

Seminar: "Narrowing the development gap"

Poggio Mirteto (Rome) 18 – 20 June 2018

Introduction

The 2018 seminar focuses on “narrowing the development gap”, a central objective in a global context from Europe to China and South east Asia, between large economic areas and within individual countries. The questions which the seminar aims to provide some answers for are, “How can this be done?” “What policies and what type of global governance can be implemented to go in this direction ?” “What is the trade off, if any, between current polarized growth and the fight to diminish regional disparities and social inequalities?”

Development gaps appear to be a major determinant of instability and turmoil that have arisen over the last decade in most countries as a result of a globalization process, which has been sustained by inappropriate policies to cushion the dramatic effects on the losing social groups. Even in the rich western countries, the EU and the USA, with large welfare and protection policies, the size and concentration of these losses have been greatly underestimated, and the ruling classes as well as the major international institutions have been strongly criticized. In Africa, the Middle East, the Indian continent and Central America this unequal development has given rise to a wave of emigration towards the western countries, which have been hit by a persistent crisis and high rates of unemployment and where large social groups have lost any perspectives for their future.

The seminar will tackle these issues from different angles:

At the global level- by proposing macro scenarios up to 2030 on the world economy (using the CAM model) with a focus on EU and African development needs, on EU internal income disparities, on trade and investment, development and inequalities. These scenarios are an update of the AUGUR project carried out for the Union in 2013-2016, which provides the discussion and policy proposals with a quantitative frame. Subsequently, the discussion will focus on the issue of migration and on the size and type of policy to reinforce a growth of income and employment momentum in the countries of origin. The third session will focus on the role of GVC in determining growth in developing countries, whether they alone can set the pace of economic and social development or whether they are at the root of internal disparities and inequalities. What kind of policies can help to assure a more equal individual and regional distribution of the benefits that are produced. A fourth issue is linked to the governance of financial markets and their potential role in narrowing the development gap or whether a new global crisis is to be expected.



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At the macro-regional level — we focus on the alternative global strategies and their impact on development gaps: OBOR as a Chinese strategy of regional policy which will be compared with EU regional policy and EU strategy of enlargement and co development with other parts of the world, on the one hand and the recent USA policy stance based on trade controls and duties on imports on the other.

At the EU level - a session on EU post 2020, focusing on the strategic priorities, the budgetary options and the still much debated post-Brexit governance features and the rise of anti-EU feelings in most countries of the Union (in June we will have the final EU decisions on all these issues). This will be followed by a session on the increase in intra EU disparities between countries and regions, which will shed light on the present situation, on the perspectives up to 2030 and on the size of the “development gaps” that the EU will have to tackle.

Finally, an update on the SEASIA Euro-South Asian project document will be discussed, illustrating the progress after the Bangkok conference in December in the light of a Jakarta conference to be organized jointly with south-east Asian colleagues. A program draft will be presented by Pascal Petit. The discussion of this document aims to provide useful inputs to finalize the economic and political approach of the EU group and identify the research subjects that should be developed.

The discussion in this seminar is informal, introduced by ten-minute presentations (presenter and discussant), followed by a roundtable discussion with the other participants to integrate the analysis of the different subjects in order to reach a common conclusion encompassing the results of the different subjects.

Provisional Program of the seminar

Arrival **Sunday 17th June 2018**

Day 1 Monday 18th June 2018

Migration and relations EU-AFRICA and Middle East. An alternative program to narrow the development gap and assure growth and jobs in the country of origin

09.30 – 11.30	Macro-economic scenario EU-AFRICA (CAM model) F. Cripps / Alice Sindzingre/ B. Venturi Round table
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee break
11.45 – 13.00	Migration flows to Europe (size and main causes). To what extent migration and inclusion policies can cope? M. Meskoub / U. Melchionda / L. Marchal / G. Wolleb Round table
13.30 – 14.45	Light lunch
14.45 – 16.00	Climate change and migration A.Ninni/ C. Miccadei /P. Petit/ B. Venturi / G. Wolleb Round table
16.00 – 17.30	Trade, investment, development and inequality. A global scenario. Can Global Value Chain be a satisfactory answer? F. Cripps / J. Mazier / L. Marchal Round table
17.30	Free
20.30	Dinner

Day 2 Tuesday 19th June 2018

EU-China-USA, different approaches of global governance to regional development, trade and cooperation policy

09.30 – 11.30	OBOR “the Chinese way of cooperation” & other models of regional policy D. Drache / E. Wolleb Round table
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee break
11.45 – 13.30	A focus on EU regional and social disparities T Ward / F. De Lavergne / M. Pompili Round table
13.30 – 14.45	Light lunch
14.45 – 16.30	EU governance and regional fragmentation: the case of Brexit, Catalonia, Scotland, Italy R. Mc Dowell / M. Calamai / P. O’Sullivan Round table
20.30	Dinner

Day 3 Wednesday 20th June 2018

EU increasing disparities in 2030: are they leading to a break up scenario?

09.30 – 10.45	Scenario on EU increasing internal disparities F. Cripps / J. Mazier / P. Petit Round table
10.45 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 13.30	The EU policy priorities post 2020. An analysis of the new budget. The state of EU governance. A. Naldini / G. Wolleb / C. Miccadei Round table
13.30 – 14.45	Light lunch
14.45 – 17.00	Cooperation with South East Asia. EU-ASEAN research cooperation¹. Presentation of the project and of the progress made in Bangkok. Setting on agenda P. Petit / F. Cripps / E. Wolleb / G. Wolleb Round table
17.00 – 17.30	Conclusion and future program F. Cripps / P. Petit / E. Wolleb
19.00	Classic concert
20.30	Dinner

http://www.augurproject.eu/IMG/pdf/Executive_summary_final.pdf

¹ The aim of this session is to discuss the objectives and contents of the Euro-Asian cooperation network set up in Bangkok the last December and start defining a program for a constitutive assembly.

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PARTICIPANTS

(in alphabetical order)

Marco Calamai, U.N. Diplomatic

Francis Cripps, Co-Founder of Alphametrics, UK and research associate at the Center for Financial Analysis and Policy of the University of Cambridge

François De Lavergne, Associate Director and Director Structural Funds and Community programs of Amnyos Group, Paris

Daniel Drache, Professor of Political Science at York University and Associate Director of the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, Toronto

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Robert McDowell, Economist. Director of Summerhall, Edinburgh

Ugo Melchionda, International Migration Italian OECD correspondent for the International Migration Outlook

Mahmoud Meskoub, Senior Lecturer at International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University, Rotterdam

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