

Programme

25 June // University of Panteion, Athens

Amphitheatre Sakis Karageorgas II
136 Syngrou Avenue

15h00 – 18h00 Opening session

Welcome by **Jan Robert SUESSER**, European Civic Forum Vice-President

Key note reflections on the situation in Greece after four years of bailout and austerity measures, by **Grigoris TSALTAS**, the Dean of University of Panteion

From austerity to solidarity: how Greek people organised against the collapse of the welfare system as integral part of the political struggle against austerity memoranda: showcase of grassroots initiatives such as the social solidarity health structures, social food solidarity structures, the movement against foreclosures and evictions.

Presentation of “Solidarity 4 All” movement by **Christos Giovanopoulos**, followed by discussion with the participants on the transformative role of such solidarity and resistance movements as alternatives to austerity and the neoliberal destruction of the public welfare system.

19h00 Visit to a Social Pharmacy in Patisia

20h30 Diner

26 June / Melina Mercouri Cultural Center

PART 1 // 10h00 – 12h30

GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE: CHALLENGING PUBLIC ACTION IN DELIVERING PUBLIC GOODS

Keynote reflections by Haris GOLEMIS, economist from the *transform! europe* network, Director of the Nicos Poulantzas Institute, Greece

Open forum discussion facilitated by Raffaella BOLINI, ECF Vice-President (ARCI, Italy)

>> Challenges

Safeguard access to commons / are welfare services economic?

Funding the commons / for social, participative, horizontal management of public good

Occupying public space / from protest to sustainable action

>> Questions

Is local action replacing or levelling public service provision and access to commons? How can local action influence global thinking? What transformative power?

>> Discussants

Anne-Marie PERRET, President of the European Federation of Public Service Unions (France) • Enric SENABRE HIDALGO, GOTEIO (Spain) • Lila CABALLERO, Head of Projects, Counterpoint (UK) • Alexandre CARVALHO, co-founder of the Citizenship Academy (Portugal)

12h30 – 14h00 Lunch break & Opinion Boulevard

PART 2 // 14h00 – 17h30

**CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION FOR POLITICAL CHANGE:
CHALLENGING INSTITUTIONS IN SHAPING PUBLIC POLICIES**

Keynote reflections by Giancarlo RAGOZINI, Department of Political Science of University of Naples Federico II

Open forum discussions facilitated by Josien PIETERSE, ECF Board member (Netwerk Democracy, Netherlands)

>> Challenges

Beyond hierarchy / breaking the top/down - bottom/up thinking / think in terms of networks

Civil society revival beyond dichotomies / what synergies between grassroots movements and “organised” civil society?

Empowering citizens to get co-ownership of public space

>> Questions

How to rebuild political representation? How to (re)build a positive transnational discourse?

>> Discussants

Charlot SCHANS, Parkhuis de Zwijger Cultural Center Amsterdam • Daphne BÜLLEBACH, Director of Citizenship and Participation at European Alternatives • Marina SARLI, Concord Europe (Fair Trade Hellas).

16h00 – 16h30 Coffee break & Opinion Boulevard

16h30 – 17h30 Wrap-up of discussions and next steps by Conny REUTER, Secretary General of Solidar and Jean-Marc ROIRANT, ECF President and Chair of the European year of Citizens Alliance – EYCA

20h30 Diner and social event

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Towards Democratic European Citizenship


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