

CALL FOR PAPERS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Solidarity in Hard Times.
Solidarity and the European Social Model in times of economic crisis.

Madrid, 11 and 12 June 2015

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Solidarity in Hard Times.

Solidarity and the European Social Model in times of economic crisis.

The **University Institute for European Studies (IDEE)**, *Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at CEU San Pablo University*, will hold the International Conference on **“Solidarity in Hard Times. Solidarity and the European Social Model in times of economic crisis”** on 11-12 June 2015 in Madrid.

We will be celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the signature of the EEC accession treaty of Spain and Portugal. This enlargement is considered to be the most successful from the perspective of solidarity. It is that spirit of solidarity European leaders showed then that could become a source of inspiration to overcome the current crisis.

The conference is part of the *Jean Monnet* network **MoreEU** (“More Europe to overcome the crisis”) led by *Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna* (Pisa) and comprising think tanks and research institutions of five European countries (*Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute*, *CEU San Pablo Madrid*; *University of Warsaw* and *Nova Law School of Lisbon*).

INTRODUCTION

The economic crisis has exposed serious weaknesses in the performance of the EU model of integration and, probably worse, has seriously damaged the fragile European identity. The perception that “Europe” was more part of the problem than part of the solution has led some to a re-orientation of the political agenda towards national or local debates on how to find solutions to the crisis. With the growing strength of Eurosceptic parties, both from the right and left, their proposals for reducing the social impact of the crisis focus on “national” solutions. Even traditional pro-European Christian Democrats and socialists have come round to accepting the application of restrictions to the free movement of European citizens, a once-sacred rule, in cases when it could represent a risk, however remote, to “national” social assistance systems. Moreover, regional separatist movements, e.g. in Scotland and Catalonia, also appeal to local identity as a source of responses to social fragility.

Following an austerity-focused policy, the EU may be able to win the battle of budget imbalances but it is risking to lose the war for European cohesion and citizens’ legitimacy.

This International Conference aims at focusing attention on the need to rebuild a European identity not only on economic grounds but also on social ones. This reconstruction could reverse the current processes and increase the sense of belonging and European identity. Further and most importantly, it could open windows of opportunity to find European solutions to citizens’ problems in the ongoing crisis.

TOPICS

Possible topics to be discussed might include:

1. The concept of solidarity

- a. Solidarity between states, regions, individuals, generations...
- b. Solidarity and identity: the EU Social Model
- c. Solidarity as an empty vessel that may be filled with various contents

2. Policy orientation and concrete proposals

- a. What has solidarity meant so far in the EU?
- b. What type(s) of solidarity may be needed in the crisis?
- c. Increasing cohesion in the EU. Problems and solutions

In this category, it would be particularly important to include imaginative and thought-provoking proposals and to explain how they might work in practice. For example:

- i. New tools for increasing and restructuring the EU budget
- ii. Public and private investment to foster growth in Europe
- iii. Harmonising and re-orienting tax policy towards social targets.
Avoiding fiscal dumping and fighting tax fraud
- iv. Requiring comprehensive accountability for the economic/social costs
of non-sustainable development
- v. Setting a European Social Agenda
- vi. The European Social Security System
- vii. European Unemployment Insurance
- viii. Adopting common social standards to limit social competition
- ix. Establishing a European Minimum Wage Policy
- x. Improving labour mobility and protecting free movement of persons
- xi. Harmonisation of labour law
- xii. Reinforcing European Social dialogue
- xiii. The European Social Model and third countries

Papers that do not necessarily fit into these categories, but which are nevertheless related to the main theme of the conference, will also be considered.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Interested contributors should submit electronically an abstract (up to 500 words), together with an updated CV in .pdf/word format, no later than **25 February 2015** to the address: idee@ceu.es, indicating the corresponding topic area in the “subject” of the email.

Contributors of selected abstracts will be notified by **2 March 2015**.

Final drafts should be submitted not later than **9 May 2015**. They should be around 10,000 words (incl. footnotes and annexes). Detailed author’s guidelines will be given to selected abstracts.

For deliveries, please name your file according to the following format:

SURNAME_Solidarity_Abstract.pdf

SURNAME_Solidarity_CV.pdf

SURNAME_Solidarity_Draft.pdf

Following a peer review process, selected papers will be published. Further information will be provided to candidates.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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