



NEXT LEFT

Re-thinking the core of social democracy to shape a better future for all

The “Next Left” Research Programme was launched by FEPS with the support of Renner Institut in the aftermath of the European Elections 2009 with an aim to provide a pan-European platform for a debate on the state of social democracy. Since the beginning the programme has been chaired by Dr. Alfred GUSENBAUER (former Chancellor of Austria). It has been developing in subsequent phases, evolving from a critical analytical phase, through a comparative analysis, reaching at this very point the stage in which ambition is to provide tangible proposals on how to shape the progressive movement and its agenda adequately for the 21st century.

Within the course of the three years of its existence, the programme has been built upon several pillars, which ensure its interdisciplinary character and equip it with expertise from both the European and national levels. Through high level seminars in Brussels, Focus Group Meetings in Brussels and Vienna, through number of national round tables (held in cooperation with respective national foundations), as also through the fringe meetings at the major European political gatherings (such as respective PES Congresses and Councils) and international ones (such as 5th Progressive Latin American Forum), the programme attracted more than 2000 academics, politicians, experts and journalists. Their respective inputs are reflected in diverse publications, among them: Next Left Book Series (volumes 1-4), several issues of the FEPS Scientific Magazine “Queries” (N° 1, 3, 5) and a number of papers (policy briefs and studies, among them i.e. “Models of (s)electing a pan-European top candidate” or “Progressive values in the 21st century”).

As the “Next Left” remains on the edge of the worlds of academia and politics, its focus is also on building and strengthening relations with respective universities in Europe and overseas. The strategy to reach that goal is a double folded one. On one side, it is the project “Next Europe, Next Left” that opened towards the PhD candidates and PhD holders, who came together in 2009 establishing so called “FEPS Young Academics Network” (FEPS YAN). On the other, it is the contacts that through Next Left FEPS develops with Universities in the US (Brown and Harvard) and here in Europe (i.e. ULB), with which respective conferences and seminars have been and are planned to be organized.

For the year 2012 the “Next Left” research programme is set to continue with its work in several thematic dimensions. Its focus will be devoted to the questions of: Next European Deal (especially its

pillar connected with creating new socio-economic paradigm); European democracy (here the attention will be given to transnational dimension and citizenship/ partisanship matters); challenges of New Collectives (in the light of changing societies); Progressivism and Cosmopolitanism (which themes derive from cooperation with Amsterdam Process on one hand, and with Harvard University on the other). Last but not least, FEPS Next Left will also study the particularities of the Central and Eastern Social Democracy (which research project will be completed together with ULB).

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact directly Dr. Ania Skrzypek, FEPS Policy Advisor in charge of “Next Left” at ania.skrzypek@fepeurope.eu

