic A2

#### Social services and third sector organisations

#### Topic A3

#### Gender division of labour. Conditions for families and work-life balance

#### Topic A4

#### Social inclusion of immigrants

## Theme B Active citizenship, participation and governance

*The intensified interest in organised civil society and its impact on active civic participation and cultural identity appeared at a time that has been marked by a number of historical developments and political transformations. In recent years citizens' involvement has become a key issue of the current political and institutional agendas. The great interest in the concept of social and civic participation can be explained by the various reasons, which highlight the deficient democratic processes and legitimacy crisis of the modern idea of democracy. An additional factor to be considered is the difficulty of realizing processes that are able to involve citizens in strategic decision-making for the community and in the identification and organization of services, with special regard to welfare services. These problems have been ascribed to the limitations of representative forms of democracy in capturing the heterogeneity, complex interests, and identities in contemporary complex societies and they contributed to enhancing the role of citizenship, organised civil society and active participation.*

Active citizenship is thus closely related to social participation in all spheres of everyday life: from the shaping of civic, public and private institutions; to increased social cohesion; and to the realisation of democratic rights in contemporary societies. A weakly articulated support for citizenship rights in civil institutions - at the workplace and in public institutions - creates a fragile democratic culture and, consequently, less comprehensive social protection. The possibility for different loci of democratic learning, political reflexivity and governance depends, on the one side, on the specific institutional mechanisms, and, on the other, on the broader institutional configuration.

The basic idea of participation coincides with the move from a government model towards a governance model. In this new model, a decentralization process is promoted – especially in highly centralised states -, and strong state power is replaced by innovative forms of horizontal collaboration between state actors and civil society, and networks emerge as an increasingly significant mode of coordination.

Looking at these processes it can be said that a shift from a system characterized prevalingly by government models to a more 'polycentric' system has taken place and this shift has been supported both at national and European level with an effort to promoting inclusive decision-making processes that involve citizens actively. In the polycentric decision-making model that has come to the forefront, decisions are made through negotiations, interactions, and more horizontal cooperation. In such a model, interdependence – rather than hierarchy and subordination – is the central idea. These trends toward

citizens' more active involvement have been paralleled by the revitalization of the role played by citizens in influencing and regulating the economy and society at various geographical levels (local, regional, national or even international) and it has been prompted by what is termed 'shared responsibility' or 'co-responsibility'.

The main problems related to the promotion of participation are twofold: on the one hand, stereotyped interpretations of participation processes need to be overcome by an improved empirical knowledge, which remains to be accumulated; on the other hand, it is of crucial importance to understand how different types of institutions – public, for-profit and non-profit – practically contribute to encourage the participation of citizens and make it possible.

Whilst the transition to a knowledge-based society in Europe is seen as the key factor in creating social innovation, knowledge-based growth, and greater economic integration, it may, however, also carry risks for individuals, families and communities and may result in greater social marginalization and exclusion. The emphasis on research concerning citizenship and participation reflects an awareness of the increased risks in knowledge-based societies of social polarisation and long-term poverty and skills entrapment, the need to promote gender equality and women's employment and its links with social participation, the vulnerable position of ethnic minority families, the links between work, family, community and civic organisations.

Migration dynamics and patterns challenge both traditional notions *and* practices of active citizenship. New forms of inclusive and exclusive processes may be a result of this, and it is important to point to the need for further research-based knowledge on how these new dynamics have concrete impact in relation to options and obstacles for social innovation and social cohesion through active citizenship. This again might have consequences for the need for considering new types of public and civil society institutions and organisations, for the understanding of democratic rights in private as well as the public sphere, in institutional setting and at the work place.

### Four topics of theme B

#### Topic B1

#### Civic cultures and democratic participation

#### Topic B2

#### New forms of governance between private and public

#### Topic B3

#### European identity and diversity

#### Topic B4

#### EU governance and Civil Society