

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN  
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES  
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE  
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



# **Activity Report**

## **Year 2009**

**21<sup>st</sup> MAY '10**



# CONTENTS

**05 | General aims and objectives**

**07 | Continuing the partnership with national political foundations and think tanks**

**09 | Research programmes**

**17 | Cooperating with European organisations and institutions**

**19 | Bridging the gap: training European citizens**

**21 | Europe in the world**

**23 | Communication**

**25 | Institutional matters**



## General aims and objectives

The overall objectives of FEPS are defined in **Article 4.4 of the adopted statutes**. It is stated that FEPS is to pursue international aims in respect of the principles on which the European Union is based, namely the principles of freedom, equality, solidarity, democracy, respect of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as Respect of the Rule of Law.

FEPS aims to develop **progressive thinking** and strengthening the socialist, social democratic, labour and democratic progressive ideas in the European Union and throughout Europe.

In addition, as a European political foundation close to the Party of European Socialists (PES), FEPS has embedded its action plan into the promotion and fostering of its European social democratic values.

To accomplish its objectives, the actions of FEPS have always sought to fulfil the following objectives:

- **promoting debate**, at national, European and global levels;
- **developing new ideas** to face the new European challenges;
- **strengthening the relations** between national- and European-based foundations;
- **driving more synergies** and complementarities within the European – and global – progressive family in all its components, using FEPS as the platform to foster them, in particular between the different members of FEPS;
- putting forward again the objectives of a **new model for society** and the promotion of the European idea;
- Keeping **regional/transnational dimensions** of the activities of FEPS to avoid Brussels-centric thinking, not forgetting the local level of political struggle;
- Holding equality as a principle in all activities, be it gender or geographical origin.

The political **circumstances that occurred in 2009**, in particular for the progressive movement, have influenced the unfolding of the initial activity plan that FEPS presented when applying. **The financial and economic crisis**, on the one hand, but also the **European elections** on the other have weighed significantly in the priorities of FEPS, be it in terms of research programmes or in terms of activities with partners. Being a political foundation which asset is to be able to **react to opportunities**, FEPS adjusted its activity plan accordingly.



## **Continuing the partnership with the national foundations and think tanks**

Created with the specific objective to work in **very close collaboration** with the national political foundations and think tanks that embody the values of the European Union, FEPS has dedicated a significant part of its resources in implementing activities across the member States with their support. This **privileged partnership** has been instrumental during the year in order to fulfil FEPS' ambition both to **foster more exchange and connection between national and European political discussions and to act as a platform** facilitating mutual work on the European level.

The foundations and think tanks members of FEPS have consistently shown a **great deal of commitment to the European endeavour of FEPS**, reflected in the important number of activities undertaken in a variety of areas during the year 2009. In addition to bilateral initiatives, the first signs of **new synergies** have been found, in particular in a number of research programmes such as "Our Progressive Societies" or in the field of the economic recovery (see below).

### **Events in 2009:**

- 18 February – 4 March – 18 March '09 | Brussels | Conference cycle on "Towards a new **social contract**", "For an active policy for **citizenship**" and "**Regulation**: an absolute necessity" | with the support of Gauche réformatrice européenne (Belgium)
- 7 May '09 | Oslo | **Nordic step** of the Round table cycle "For a progressive **recovery plan**" | with the support of Samak (Nordic Council)
- 11 May '09 | Dublin | **Irish step** of the Round table cycle "For a progressive **recovery plan**" | with the support of TASC
- 12 May '09 | Brussels | Presentation of the report "The **Euro-Mediterranean dialogue**: prospects for an area of peace and security" | with the support of the Fondazione Italianeuropei (Italy)
- 14 May '09 | London | **British step** of the Round table cycle "For a progressive **recovery plan**" | with the support of Policy Network
- 27 May '09 | Paris | **French step** of the Round table cycle "For a progressive **recovery plan**" | with the support of the Fondation Jean-Jaurès and Europartenaires (France)
- 29 May '09 | Sofia | **Bulgarian step** of the Round table cycle "For a progressive **recovery plan**" | with the support of the Institute for Social Integration (Bulgaria)
- 4 June '09 | Budapest | **Hungarian step** of the Round table cycle "For a progressive **recovery plan**" | with the support of Demos Hungary
- 12-14 June '09 | Helsinki | Summer Academy of **Northern European policy makers** | with the support of Kalevi Sorsa Foundation (Finland) and Samak (Nordic Council)
- 20 June '09 | London | Conference "The **Road to Copenhagen**" | With the support of the Fabian Society (United Kingdom)
- 18 September '09 | Madrid | **Spanish step** of the Round table cycle "For a progressive **recovery plan**" | with the support of the Fundación IDEAS
- 28 September '09 | Brighton | "In conversation" with David Milliband – Fringe event at **Labour Party Conference** | with the support of the Fabian Society (United Kingdom)

- 6-7 November '09 | Helsinki | **Research and Policy Days** | with the support of Kalevi Sorsa Foundation (Finland)
- 12 November '09 | Gent | Conference "The **Diversity Challenge** for the left" | with the support of the Stichting Gerrit Kreveld (Belgium)
- 30 November – 1 December '09 | Rome | International conference "A new multilateral dimension in the age of Obama: from the **Mediterranean** to the Greater Middle East" | with the support of the Fondazione Italianeuropei (Italy)
- 11 December '09 | Riga | Conference "**Public sector reforms**: lower costs, greater efficiency?" | with the support of the Freedom and Solidarity Foundation

**Published in 2009:**

- "Becoming a better politician" | Political manual published with the support of the Alfred Mozer Foundation (the Netherlands)



## Research programmes

### Political economy and economics

Since its creation, FEPS considered of crucial importance that the progressive movement regains influence on economic theory and prioritised the (re)development of a strong conceptual corpus for a **progressive economic theory** focussing on social justice and solidarity as part of economic policies. In 2009, a significant part of FEPS resources were allocated to this area of work and FEPS produced a variety of documents, supporting as many events, to foster debate on the theme and try to give a more coherent voice within the European social democratic family.

In complement to this theoretical reflection, FEPS conducted a wide and ambition research programme on **financial analysis** in close collaboration with the Nobel Prize Winner Joseph Stiglitz's Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD, Columbia University). The financial crisis posed major challenges for policy-makers worldwide and raised the issue of how can **regulation** be reformed to reduce risks of future crises, while encouraging a **financial sector that serves the real economy**. This has been done in the context of the analysis of the broader "shadow financial system", to include hedge funds, private equity, relevant aspects of investment banks, structural investment vehicles (SIVs), derivatives, etc. The research examined **asymmetries of information**, lack of **regulation**, issues of **incentives** (current compensation schemes seem particularly dysfunctional to financial stability), and excessive leverage (especially for hedge funds and private equity). Also, IPD carried out research on Basel II/III, especially on how to introduce **countercyclical elements** into it, and assess the technical and political challenges. Moreover, a specific expert group on **hedge funds and private equities** and a High-Level Advisory Group gathered a number of times in 2009 and came out with very concrete proposals that were published on the website of FEPS, as well as promoted and widely distributed.

In line with the first two areas of work, a special focus has been put on **global governance**. In the frame of the **Global Progressive Forum**, an initiative gathering social democratic policy-makers, NGOs, trade unions and international institutions, FEPS produced a number of policy briefs and documents to feed the reflection of the progressive movement at the global level. Thanks to the international contacts that FEPS developed in 2009, the Foundation contributed to give to the annual event of the Forum, that took place in Brussels on 2-3 April '09, a more balanced international representation thanks to the networks the Foundation.

Finally, FEPS developed a strong partnership with the Economic Council of the Labour Movement, a Danish economic policy institute, and commissioned comprehensive studies on concrete **scenarios for economic recovery** which were published in 2009. Under the title "**Economic Recovery – A new economic direction for Europe**", a collection of three studies (a first one, completed and updated with the other two) consisting of an analysis of two different **stimulus packages** : the first one based on EU Commission and Bruegel Institute estimates with 1.5% GDP stimuli both in 2009 and 2010; the second based on OECD economic outlook report of March 2009 with a 2% of GDP stimulus in 2009 and an extra 2.5% of GDP stimulus in 2010. These analyses commissioned by FEPS have served as a background document in many of the economic discussions led by FEPS during the year, and have also fed the reflection of a number of progressive organisations.

FEPS also attended regularly the meetings of the **Geneva Group**, an informal group composed of social democratic key policymakers at global level (Pascal LAMY at WTO, Dominique STRAUSS-KAHN at IMF, amongst others) who gather to set common progressive strategies and agenda in the field of economic policies.

It would prove impossible to relate exactly the number of initiatives to which FEPS has contributed given their important number in the particular context of the aftermath of the financial and economic crisis. However, the following lines will provide the reader with a comprehensive list of documents released in the field, illustrated by a number of activities either organised by the Foundation or to which it contributed significantly.

#### **Published in 2009:**

- Our **Progressive Society** in the 21st Century | A study by the Economic Council of the Labour Movement (Denmark);
- Facing the test of global **financial and economic crisis**: will the EU rise to the challenge and deepen **integration**? | A study by Christian DEUBNER;
- Assessment of the Swedish Presidency proposal to **regulate alternative investment funds managers** | Contribution elaborated in the frame of FEPS expert group on hedge funds;
- **Fiscal Discipline** in Federations in the After-math of the 2008 Financial Crisis: Can Market Discipline Survive in the USA and EMU? A study for FEPS by Jonathan RODDEN, Stanford University;
- From the financial crisis to the world economic crisis: The role of **inequality** | A contribution elaborated in the frame of the collaboration between FEPS and the IMK-Hans Böckler;
- Building on the **counter-cyclical consensus**: a policy agenda | Background paper of the Basel-III conference by Stephany GRIFFITH-JONES, Jose Antonio OCAMPO and Ariane ORTIZ, Initiative for Policy;
- “Towards Basel III: **Regulating the banking sector** after the crisis | Proceedings of the eponym conference in Brussels (autumn '09)
- Good **banking practices** | by Sony KAPOOR, Executive Director of Re-Define;
- **Financial transaction taxes** - The taxes of the future | by Sony KAPOOR, Executive Director of Re-Define;
- Europeans and Americans for **financial reforms**: Summary of financial regulation proposals in the US and in Europe | by Sony KAPOOR, Executive Director of Re-Define;
- FEPS answers to House of Lords Call for evidence of **AIFM Directive** | Contribution elaborated in the frame of FEPS expert group on hedge funds;
- Update - **Regulating hedge funds, private equity** and other alternative investment vehicles | Contribution elaborated in the frame of FEPS expert group on hedge funds;
- State of the crisis | FEPS Policy Brief;
- A systemic approach to **financial regulation** - A European perspective | by Michel AGLIETTA, Professor of Economics at the University of Paris X-Nanterre and Scientific Advisor at CEPII, and Laurence SCIALOM, Professor of Economics at the University of Paris X-Nanterre
- Towards a Reflection on Political Economy: **Employment Theory** | by Matthieu MEAULLE, FEPS Advisor in economics;
- The Road Ahead after De Larosière | by Karel LANOO, Chief Executive of the Centre for European Policy Studies;

- The **Ways out of the Crisis** and the Building of a more Cohesive World | by Joseph STIGLITZ and Jean-Paul FITOUSSI;
- A Development-Friendly Reform of the **International Financial Architecture** | Paper prepared by Jose Antonio OCAMPO, co-President of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia
- **European Recovery I-II-III** | Contributions elaborated in collaboration with the Danish Economic Council of the Labour Movement;
- FEPS answer to Commissioner **McCreevy's consultation on hedge funds** | Contribution elaborated in the frame of FEPS expert group on hedge funds.

#### Events in 2009:

- 16 January – 18 March '09 | Brussels | Meeting of the FEPS expert group on **hedge funds and private equities**;
- 4-5 February – 5-6 May '09 | New York & Rome | **Shadow Gn** - IPD in Columbia University;
- 18 February '09 | Brussels | International conference "**Beating the recession: Does the Left have the answers?**" with the support of Friends of Europe;
- 5 March – 4 May – 7 September '09 | Brussels | Meetings of the **High Level Advisory Group** of FEPS;
- 13 March | Brussels | "For a Global New Deal" - **International seminar** in the frame of the Global Progressive Forum
- 27 April '09 | Brussels | Press conference "Making a success of **EU regulation on hedge funds** and private equities;
- 17 September '09 | Brussels | "Brainstorming" seminar : "Challenges of the **Next European Commission**"
- 12 October '09 | Brussels | International conference "Towards **Basel III?** Regulating the banking sector after the crisis" with the support of IPD at Columbia University;
- 21 October '09 | Brussels | Meeting with **economics institutes** of Europe.

### "Our progressive societies": education and skills

Launched in 2008, an ambitious research programme launched in 2008 under the auspices of FEPS by Pär Nuder, former Swedish Finance minister, on the theme of **education and skills**, aimed at analysing the **entire learning process in Europe**, from pre-school to life-long learning, holding as a principle that education stands at the core of the ambition of social democracy to offer a choice for a progressive society and stands at crucial interconnection with several other major themes for the next European political period.

With the support of the Arbetarrörelsens Tankesmedja, the Swedish Labour Movement think tank, the programme aimed at publishing **six sub-reports** focussing on the different steps of the learning process, with a view to not only providing a **final complete study** of the education systems in Europe, but also putting forward innovative proposals and solutions for its improvement. This study and reports rely on a **round of topical seminars** organised across Europe throughout the year and **twelve countries visited** that allowed scholars, politicians and representatives from business and

NGOs to meet and discuss together. **46 concrete proposals** are formulated in the final report to face the challenge of education.

The **national political foundations** that are members of FEPS have played a significant role in the programme. Indeed, after the launching conference held in Stockholm in February '09, many of them supported the project by hosting closed expert round table of public events in **Slovenia, Spain, Germany, France, Italy and United Kingdom**. Each of them focussed on one sub-report and the debates, gathering practitioners, politicians, academics, enriched the conclusions of the final study.

The final study, entitled Making Europe Novel Laureate in Education and written by Pär NUDER and Sebastian DE TORO, was published in December 2009 and unveiled during a fringe meeting on the occasion of the PES Congress. It comes along with the following six sub-reports, all available for download on the website of FEPS:

#### **Published in 2009:**

- **Pre-school** sub-report | Juana Maria SCHANO GIL & Fernando HERNANDEZ;
- **Compulsory school** sub-report | Giorgio ALLULI;
- **Upper secondary school** and vocational training sub-report | Volker KÖDITZ, Rainer PEEK & Burkhard SELLIN;
- **Higher education** sub-report | Pavel SGAGA;
- **Research and Development** sub-report | Lars GESCHWIND;
- **Life-long learning** sub-report | Ari ANTIKAINEN.

#### **Events in 2009:**

- 4th February '09 | Stockholm | **Conference** "Is Europe worthy of a Noble Prize in Education?" | with the support of Arbetarrörelsens Tankesmedja;
- 30 June '09 | Ljubljana | Sub-report seminar on **higher education** | with the support of the CEE Network for Gender Studies;
- 8 July '09 | Madrid | Sub-report seminar on **pre-school** | with the support of the Fundación IDEAS;
- 4 September '09 | Berlin | Sub-report seminar on **upper secondary education** | with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung;
- 16 September '09 | Paris | Sub-report seminar on **research and development** | with the support of the Fondation Jean-Jaurès;
- 9 October '09 | Rome | Sub-report seminar on **compulsory education** | with the support of the Fondazione Italianieuropei
- 14 October '09 | London | Sub-report seminar on **life-long learning** | with the support of Policy Network;
- 6 December '09 | Prague | **Closing conference** and unveiling of the final report - Fringe conference at the PES Congress in Prague

## From “Renewing social democracy” to “Next Left”

Since its creation, FEPS always considered as a priority to question the **core values** of the progressive movement and confront them to the evolution of society. The results of the European elections in 2009 proved that such reflection was more than needed as the citizens of Europe are increasingly questioning the **ability of social democracy to give them clear and concrete answers**, not only to their daily concerns, but also to the new challenges of the world. What has then changed since Europe was led by its set of values? Rather than analysing once more the reasons of what is now called the « crisis » of social democracy, FEPS concentrated its efforts on focussing on **new ideas** and new possible solutions to renew its substance.

From a first **survey** composed of nine questions, aiming at identifying the key elements of social democracy is facing, addressed to national think tanks and foundations and members of FEPS, the Foundation soon transformed this reflection into a **full research programme** now known under the heading of “**Next Left**” that received a very **high level of commitment** from its very start. With the publishing of its **first ever book** in the frame of the PES Congress in December '09, FEPS made a momentum in the political reflection.

The support of the **Karl Renner Institute** from Austria, as well as of former Austrian Chancellor **Alfred GUSENBAUER** who kindly took the chairmanship of a “Next Left” focus group composed in the second half of the year, has been instrumental to the success of this research programme that has increased ever since.

### Published in 2009:

- “**Next Left**” vol.I - Contributions to a European-wide debate ;
- Challenge for the Next Left: 10 observations on “**solidarity**” | A comment from Ernst STETTER, FEPS Secretary General;
- 10 observations on the **outcome of the 2009 European elections** | A comment from FEPS.

### Events in 2009:

- 5 March '09 | Brussels | “**Themen der Zeit II**” – Debate on the occasion of Former Austrian Chancellor Vranitsky’s book launch
- 8 September '09 | Brussels | Round table “**Last European elections and their consequences for socialists**”
- 6 December '09 | Prague | “Next Left” **fringe conferences** on education and “Next Left” at PES Congress

## European integration

In parallel to these axes of work, FEPS started in 2009 a new research project on the issue of the **consequences of the financial crisis on European integration**. Coordinated by Christian DEUBNER, the project, which will deliver in 2010, two expert seminars already took place in 2009, and at least two more shall take place in 2010 before the final delivering of the programme.

In addition, with the support of the Institute for World Economics of Hungary and under the leadership of Prof. Andras INOTAI, another research programme was launched in 2009. It aims at answering the question of **how the “new member States” that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 can influence the process of European integration**. Indeed, interestingly, the most numerous enlargement of the EU, with a clear geographic orientation (towards the East) did not generate a powerful Eastern dimension in the EU’s strategic approach. This substantially contrasts to the EU’s Mediterranean and to the Northern dimension that became a genuine part of the agenda of the European integration immediately after the accession of Finland and Sweden. The NMS-10 (or any subgroup of them) were, from the very beginning, unable to create a common platform within the enlarged EU. Plans and hopes that the Eastern enlargement may reshape the geostrategy and substantially co-shape the long-term priorities of the EU remained largely unfulfilled in the first years of membership. This project will deliver in 2010.

FEPS also seized the opportunities given by the political situation to comment on a number of issues during the year 2009 and was regularly consulted for opinions on the political developments at the European level.

#### **Events in 2009:**

- 17 March '09 | Brussels | Meeting of **FEPS Research Group** – Discussion on the project “Crisis and European Integration”
- 1 October – 3 November '09 | Two seminars in the frame of the research project “**Crisis and European integration**” on supervision reform and state insolvency.

#### **Published in 2009**

- Ruling of the German Constitutional Court on the **Lisbon Reform Treaty** | A study carried out in the aftermath of the German Constitutional Court deliberations on the constitutionality of the Lisbon Treaty in the German Law

## **Justice and Home Affairs**

In 2009, taking into account the discussion that took place on the drafting of the **Stockholm Programme**, FEPS decided it was essential to create a **platform** of debate to tackle the challenges of the area of **justice, freedom and security** and to launch the initiative of creating an ambitious vision of Justice and Home Affairs. The objective of the project is the creation and the promotion of a more balanced approach to Justice and Home Affairs, based on the respect for human rights and openness, instead of the further construction of a fortress Europe. Therefore, FEPS initiated a **network of progressive jurists** interested in developing **concrete legal proposals** to attain this right balance and to build a policy of Justice and Home Affairs **based on true European values** and not only on a lowest common denominator. This network includes both practicing **lawyers** and **academics** strongly committed to the protection of human rights. The network members were able to quickly organize themselves after their first meeting, and they lived with the opportunity to give their comments on the draft version of Stockholm Programme before its adoption, taking into account several fields of Justice and Home Affairs (Strengthening citizens’ rights, the European Public

Prosecutor, the assessment of the European Judicial area, question concerning the creation of a European judicial culture).

#### Events in 2009

- 23 October '09 | Brussels | Meeting of the **Jurists Network**

#### Published in 2009

- Five observations on the **Stockholm Programme** – Working towards a Europe of rights, citizenship and justice | A comment from Elisabeth GUIGOU, former French Minister of Justice, in the frame of the FEPS Jurist Network

## Gender equality

**Gender equality** has always been at the core of the priorities of FEPS. The Foundation has always made its utmost to have gender balance respected in all the activities that it has been implementing. Nevertheless, a **particular focus** was also put on this specific dimension of the progressive movement, as according to several statistics, the number of EU-sceptic women is significantly increasing, due to the feeling that European policies has not done enough to finally achieve gender equality. If we take a closer look, we will see that despite all major action programmes, equality and parity does not fully exist in any Member State. Firstly, FEPS found it necessary to go back to **basic questions**, and to define what feminism and gender equality means currently in different Member States and at European level and what are the main issues for discussion on this field. Secondly, after the identification of three main issues (Strategies to achieve gender equality, Women in politics, The reconciliation of private and professional life), it seemed to be necessary to **take the debate out of the single European context**, and to search and collect **best practices** from a larger scale. Thus, the next step intended to bring together American and European experts to join forces and find better solutions to promote gender equality by exchanging their experiences. The meeting also gave the possibility to the expert group to ask questions that helped to continue a collective reflection and to outline the main objectives of the meeting next year.

#### Events in 2009

- 19 March '09 | Brussels | Conference "**Philosophy of feminism**" | with the support of the Fondation Jean-Jaurès (France)
- 1 October '09 | Boston | Conference "**Gender equality in the USA and in Europe**" | with the support of the Fondation Jean-Jaurès (France) and Boston University (USA)

#### Published in 2009

- **Occupational equality** in the European Union and the United States | A study by Ghislaine TOUTAIN, Director of external relations of the Jean-Jaurès Foundation





## Cooperating with European organisations and international institutions

FEPS continued in 2009 the partnership started in 2008 with **Solidar**, a network of social and economic justice non-governmental organisations (NGOs), on a project called « **Together for Social Europe** ». This project aims at improving European decision-makers' knowledge of the social realities of people coming from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, people who Solidar member organisations work with and provide services for.

Focussing on selected social realities in the five fields of social services, social/active inclusion, migration/integration, decent work and volunteering, under the project a series of activities were organised:

- European activities: a first **European conference** (29<sup>th</sup> April '09), well attended by MEPs, brought the experiences of social workers working with poor and vulnerable people on a daily basis to the heart of EU democracy, the European Parliament, putting forward a set of key recommendations to the EU institutions on how to advance towards and promote a more social Europe. **Two European expert round tables** (4<sup>th</sup> November & 2<sup>nd</sup> December '09), respectively on social services and on social and active inclusion and hosted by MEPs, also took place.
- National activities: during the year, **twelve national round tables** gathered together, across as many countries in Europe, stakeholders including social NGOs, local/regional/national governments and people in vulnerable positions in society or on the labour market for direct conversations aiming at raising awareness and a better communication between people and their political representatives;
- Briefings: **five case studies** were developed and issued during the period on the five fields covered by the project, focussing on the realities and experiences of practitioners of social inclusion that work "on the ground".

In order to fulfil its role as a leading and unifying force on the intellectual social-democratic European scene, FEPS encouraged and supported projects and conferences with the **affiliated organisations of the PES**, first of which is the Young European Socialists-**ECOSY**. On the occasion of their annual Congress in April '09, FEPS organised a **fringe debate** on the renewal of social democracy. As well, FEPS was invited to attend a number of progressive events, among which the Festival of the International Union of Socialist Youth IUSY (Hungary, 14-20 July '09), the World Social Forum (Brasil, 27 January – 1 February '09) of the Socialist International Council (Montenegro, 29 June-1 July '09).

FEPS also took part in the publishing of the **Social Europe Journal**, a pan-European online journal focusing on social Europe. Distributed to 3500 subscribers, it stands up for the design and deepening of the European societal model on the basis of social and democratic values, supports the development of the integration process and identifies with the European motto 'unity in diversity' and advocates a just, democratic and sustainable world order. The foundation was offered in 2009 a full partnership in the editorial team of the **winter-spring issue** of the Journal.



## Bridging the gap: training European citizens

FEPS was also conceived also as a **training tool**. The main objective of the training activities is to develop the skills and competences of the participants on European issues and its significance at national level.

In 2008, the Foundation had organised a number of **intro-tours** in this respect, with a view to trying to reconcile European citizens with their institutions, providing them not only better knowledge but also space for debate and discussion. This ambition was pursued in 2009.

Of course, as a European political foundation affiliated to the Party of European Socialists, FEPS seized **specific occasions of the PES schedule** to hold two large events for progressive activists and people interested in politics, with a particular focus on the **young** – but not only.

### Events in 2009:

- 6-7<sup>th</sup> March '09 | Vienna | With the support of the Austrian Karl Renner Institute, FEPS gathered **30 Austrian SPÖ activists** of very diverse backgrounds to discuss the implications of the **Lisbon Treaty** both at the EU and Austrian level;
- 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> April '09 | Brussels | With the support of EuroDACs, a Belgian not-for-profit association specialised in adult education, FEPS organised a **two-day training session** addressing a group of 40 people, half Belgian-francophone half French, for a dialogue with European political leaders;
- 11-13<sup>th</sup> September'09 | Dublin | FEPS organised the **yearly edition of its Activists Forum**, consisting in four sessions of two parallel workshops which gathered about 100 people from all over Europe;
- 6<sup>th</sup> December '09 | Prague | FEPS organised **two fringe conferences on the occasion of the PES Congress in Prague**, Czech Republic, gathering more than 250 progressive activists to discuss on the themes of Education and Skills and “Next Left” on the occasion of the unveiling of two publications of the Foundation in this respect.



## Europe in the world

European challenges are, of course, closely connected to those of an ever more global world. The latest example of the financial crisis proves that the European Union must deal with the other powers of the world. But other crucial challenges, such as climate change, require world-wide mobilisation. FEPS played an active role in the **development of international networks**, with a view to coming out with innovative strategies and concrete action to answer these challenges.

While consolidating the privileged partnership with its member political foundations in Europe, FEPS has dedicated significant efforts in building a network of international correspondents that can be mobilised with a view to adding fresh thinking on global issues. In addition to a **strong collaboration** with the American **Initiative for Policy Dialogue** at Columbia University, chaired by Nobel Prize Winner Joseph STIGLITZ, even more reinforced in 2009, FEPS has established **promising contacts** and already came out with concrete realisations **with India, Africa and Latin America**.

### Events in 2009

- 26-31 January '09 | Brasil | Delegation of FEPS to the **World social Forum**;
- 2-3 February '09 | Washington & New York | Study visit to **American progressive think tanks**;
- 23-26 February '09 | Delhi | Study visit to **Indian think tanks**;
- 2-3 April '09 | Brussels | **Global Progressive Forum**;
- 28-29 April '09 | Berlin | **Africa Forum Round Table**;
- 10-11 September '09 | Santiago de Chile | Delegation of FEPS at the IVth **Progressive Forum** of the Latin American Network of Progressive Foundations;
- 5 October '09 | Washington | **EU-US economic seminar** of think tanks from both sides of the Atlantic
- 26-27 November '09 | Paris & Brussels | Conference "Enhancing **Indo-European dialogue**".

### Published in 2009

- Contribution to the **Vision Paper** of the Global Progressive Forum | Paper prepared by Mario TELO, President of the Institut d'études européennes, ULB;
- Why **Africa Matters!** Contribution prepared by Ernst STETTER, FEPS Secretary General, to the Shadow GN organised by IPD at Columbia University, New York
- The **Euro-Mediterranean dialogue**: prospects for an area of peace and security | A report published with the support of the Fondazione Italianeuropei
- **Indian Democracy** | A series of four studies by Klaus VOLL, former diplomat, head of India-Europe Consultancy
- **South Africa** after the April 2009 election | A study by Arnold WEHMHÖRNER, former director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe
- Regional integration in **Latin America**: between light and shade | A report by Susana DELBO, FEPS advisor on Latin America



## Communication

After a successful start in 2008, FEPS established in 2009 its position as the European progressive think-tank and managed to get recognised as such both by its social democratic political family and broader audience today. Nevertheless, FEPS kept a constant care on better communicating around its actions and contents, still in partnership with the international PR agency **Ogilvy**, and designed a more fine-tuned strategy not only about the messages to send, but also on the use of new tools such as social media ones to this end.

The **Internet website** of FEPS ([www.feps-europe.eu](http://www.feps-europe.eu)) became the reference tool about the Foundation. Of a quite simple and accessible design, it kept publishing regularly, in English and French, the intellectual production of the Foundation as well as all information related to its activities and events to a **monthly average of 2.000 visitors (12.000 hits)** in 2009.

FEPS also tested quite successfully new communication tools in addition to its website.

After creating a Facebook group which quickly gathered about 300 members, FEPS transformed it at the end of the year into a **Facebook page** ([www.facebook.com/pages/FEPS/178074824775?v=wall](http://www.facebook.com/pages/FEPS/178074824775?v=wall)) as it allows more dynamic publishing and more interactive opportunities and has made quite a success with it, gaining more fans every day (more than **800 “fans”** in May 2010).

In addition, and in line with the growing use of the micro-blogging platform Twitter in the area of political communication, FEPS developed a **Twitter page** ([twitter.com/FEPS\\_Europe](http://twitter.com/FEPS_Europe)), already listed in half a dozen of lists focussing on European politics.

Moreover, with a view to give more visibility to its privileged partners, namely the national political foundations and think tanks members of FEPS, and with a view to foster more synergies between them, FEPS developed a **Netvibes page** ([www.netvibes.com/feps](http://www.netvibes.com/feps)). This RSS feeds aggregator tool shows at one glance the news of all its member organisations that are equipped with this technology, giving quicker and easier access to such information not only to the broader public, but also for FEPS members themselves.

However, traditional communication tools have not been discarded. In 2009, FEPS published its first activity report, a 24-page document aiming at presenting a selection of examples illustrating the action of the Foundation to the broad public. This document, printed in 1 000 copies, was used as the first promotion tool of FEPS and widely spread among the member and partner organisations of the Foundation.





## Institutional matters

In the frame of its institutional obligations as they are set in its statutes, FEPS has held in 2009 a certain number of meetings of its decision-making bodies and held a number of coordination meetings, in particular with its privileged partners and members, namely the national political foundations.

### Institutional events in 2009:

- 15 March – 9 July '09 | Brussels | **Coordination meetings** between FEPS and its member national foundations and think tanks;
- 3 April – 15 September – 18 November '09 | Brussels | Meetings of the **Bureau of FEPS**;
- 18 November '09 | Brussels | **Ordinary General Assembly** of FEPS.

The **Scientific Committee**, which was initially planned to start functioning in 2009, could unfortunately not take place as its composition took much more time to establish than estimated in the first place. It shall however be finalised during the first half of 2010.

During the year 2009, FEPS welcomed **10 political foundations and think-tanks** as new members and counts now up to **36 member political foundations** and think tanks, to which must be added the 33 PES-member political parties, the Party of European Socialists, the S&D Group in the European Parliament, the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions, PES Women and ECOSY. FEPS therefore counts **74 member** organisations.