



FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



5th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Challenge of Economic Inequality to Recovery and Wellbeing

20th June 2014 Dublin (Ireland)

Organised by

TASC and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

In collaboration with



Venue: Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin, Ireland

CONTEXT

The economic model of the European Union is in its deepest crisis since its inception. There is both a financial crisis and a real sector crisis with stagnating economies, rising inequalities and increasing divergence between the countries of the European union. Economic inequality is at the centre of that crisis.

Rising unemployment in Europe has been accompanied by a significant increase in social and income inequalities. Recent reports show that in some European countries the richest ten per cent of the population have seen their share of the total income greatly increase. In others, an increase has been recorded in the percentage of the poor within the total population. In many cases these phenomena have occurred in parallel.

It is becoming increasingly evident that European macroeconomic policy has an excessive focus on inflation rather than on employment, which is driving inequality. Furthermore, the financial crisis has clearly shown the existence of strong links between the growth of finance, inequalities and the job drought in Europe.

In this context, it is vital for progressive policy makers to clearly define and promote a set of policy proposals to break the links between current macroeconomic policies, finance and inequality.

This year's TASC-FEPS conference will focus on three core issues:

1. The relationship between economic inequality and wider measures of personal and societal wellbeing;
2. The impact of current neoliberal economic policies on inequality, and discussion of policy proposals to embark on a more equitable and sustainable developmental trajectory;
3. Policy proposals to break the links between the growth of finance and inequality. These ideas encompass changes in regulation, financial structure, and financial and investment policies.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

- 8.30 – 9.15 **Registration**
- 9.15 – 9.30 **Opening**
Ernst Stetter, Secretary General, FEPS
Nat O'Connor, Director, TASC
- Session 1 – Inequality and Wellbeing**
- 9.30 – 10.30 **Carnegie Challenge event, ‘How to interpret subjective wellbeing alongside objective inequality’**
Chair and opening: **Cormac Staunton**, Policy Analyst, TASC
Helen Johnston, Senior Policy Analyst, NESC
Charles Seaford, Head of the Centre for Wellbeing, New Economics Foundation (nef)
Ivan Cooper, Director of Advocacy, The Wheel
- 10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee Break**
- Session 2 – Economics, Finance and Inequality**
- 11.00 – 11.30 **10 policy proposals to break the nexus between finance and inequality**
Introduction: **Giovanni Cozzi**, Economic Adviser, FEPS
Gary Dymski, Professor and Chair in Applied Economics, Leeds University Business School
- 11.30 – 13.00 **Finance and Inequality**
Chair: **Özlem Onaran**, Professor of Workforce and Economic Development Policy, University of Greenwich
Elissa Braunstein, Associate Professor at the Department of Economics at Colorado State University
Tom McDonnell, Economist, Nevin Economic Research Institute
Eckhard Hein, Prof. Dr. at the Berlin School of Economics and Law
Diane Perrons, Professor and Director of the Gender Institute at LSE
- 13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch Break**
- 14.00 – 16.00 **Keynote Address: Thomas Piketty**
Introduction: **Proinsias De Rossa**, Chair, TASC
Keynote: **Thomas Piketty**, Associate Chair, Paris School of Economics and author of *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*
Response: **Patrick Honohan**, Governor, Central Bank of Ireland
- Q&A Chaired by **Paul Sweeney**, Chair of TASC Economists’ Network
- 16.00 – 17.00 **Discussion Forum and Closing**
Nat O'Connor, Director, TASC
Ernst Stetter, Secretary General, FEPS