



SEMINAR

BEYOND AUSTERITY, TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT: A GENDER AWARE FRAMEWORK

Brussels 11th and 12th February 2014

Current austerity policies could undermine past achievements towards gender equality, as they can negatively impact upon employment and social welfare protection. In particular, these policies could reverse the progress made in the last decade in establishing a fulfilling life for women and men.

Although in several European countries male unemployment has significantly increased as a result of job losses in male-dominated sectors such as the construction and the financial sectors, it is becoming increasingly evident that women are also going to be severely harmed by the implementation of austerity policies and by the credit squeeze. Indeed, women's work in Europe concentrated in those areas more affected by spending cuts such as education, health, and social services.

The Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), in collaboration with TASC, The Economic Council of the Labour Movement (ECLM), the Open University and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), organises a seminar in Brussels on February 11th and 12th 2014 with the objective to discuss the changing position and role of both women and men in the labour market in Europe, considering whether or not recent austerity policies have had particularly gendered effects and where the roots of such gendered impacts lie. Further, the seminar will debate how to create the conditions for a gender equitable and expansionary macroeconomic framework in Europe. A macroeconomic framework where equitable growth, creating quality jobs, increased living standards, and macroeconomic stability are at the core.

The discussion will address the following questions:

- 1) What are the effects of austerity policies on men and women?
- 2) What are the characteristic of a progressive and gender equitable macroeconomic framework for Europe?



PROGRAMME

Tuesday 11th February 2014 – Roundtable Discussion

Location: FEPS Office, Rue Montoyer 40, 1000 Brussels

- 10:00 **Opening**
Ernst Stetter, Secretary General of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)
- 10:15 **Introduction to the *Beyond Austerity, Towards Employment: a Gender Aware Framework* project**
Hannah Bargawi, Lecturer in Economics, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London
Judit Tanczos, Policy Advisor at the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)
- 10:30 **Keynote Speech**
Maria Karamessini, Professor at the Department of Social Policy and Director of the Center for gender Studies at the Panteion University of Athens
Followed by Q&A
- 10:45 **Session 1 – Austerity Policies and their Gendered Effects**
What are the effects of austerity policies on men and women?
What are the gendered effects of austerity and recovery on the labour market in Europe?
What are the effects of austerity policies on job satisfaction, security and work-life balance for men and women in Europe?
- Experts
Marcella Corsi, Professor of Economics, Università La Sapienza of Rome and Free University of Brussels (ULB)
Ursula Barry, Senior Lecturer and Head of School of Social Justice, University College Dublin (UCD)
Jérôme De Henau, Lecturer in Economics, The Open University
Gloria Mills, National Secretary of UNISON
- Closing
Catherine Trautmann, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group
- Chair
Signe Hansen, Senior Analyst, the Economic Council of the Labor Movement (ECLM)
- Each intervention will be followed by a 10-minute Q&A*



13:00 **Lunch**

14:00 **Integrating Gender Equality into a Equality-Led Sustainable Growth Strategy**
Özlem Onaran, Professor of workforce and economic development policy, University of Greenwich

14:15 **Session 2 – Towards a Gender-Equitable Macroeconomic Framework for Europe**
What could be the alternative solutions which promote quality employment and equality as the primary focus of recovery?
How can targeted public investment and fiscal policies more broadly, enhance women's involvement in the labour market and contribute to the transformation of gender roles in Europe? In addition, how can we address the gender-bias of tax policies?
How can monetary policy be more inclusive and gender-responsive so that it can also focus on key social and economic problems rather than monetary criteria alone?

Experts

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

Paola Villa, labour economist, full professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Trento, and a member of the coordinating team for the European Commission's Expert Group on Gender and Employment (EGGE)

Closing

Enrique Guerrero Salom, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group

Chair

Nat O'Connor, Director, TASC

Each intervention will be followed by a 10-minute Q&A

16:15 **Closing: Reflections on the institutional dimension of the debate**
Zita Gurmai, Vice-President of FEPS and President of PES Women

19:30 **Speakers dinner at the Thon Hotel EU**



Wednesday 12th February 2014 – Roundtable Discussion

09:30

Opening

Nat O' Connor, Director, TASC

09:45

Session 3: Alternative and Gender-Aware Economic Policies using Micro and Macro Models

How to use macro and micro-models to assess different scenarios for recovery and reconstruction of the European economy?

How can macro and micro-models be used to build and assess gendered-aware economic policies?

Chair

Jérôme De Henau, Lecturer in Economics at The Open University

Experts

Marzia Fontana, Research Fellow, Institute for Development Studies (IDS)

Hannah Bargawi, Lecturer, SOAS and **Giovanni Cozzi**, Economic Advisor, FEPS

Lars Andersen, Director ECLM

Paola De Agostini, Senior Research Officer, University of Essex

Howard Reed, Director, Landman Economics

Each intervention will be followed by a 10-minute Q&A

11:45

Closing

Ernst Stetter, Secretary General, FEPS