



The Masaryk Democratic Academy, the Czech representation of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies are jointly launching this high-level gathering in Prague, at the centre of Europe, to reflect about potential avenues to enhance European integration in the social sphere.

Social Cohesion in Digital Times

28 February - 1st March 2019

PRAGUE

Černínský palác
Loretánské náměstí 5

This third edition of the Prague Social Europe Conference will focus on the European actions, in terms of politics and policies, which are needed to properly manage the on-going digitalisation process that is transforming labour markets and also requiring updates in the education and welfare systems. The implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights needs a coherent approach that keeps together national and European legislation providing rights and social protection to atypical and new form of employment. Among other matters, also the financial backing from EU and national resources to uphold social outcomes all across Europe will be a subject of debate.

Draft Conference Programme

1st day: 28th FEBRUARY 2019

16:00 Registration

16:30 Welcoming remarks

Lubomír Zaorálek, President of the Masarykova Demokratická Akademie

Anne Seyfferth, Director, FES Office in the Czech Republic and Slovakia

Ernst Stetter, Secretary General, Foundation for European Progressive Studies

17:00 High Level Talk

The European Pillar of Social Rights: Implementation or Stagnation?

After an ambitious start in autumn 2017, the European Pillar of Social Rights needs continuing efforts to secure its correct and prompt implementation. To avoid stagnation in the implementation process new energy and clear guidance are needed in all three large areas: 1) equal opportunities and access to the labour market, 2) fair working conditions, and 3) social protection and inclusion. Sadly, calls for nationalism and authoritarianism or even welfare chauvinism are becoming more frequent and vocal. How shall we face those challenges and build the pillar more robust and ambitious?

Introduction by:

- **Björn Hacker**, HTW – University of Applied Science Berlin

Talk with:

- **Jana Maláčová**, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic
- **Maria João Rodrigues**, President of FEPS & Vice President of the S&D Group at the European Parliament

Moderator: Lubomír Zaorálek, President of the Masarykova Demokratická Akademie

19:00 Keynote Address and Reception:

by **Tomáš Petříček**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

2nd day: 1 MARCH 2019

9:00 – 11:00 Breakout Session

Workshop 1: European Financing for Socially Relevant Priorities (in ENGLISH)

- **Laszlo Andor**, Senior Fellow, FEPS and Former European Commissioner
- **Lieve Franssen**, Director Insights Europe (TBC)
- **Danuše Nerudová**, Rector, Mendel University in Brno
- **Ronny Mazzocchi**, Advisor to the Chair of the ECON Committee at the European Parliament (TBC)

Moderator: **Ania Skrzypek**, Senior Research Fellow, FEPS

Workshop 2: European Financing for Socially Relevant Priorities (in CZECH)

- **Ales Chmelař**, State Secretary for European Affairs
- **Josef Středula**, President of the Bohemian-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions
- **Radek Špicar**, Vice-president of Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic
- **Zuzana Stöcklová**, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

Moderator: **Michal Pícl**, Masarykova Demokratická Akademie

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee Break

11:20 Expert Talk

Social protections for the digital transformation

The so-called digital revolution poses a series of challenges to the way in which we organise and regulate economic and social development in Europe. Often, misleading terms such as “sharing economy” or “collaborative economy” hide under an appealing and modern cover, some old and worrisome phenomena: workers’ exploitation, extreme precarisation of work, race to the bottom, etc. How can the European Union and the new upcoming Commission facilitate the soft and fair landing of automation, robotization and artificial intelligence?

- **Marc Graham**, Professor of Internet Geography, Oxford Internet Institute (TBC)
- **Luca Visentini**, Secretary General, European Trade Union Confederation (TBC)
- **Sasha Garben**, Permanent Professor of EU Law, College of Europe (TBC)
- **Sofia Fernandes**, Senior Research Fellow, Jacques Delors Institute (TBC)

Moderator: **Kateřina Smejkalová**, Researcher, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

13:00 Light Lunch