



FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



6th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Economic Inequality - What can be done?

19th June 2015

Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin, Ireland

For more than 30 years, economic inequality has been rising across advanced economies, with enormous social, political and economic consequences. In 2015, TASC published *Cherishing All Equally*, the first detailed account of economic inequality in Ireland.

Inequality is not inevitable, and policy options are available that will produce better outcomes for all. Looking at inequality in Ireland and beyond, this conference asks: What can be done?

PROGRAMME

- 9.00 -9.30 **Registration, Tea and Coffee on arrival**
- 9.30 - 9.45 **Opening remarks:** Ernst Stetter, Secretary General, FEPS
- 9.45 – 10.30 **Keynote address**
'Inequality - What Can Be Done?'
Professor Sir Anthony Atkinson, Fellow of Nuffield College, Centennial Professor at the London School of Economics and author of the recent book *'Inequality - What Can Be Done'*.
- 10.30 **Tánaiste's address**
Introduction **Proinsias De Rossa, Chair TASC**

Address: **Joan Burton TD**, Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection
- 10.45-11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00 – 13.00 **Session 1 - Economic Inequality in Ireland and beyond**
Chair and introduction **Emily Logan**, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Economic Inequality in Ireland

Nat O'Connor, and **Cormac Staunton**, TASC

Discussion with Panel Experts

Bruce Campbell, National Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Diane Elson, Professor of Sociology, University of Essex and Chair of the UK Women's Budget Group

Followed by Open Debate with the audience

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch Break**

14.00 – 14.30 **Keynote address**

Frances O'Grady, General Secretary, Trades Union Congress (TUC), UK

14.30 – 16.45 **Session 2 – Wage-led growth as a means to reduce inequalities in Europe**

Chair and introduction **Paula Clancy**, TASC

Wage-led growth in the EU15 Member states: the effect of income distribution on growth, investment, trade balances and inflation

Özlem Onaran, Professor of Workforce and Economic Development, University of Greenwich and **Thomas Obst**, PhD Candidate University of Greenwich

Discussion with Panel Experts

Emiliano Brancaccio, Research Fellow and Lecturer in Political Economy, DEMM Università del Sannio

Ronald Janssen, Advisor, European Trade Union Confederation - ETUC

Followed by Open Debate with the audience

16.45 – 17.00 **Closing**

David Begg, Director, TASC