

Social Rights, Active Citizenship and Governance in the European Union

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

17 – 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**

The conference is held under the auspices of **Mr. Vladimír Špidla**, the **EC Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities**

The conference is **part of official accompanying events of the Czech Council Presidency of the EU**

Conference Programme

>>> **Preliminary version, 2-Mar-2009** <<<



Roskilde University



CINEFOGO Network of Excellence



Charles University in Prague



Sixth Framework Programme



Czech Council Presidency



European Commission

8:00 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:30 Opening plenary session

Salle Walter Hallstein

Chair

Thomas P. 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, European Commission, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Adalbert Evers, Justus Liebig University Giessen [DE]

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

Discussion

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

11:00 – 13:00 Parallel panel discussions 1

Topic A1

Social protection and support

Salle Jean Rey

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.

EU, Member States and NGOs are actors involved in delivering social protection and support to the EU citizens. Along "competitive collaboration" of national governments and national NGOs in social welfare delivery, a dialogue emerges 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]

Sian Jones, EAPN – European Anti-Poverty Network

Conny Reuter, SocialPlatform - Platform of European Social NGOs

Michel Riquier, AGE – The European Older People's Platform

Discussion

Topic B1

Civic cultures and democratic participation

Salle Walter Hallstein

Civic engagement is a matter of historical traditions as well as the specific institutional mechanisms. 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.

Moderator

Tom van der Meer, SCP – The Netherlands Institute for Social Research [NL]

Panelists

Erik Amnå, Örebro University [SE]

Philippe Grosjean, Permanent Forum of European Civil Society

Marilyn Taylor, University of West England [UK]

Melody Ross, ACN – Active Citizenship Network

Miklós Barabás, Committee of regions, European Economic and Social Committee

Richard Wilson, INVOLVE [UK]

Discussion

13:00 – 14:30 Buffet lunch

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 European Member States? Are they ready to pursue interests of their clients vis-à-vis national governments and the EU institutions? What is – or should be – the role of the EU in this process?

The changing role of Welfare States as organizers, contractors, and delivering agents of social protection and support will be analyzed, as well as the specific tasks of NGOs in the delivery of social services.

Moderator

Jean Claude Barbier, Université Paris I [FR]

Panelists

Adalbert Evers, Justus Liebig University Giessen [DE]

Mathias Maucher, SOLIDAR – European network of NGOs and labour movement organisations

Heather Roy, Eurodiaconia

Filip Wijkström, EFI Stockholm School of Business

Luk Zelderloo, EASPD – European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities

Discussion

Topic B2

New forms of governance between private and public

Salle Walter Hallstein

What is the role of the EU in the multi-level governance? 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.

Moderator

Detlef Sack, University of Bielefeld [DE]

Panelists

Emanuela Bozzini, University of Trento [IT]

Jacqueline Butcher, ISTR – International Society of Third-Sector Research

Perez Ochieng, EUCLID – The European Network of Third Sector Leaders

Libor Rouček, Member of the European Parliament

Annette Zimmer, University of Münster [DE]

Discussion

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee break

17:00 – 19:00 Free time

19:00 – 20:30 Buffet dinner

Wednesday, 18th March 2009

9:00 – 10:00 **Plenary session**

Salle Walter Hallstein

Chair

Martin Potůček, Charles University in Prague [CZ]

Speakers

Jean-Michel Baer, European Commission, DG RTD, Director

Michal Sedláček, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs [CZ], Vice-minister for EU Affairs

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

Introduction to **Theme B** “Active citizenship, participation and governance”

Reinhard Millner, Michael Meyer, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien [AT]

Presentation of “European programme in civil society leadership”, a training developed within CINEFOGO project

Discussion

10:00-10:30 **Coffee break**

10:30 – 12:30 **Parallel panel discussions 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. Despite progress achieved in many areas, women are still exposed to less favourable living and working conditions.

Gender perspective on citizenship and participation reflects the need to promote gender equality. Focus areas are women’s employment, social participation and the links between work, family, community and civic organisations.

Moderator

Michael Meyer, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien [AT]

Panelists

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

Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Member of the European Parliament

Myria Vassiliadou, European Women's Lobby

Nelly Jazra, AFEM – Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale

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

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 in Berlin [DE]

Panelists

Giovanni Moro, Fondaca – Active Citizenship Foundation

Karel Müller, University of Economics in Prague [CZ]

Tony Venables, ECAS – European Citizens Action Service

Joep de Hart, SCP – The Netherlands Institute for Social Research [NL]

Lars Svedberg, Ersta Sköndal University College [SE] (TBC)

Discussion

12:30 – 14:00 **Buffet lunch**

Topic A4

Social inclusion of immigrants

Salle Jean Rey

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 knowledge on how these new dynamics have concrete impact on the options and obstacles for social inclusion and social cohesion through active citizenship.

What conceptual models and political arrangements of 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

Thomas P. Boje, Roskilde University [DK]

Panelists

Iwona Piorko, European Commission, Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security

Thomas Huddleston, Migration Policy Group

Sarah Isal, Runnymede Trust

Giovanna Procacci, University of Milan [IT]

Marie Jelínková, Multicultural Centre Prague [CZ]

Discussion

Topic B4

EU governance and Civil Society

Salle Walter Hallstein

The intensified interest in 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 crisis. These developments collectively questioned the political classes and the state institutions in Europe, and they contributed to enhancing the role of citizenship, organised civil society and active participation.

A vibrancy of civil society depends upon the active participation of members of society in a variety of organisations from churches to trades unions. These represent both a bulwark against an oppressive state and also a system of representation of interests in a complex society. 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

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

Ariane Rodert, CEDAG – European Council of Associations of General Interest

Carlo Ruzza, University of Leicester [UK]

Laetitia Sedou, Civil Society Contact Group

Discussion

16:30 – 17:00 Closing plenary session

Salle Walter Hallstein

Chair

Thomas Boje, Roskilde University [DK]

Speakers

Pēteris Zilgalvis, European Commission, DG RTD, Head of Unit “Governance and Ethics”

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

Adalbert Evers, Justus Liebig University, Giessen [DE]

Carlo Ruzza, University of Leicester [UK]

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 deregula-

tion. Such “negative” integration is difficult to be counterbalanced 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

Language

Conference language is **English**.

Fees and costs

There is **no conference fee**.

Participants are expected to cover their **travel costs**. Travel costs for invited speakers will be reimbursed by CINEFOGO coordinator.

Accommodation for participants from CINEFOGO member institutions and for active speakers is arranged and paid by CINEFOGO coordinator.

Conference website

<http://www.cinefogo.org/workpackages/wp44/final-conference-1-of-2>

Registration

On-line registration is required. **Deadline for registration** was **15th of February 2009**. Limited number of places is available.

Abstracts

Speakers are kindly requested to send their abstracts not later than the **15th of February 2009** to cinefogo@ruc.dk.

Programme committee contact

Charles University in Prague,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
Center for Social and Economic Strategies

Miroslava Mašková, maskovam@fsv.cuni.cz

Organisation

Roskilde University,
Institute for Society and Globalisation,

Marta Nachtmannová, nacht@ruc.dk

Media contact

Roskilde University,
Institute for Society and Globalisation

Ellen-Kristina Kock Kristensen, ellenk@ruc.dk