



POST-CONFERENCE PRESS RELEASE: "Social Inequalities in Europe", Friday, June 20th, 2014

Ημερομηνία: 1/7/2014

The conference on "Social Inequalities in Europe", that was held in the Auditorium of the Museum of the Acropolis of Athens, concluded successfully on Friday, June 20, 2014. It was organized by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), in collaboration with the Directorate General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, under the Greek Presidency of the EU Council and hosted by the National Centre for Social Research / EKKE and Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences.

The conference highlighted the phenomenon of social inequality, which as a result of the current economic crisis, most seriously threatens social cohesion, while relentlessly raises questions about the ability of political systems at national and European level to reduce inequality and increase the social cohesion as provided by the European Social Model.

The conference presented and built on evidence, findings and conclusions of research on social inequalities conducted within the framework of the 7th Framework Programme, while it also debated on the social and political implications of rising inequalities opening the path towards further research and policy scenarios.

The open event was attended by representatives of the political leadership of the country, European Commission officials, prominent members of the European academic community, representatives of the academic and research community of the country, and political institutions and Non Governmental Organisations (indicatively: Region of Attica, Greek Pasteur Institute, Hellenic Center for Disease Control & Prevention, General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning, National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications & Vocational Guidance) whose task is to alleviate social inequalities.

Specifically, in terms of political leadership, the General Secretary for Research and Technology, Dr. Christos Vasilakos, represented the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, while addresses were delivered by the Director and Chairman of EKKE, Professor Nicolas Demertzis, and the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at Panteion University, Prof. I. Kriari - Katrani.

Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Professor László Andor, sent a videotaped message that was aired at the beginning of the event. In his message, the Commissioner noted that increasing social inequalities not merely raise the issue of social justice, but in general threaten global economic stability, democracy and human rights. He also expressed the wish that the conference would help find consensus on the most effective solutions.

In the first part, moderated by Associate Professor of Panteion University, Christos Bagavos, the keynote speaker, Professor Jutta Allmendinger, President of the Center for Social Sciences Berlin (WZB), presented an overview of the results of research conducted during FP7 concerning social inequalities.

In the second part, moderated by Robolis Savas, Professor of Panteion University, the speakers, Professor Colin Crouch, University of Warwick, and Dr Virginia Maestri, coordinator of the European project GINI, analyzed the social impact of labor and income inequality.

For the third part, entitled "Life satisfaction, gender and health inequalities. The social impact" that was moderated by Emmanuel Chrisakis, Research Director at EKKE, the invited speakers were Dr Joanna Tsiganou, Research Director of EKKE, John Yfantopoulos, Professor of Health Economics at the University of Athens, and Dr. Tatiana Karabchuk, Deputy Director of the International Laboratory for Comparative Social Research at National Research University Higher School of Economics of Moscow.

In the fourth part, moderated by Nicolas Georganakis, Researcher of EKKE, the speakers, Professor Frank Vandembroucke, Former Minister of Social Affairs Belgium and Prof. at the Universities of Leuven and Amsterdam and George Moschos, Deputy Ombudsman in charge of children's rights, analyzed the policy responses to social inequalities.

The event was held in Greek and English with simultaneous interpretation in both languages and streamed live on the web via "Diavlos", digital service of GRNET. It was also taped by Bodossaki Lectures on Demand and will be uploaded on its website.

For more information and speakers' presentations, you can visit the event website:
<http://www.gsrt.gr/inequalities/index.html>