

Symposium Announcement

Metamorphosis of Europe - Step 2

European Unification in Trouble

December 9- 10, 2015

Vienna University of Technology and Austrian Chamber of Labour



The workshop will discuss the issues:

- Topic 1: Immigration – consequences and prospects
- Topic 2: Unemployment - which new labor organization
- Topic 3: Finance – structure of fiscal authority and subsidiarity in Europe
- Topic 4: Inequality – consequences for income inequality
- Topic 5: Econometrics – what data is needed for which type of quantification
- Topic 6: Simulation – size and scope of simulations of political economy



Content of the Symposium:

This meeting will focus on an analysis of the currently endangered further unification of Europe's political economy. After the severe internal troubles that the handling of the government debt crisis in Europe caused, now the external flow of immigrants to Europe is challenging the European Union. Both types of difficulties showed that the current institutional setting of the EU is rather inadequate – to say the least. And in both cases it is evident that the apparent deficiencies cannot be reduced to a sub-optimal institutional design (a matter of legal design) or an inappropriate communication strategy (a 'marketing' failure). The roots of these challenges are deeply ingrained in the basics of the political economy of the whole unification process.

The first International Workshop on the *Metamorphosis of Europe* that took place in Vienna in December 2013 was already confronted with the situation that the global crisis that started in 2008 would force Europe to undergo substantial changes, changes in economic and political structure and changes in decision mechanisms. In a very fruitful debate this workshop not only enhanced the knowledge of the participants with respect to the object of investigation, we also had a vivid discussion on adequate methods of the social sciences. The upcoming Symposium *Metamorphosis of Europe – Step 2* will take this structure to the next level.

As we are already observing in the last two years, metamorphosis has set in. Be it the outcome of EU elections or several national elections, be it the fact of further disintegration of labor markets, be it the more and more Germany-centered decision hierarchy, the signs of a possible EU-exit are getting hard to ignore. But given the tremendous increase in general welfare, which the European integration process has brought about during the last 60 years, the stakes are high for those who propose to leave this trajectory. At the same time it now is evident that growth of welfare can only continue with a more sophisticated relationship to changes in the production sphere and its environment. A particular focus has to be laid on the global environment, the economic and geopolitical place of Europe in the world - troubles on a new South-Eastern border are pending.

On the **first day** of the meeting we thus will focus on most important recent developments in Europe: Immigration, unemployment, finance, and inequality. As in our first workshop, the result of day 1 shall be a (revised) vision of Europe's future.

The **second day** will focus on the methods with which scientists can support economic policy to get Europe closer to this vision. Here we will focus on econometrics (and the data it needs to be helpful) as well as on simulation models providing (quantitatively specified) scenarios. The result of day 2 could eventually be the formation of working teams further developing the ideas elaborated during the meeting.

Format of the International Workshop:

The sessions will be structured by short introductory statements (20 minutes) followed by extensive open debates (90 minutes). On both days sessions will start at 9 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. Participation in the conference is free, snacks and coffee will be provided. Moreover some arrangements for lunch and dinner will be offered. A limited support of travel cost might be possible.

Location:

The conference will be hosted by the Austrian Chamber of Labour: Vienna (Austria), 1040, Theresianumgasse 16-18.

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