ACCEPT PLURALISM – EU RESEARCH PROJECT

TOLERANCE, PLURALISM AND SOCIAL COHESION: RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY IN EUROPE

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

Nicosia, 27-28 September 2012

27 September, UNESCO Amphitheatre, University of Nicosia
28 September, RED Amphitheatre, Millennium Building, University of Nicosia

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) is organizing a two day European Conference on Tolerance, Pluralism and Social Cohesion: Responding to the Challenges of the 21st Century in Europe that will take place on 27-28 September 2012. The Conference is being organized within the framework of the project Tolerance, Pluralism and Social Cohesion: Responding to the Challenges of the 21st Century in Europe - ACCEPT PLURALISM funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme, DG Research, Social Sciences and Humanities.

The aim of the conference is to present the main findings of the research undertaken across Europe in relation to tolerance and intolerance on political and civic participation and diversity. Further, the conference aims to discuss the (in)visibility of the gender dimension in discourses and policies on tolerance, pluralism and multiculturalism in Europe and provide insights on its relevance as an analytical tool and in the formulation of policy.

This two-day conference will bring together the partners of the ACCEPT Pluralism project, as well as external scholars, social and political actors from different countries, women’s rights organisations as well as anti-racism and migrant networks in order to reflect upon and discuss the results of the project and to share their own experiences in addressing (in)tolerance in political and public life.

The first day of the conference will consist of a public event to present the main findings of the ACCEPT Pluralism project. The event will focus on policies of inclusion on a European level in relation to the participation of migrants and ethnic minorities in political and public life, drawing on national case studies conducted in the context of the ACCEPT Pluralism project. The second day of the conference on Gender, Diversity and (In)tolerance in Europe focuses on far right discourses of intolerance discourses towards diversity and issues of minority participation and representation. It also raises the issue of the (in)visibility of gender dimension in discourses and policies on tolerance and diversity in political life, drawing also on the experiences of representatives of civil society.

The conference will close with the launch of a book publication of the ACCEPT Pluralism project entitled Addressing tolerance and diversity discourses in Europe. A Comparative Overview of 16 European Countries and with the presentation of the Handbook on Tolerance and Cultural Diversity in Europe.
Thursday, 27 September | UNESCO Amphitheatre, University of Nicosia

Policy Conference

15:00-15:30 Arrival and registration of participants
15:30-17:00 Key note addresses
Chair: Tariq Modood, University of Bristol
Anna Triandafyllidou, Project Coordinator, European University Institute European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre
Presentation of the ACCEPT PLURALISM project theoretical and empirical framework
Androula Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Sport, Media and Youth
Louisa Anastopoulou, European Commission, Project Officer
Eliza Savvidou, Commissioner for Administration in Cyprus, Authority against Racism and Discrimination
Discussion

17:00-17:30 Coffee break
17:30-19:30 Tolerance and Intolerance in political life
Chair: Tariq Modood, University of Bristol
Speakers: Maurizio Ambrosini, University of Milan
Local policies of exclusion
Ayhan Kaya, Istanbul Bilgi University
Native minority representation and participation structures
Flora Burchianti, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Far right discourses of intolerance
Jan Dobbernack, University of Bristol
Religion and politics in France and the UK
Discussant: Veit Bader, University of Amsterdam
The meaning and limits of tolerance in political life
Discussion

Friday, 28 September | Red Amphitheatre, Millennium Building, University of Nicosia

Gender, Diversity and (In)Tolerance in Europe

09:00-09.15 Arrival and registration of participants
09:15-09:30 Welcome and introduction
09:30-11:00 Far right discourse of intolerance towards diversity
Chair: Per Mouritsen, Aarhus University
Speakers: Zsuzsa Vidra, Central European University, Budapest
Intolerance discourses towards Roma in Hungary
Hara Kouki, European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre
Intolerance discourses towards immigrants in Greek politics
Flora Burchianti, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Discourses of intolerance towards immigrants in Catalunya
Discussant: Werner Schifauer, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt a. O
Tolerance and boundary drawing
Discussion
11:00 - 11.30 Coffee break
11:30-13:00  

Issues of minority participation and representation

Chair: Jon Fox, University of Bristol

Speakers:

- Marko Hajdinjak, International Centre for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (IMIR), Sofia
  Roma and Turkish political representation in Bulgaria

- Lasse Lindelkilde, University of Asrgus
  The limits of tolerance in Danish political life

- Angeline Escaffre Dublet, Sciences Po, Paris
  The concept of laïcité and Muslim mobilization in France

Discussant: Nasar Meer, University of Northumbria

Discussion

13:00-14:30  

Lunch

14:30-16:00  The (in)visibility of the gender dimension in discourses and policies on tolerance and diversity in political life

Chair: Maurizio Ambrosini, University of Milan

Speakers:

- Anna Triandafyllidou
  Critical insights on the (in)visibility of gender in the study of tolerance/intolerance in political life: lessons learnt from the country studies of the ACCEPT PLURALISM project

- Maleiha Malik
  The relevance of gender in discourses on tolerance, pluralism and multiculturalism in Europe (TBC)

Discussant: Nina Mühe, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt a. O.

Discussion

16:00-16:30  

Coffee break

16:30-18:00  Gender and (in)tolerance in political and public life

Chair: Nicos Trimikliniotis, Associate Professor, University of Nicosia, Senior Research Consultant for PRIO Cyprus Centre, Researcher for Symfiliosi

Speakers:

- Josie Christodoulou, Policy Officer, Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, MIGS
  Civic Participation of Migrant Domestic Workers

- Sebihana Skenderovska, National Roma Centrum in Macedonia
  Participation in Public Life and Political representation - the European Roma strategy: challenges and opportunities

- Nicoletta Charalambidou, Vice Chair ENAR, Board Member of KISA (Action for Equality, Support and Antiracism)
  Racism and public discourse and its impact on migrant women

- Alwiye Xusein, European Network of Migrant Women
  Migrant Women and Political Participation in Europe

Discussion

18:00-20:00  

Presentation of books:

- Handbook on Tolerance and Cultural Diversity in Europe (Anna Triandafyllidou and ACCEPT PLURALISM Consortium)

and

- Addressing tolerance and diversity discourses in Europe. A Comparative Overview of 16 European Countries (eds Ricard Zapata-Barrero and Anna Triandafyllidou)

Cocktail
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Louisa Anastopoulou</td>
<td>Project Officer, European Commission, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicoletta Charalambidou</td>
<td>Vice Chair ENAR, Board Member of KISA (Action for Equality, Support and Antiracism), Cyprus</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ncharalambidou.law@cytanet.com.cy">ncharalambidou.law@cytanet.com.cy</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malik Maleiha</td>
<td>Professor, The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:maleiha.malik@kcl.ac.uk">maleiha.malik@kcl.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasar Meer</td>
<td>PhD, Research Assistant to the ACCEPT PLURALISM project, Northumbria University, UK</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:nasar.meer@northumbria.ac.uk">nasar.meer@northumbria.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>Sebihana Skenderovska</td>
<td>National Roma Centrum in Macedonia, Macedonia</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:skenderovska@nationalromacentrum.org">skenderovska@nationalromacentrum.org</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Researcher for Symfiliosi, Cyprus</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:nicostrim@logosnet.cy.net">nicostrim@logosnet.cy.net</a></td>
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<td>Professor, Head of the Dutch research team of ACCEPT PLURALISM</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Professor, Head of the Turkish research team of ACCEPT PLURALISM Director of</td>
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<td>Hara Kouki</td>
<td>PhD candidate, Research Assistant to the ACCEPT PLURALISM project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Werner Schiffauer</td>
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<td>Anna Triandafyllidou</td>
<td>Professor (part time), Scientific Coordinator of the ACCEPT PLURALISM Project</td>
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