

New Left Annual Conference October 8-9, 2011, Vilnius

“Nationalism, Globalization and the Future of the Left”

The 5th New Left 95 Annual Conference

PROGRAMME

Vilnius City Municipality Hall Konstitucijos pr. 3

Day One: Saturday, 8th of October 2011

9:00-9:30	Registration
9:30-11:00	Session 1: The Left in the Age of Neo-Liberal Capitalism and Nationalism
9:30-10:00	Welcome: Joanna Gwiazdecka (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Warsaw) and Andrius Bielskis (DEMOS, Vilnius)
10:00-10:30	Linus Eriksonas (DEMOS, Vilnius) ‘Nationalism and Capitalism: Tensions within the Left’
10:30-11:00	Andrius Bielskis (DEMOS, Vilnius) ‘Reflections on the Rise of Nationalism in Europe: Challenges for the Left’
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:30	Session 2: What Can the Left Learn from Growing Nationalism?
11:30-12:00	Jacob Rigi (CEU, Budapest) ‘Why Nationalism is Anachronistic’
12:00-12:30	Stanislav Holubec (Socialistický kruh, Sušice): ‘Nationalism, Regionalism and Pan Slavism of the Central European Left as a Question of its Identity’
12:30-13:00	Iñaki Santacruz (CREA, Barcelona) ‘The democratic Nationalism as a resource of meaning for the left: the case of the Basque Cooperative movement (Mondragon)’
13:00-13:30	Discussion
13:30-14:30	Lunch break

14:30-17:30	Session 3: Market Society, Human Rights and Social Progress
14:30-15:00	J.D. Mininger (VDU, Kaunas) 'Challenges to Human Rights: on the Potential for Aterritorial Justice'
15:00-15:30	Lubos Blaha (Bratislava) 'Market Society – Open Gate to Fascism'
15:30-16:00	Daiva Repečkaitė (New Left 95, Vilnius) 'Instead of Labour Force, People Came": Migrants between the Concepts of Labour and Nation'
16:00-16:30	Tadas Leončikas (DEMOS, Dublin) 'Globalization, Quality of Life and Social Progress'
16.30-17:30	Round Table Discussion
19.00	Dinner

Day Two: Sunday, 9th of October 2011

9:00-9:30	Registration
9:30-12:00	Session 4: Challenges for the Left in Czech Republic and Poland
9:30-10:00	Martin Franc 'The triangle of fear, hatred, and helplessness. Ethnic riots in northern Bohemia and left'
10:00-10:30	Gavin Rae (Lassalle Foundation, Warsaw) 'Can the Left Challenge the Dominant Right-Wing Hegemony in Poland?'
10:30-11:00	Przemysław Sadura (WU, Warsaw) 'Middle Class and the (Welfare) State in the Age of Globalization: the Polish Case'
11:00-11:30	Discussion
11:30-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-14:30	Session 5: Gender, Labour Rights and Political Activism in Lithuania and Italy
12:00-12:30	Nida Vasiliauskaitė (DEMOS, Vilnius) 'Sexual Nationalism: I Love Lithuania''
12:30-13:00	Algis Davidavičius (DEMOS, Vilnius) 'Political Activism as an (Auto) Therapeutic Exercise: a Micro-Revolutionary Perspective for Eastern European Left'
13.00-13.30	Tomas Tomilinas (SAMPRO, DEMOS, Vilnius) 'Problems and Challenges of Lithuanian Trade Unions'
13:30-14:00	Giovanni Picker (Romanian Institute for Research on Minorities Issues) 'Nationalism, Migration and the Left in Italy'
14:00-14:30	Discussion
14:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:00	Final Discussion

The two day international conference “Nationalism, Globalization and the Future of the Left”, organized by DEMOS Institute of Critical Thought is to be held in Lithuania, Vilnius on the 8th and 9th of October, 2011. It will gather local as well as international speakers, public intellectuals, civil activists, human rights defenders, and academics who will aim to address on a deeper analytic level the issues of rising nationalism, the right wing extremism, and the future of the Left in the age of capitalist globalization.

The conference will aim to address the key issues and challenges the Left should face in order to combat the rise of extreme nationalism in CEE and/or in Europe in general. It will also analyze the relationship between ideology (especially the ideology of nationalism) and global capitalism, and the ways human rights, economic democracy with the strong welfare state should be advanced and protected by the Left in Europe.

The aims of the conference:

- To analyze current situation of the rise of radical nationalism in Europe and to investigate the Leftist movements’ activities and standpoints in fighting the rise of radical nationalism in Europe with a specific focus point on CEE region.
- To discuss current political developments in Europe from the perspectives of welfare state and economic democracy
- To theoretically investigate the connections between ideology and globalization.
- To debate the future of the Political Left in connection to the issues of gender equality and human rights.
- To form and strengthen the cooperation between leftist movement in CEE countries in order to exchange research and analysis of current political developments in Europe.