



European Economists for an Alternative Economic Policy in Europe

Call for Papers and Participation

27th Annual Conference on Alternative Economic Policy in Europe

ONLINE

Responses of the EU to the Covid-19 crisis and the demand for a solidaristic and green recovery

Dear colleagues

This year's EuroMemo Group conference will take place from **14 - 24 September 2021** in an Online-Format due to Covid-19. Relevant access details will be available in due course.

This year's conference will particularly address the Covid-19 pandemic as it has exacerbated the deep economic and social crisis in the world and the EU. While the 'Next Generation EU' recovery plan follows a novel and – in part – rather solidaristic and green reaction to the economic fallout of the crisis, the management of the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed severe shortcomings and led to profound frustrations and distress amongst the EU citizenry. The crisis has also shifted political priorities. The European Green Deal and the implementation of the EU Recovery Plan are threatened by the concrete crisis management and especially by the European Semester, which is both undemocratic and dogmatically neoliberal. At the same time, tendencies towards populism and authoritarianism are deepening, not "only" in CEE countries such as Hungary and Poland. With respect to international affairs, the EU is largely incapable of formulating coherent policy answers to current challenges, in particular with respect to much needed EU and global health policies to fight the pandemic, and in a longer term trajectory, with respect to emerging geopolitical rivalries involving the US and China, but also the EU. Last but not least, the global effort to combat climate change and biodiversity loss demand explicit European policy responses.

The Covid-19 pandemic could thus become a turning point not only for global developments per se, but also with respect to the role of the EU with its gaps between "core and periphery", old and new member states, EMU members and non EMU members. At the current juncture, it is thus particularly pertinent to ask about the need for fundamentally shifting policy priorities in order to address the grand societal challenges of the present and the future. Instead of a policy approach that focuses on returning 'back to normal', the overall trajectory of progressive politics must focus on a solidaristic and green recovery as well as socio-ecological transformation. The annual conference of the EuroMemo Group provides an opportunity to discuss contributions from diverse backgrounds and academic disciplines to this end. It wants especially to invite colleagues, students and civil society activists from CEE countries.

The programme for the Online-Conference \ is as follows:

Tuesday, 14 September 2021

16.00 – 18:00 **Opening Plenary: The Political, Economic and Social State of the European Union**

Monday, 20 September 2021

16.00 – 18:00 **Plenary II: The Covid-19 crisis as an opportunity for fundamental change?**

Tuesday, 21 September 2021

16.00 – 18.00 **Plenary III: The re-emergence of geopolitics and the role of the EU: a question of peace and war?**

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

09.00 – 13.00 **Parallel Workshops**

14.00 – 18.00 **Parallel Workshops**

Thursday, 23 September 2021

09.00 – 13.00 **Parallel Workshops**

16.00 – 18.00 **Final Plenary: Policy Proposals from Workshops**

Friday, 24 September 2021

09.00 – 12.00 **General Assembly of the EuroMemo Legal Association and Planning Meeting (EuroMemorandum 2022 and other activities)**

We would like to invite you to attend the conference and to submit proposals for contributions to the Parallel Workshops.

All papers that present an original perspective on the conference theme '*Responses of the EU to the Covid-19 crisis and the demand for a solidaristic and green recovery*' are welcome. In particular, we encourage submissions that relate to recent European developments and address any of the following topics

- (1) **Macroeconomic policy:** the anatomy of recession in European states, regional disparities, the EU recovery plan and its implementation, fiscal policies, etc.
- (2) **Monetary policy:** Central banking and the role of the ECB, the emergence of cryptocurrencies, the role of the banking system during the crisis, the management of debt and of corporate bankruptcy in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis,
- (3) **Social and employment policies:** discourses on the nature and role of economic value, intersections between employment relations and social policies, work during the Covid-19 crisis, the role of health and social policies during and after the pandemic, care economy and feminist economic alternatives, the future of the EU social pillar, etc.
- (4) **Green industrial policies:** the priorities for EU economic recovery (and especially digitalisation), the EU discussions on strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty, the role of regional value chains and security of supply for critical products, the discussion on corporate due diligence legislation, digitalization, etc.
- (5) **The changing international dimension, geopolitics, and the future of the governance of the world economy:** pandemics and global health governance; the future of multilateralism, militarisation and the role of the EU in promoting global cooperation and peace, also and especially in its Eastern and Southern neighbourhood; the growing influence of Russia and China in the EU and its instrumentalisation, respectively.
- (6) **Green (New) Deals and the socio-ecological challenge ahead: are they sufficient, and how will Covid-19 affect progress?** Do the Green New Deals proposed, including the EU Green Deal, adequately address the climate and other ecological challenges? Do they have enough social content? Do they combine the two sufficiently to fundamentally change society? How does the EU Green Deal fit in this picture? How will Covid-19 affect progress on these?
- (7) **Authoritarianism, populism and democracy in the EU:** the trend towards authoritarianism and populism, also and especially in CEE countries (e.g. Hungary and Poland); the role of authoritarian and populist politics in Covid-19 crisis management; concepts and policies to react to authoritarianism and populism.

Proposals for papers together with a short abstract (maximum 250 words) should be submitted **by 20 June 2021** to info@euromemo.eu. Please indicate the topic, which the proposal is intended for. If accepted, completed papers should be submitted **by 30 August 2021**.

We strongly encourage participants to submit short papers (10-15 pages) and to explicitly address policy implications.

If you would like to submit an abstract and/ or participate in the conference, please copy the registration form below into an email and reply to info@euromemo.eu. Please note that **registration for participation is mandatory**, as we need to arrange access of participants to the online conference.

All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the Steering Committee of the EuroMemo Group. **Accepted papers will be published on the conference website. There is also the possibility to publish papers presented at the conference in the EuroMemo Group Discussion Paper Series.**

Please note that there will be **no mandatory conference fees**. Instead, we ask colleague with institutional support to pay a voluntary fee of 80 Euro and encourage other participants to **make a small donation** to our bank account. The bank account details are:

Account Name: EuroMemo Group
Name of Bank: Bankhaus Schelhammer & Schattera AG
Address: Goldschmiedgasse 3, A-1010 Wien, Austria
IBAN: AT67 1919 0000 0028 2632
BIC: BSSWATWW

Please indicate as payment reference: „Donation/Registration Fee EuroMemo Conference 2021“

We look forward to seeing you online!

Best wishes,
The Steering Committee of the EuroMemo Group

Marija Bartl, Marcella Corsi, Judith Dellheim, Wlodzimierz Dymarski, Marica Frangakis, John Grahl, Laura Horn, Maria Karamessini, Jeremy Leaman, Mahmood Messkoub, Ronan O'Brien, Heikki Patomäki, Werner Raza, Magnus Ryner, Angela Wigger

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EuroMemo Group

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Internet >> <http://www.euromemo.eu>

Registration form for the 27th Workshop on Alternative Economic Policy in Europe

(please reply to info@euromemo.eu)

Yes, I intend to participate in the 26th Workshop on Alternative Economic Policy in Europe
(14 - 24 September 2021)

First Name:

Last Name:

Institution:

City:

e-mail:

Yes, I wish to contribute a paper

Title of the Paper:

Abstract (max. 250 words):