

Europa Social debate

SOCIAL RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF THE EUROPEAN UNION POLICY AGENDA: SCALING UP THE VOICES OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

 **DECEMBER 10TH 2024 [9.30H - 13.30H]**

 HUB SOCIAL [CARRER GIRONA 34, BARCELONA]

The 2024 edition of the '**Europa Social**' debate will be held at a time of key policy transformations for the European Union. It will take place in parallel with the consolidation of the EU priorities for the 2024-2029 period. As a yearly meeting point for EU social policy discussions from a local point of view, the 2024 Europa Social debate will address the future of guaranteeing social rights at a EU level, as well as the role of civic, local and regional stakeholders in contributing to its advancement. The conference will assess the achievements and shortcomings of the past legislature, the priorities of the coming policy cycle and the most current proposals for improvement regarding territorial implementation.

The debate will put human rights at the centre and analyse how this new period for social policies in the European Union should allow for consolidation and expansion or risk stagnation and regression.

The **European Commission and member states commitments to the European Pillar of Social Rights and the future of European democratic governance will be addressed with particular emphasis**, focusing specifically on the following policy processes:

- The future European Anti Poverty Strategy.
- The implementation of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum.
- The future European Affordable Housing Strategy.
- The new agendas for intergenerational dialogue and mental health.
- The fight against hate speech and the update of sectoral plans in favour of equality and non-discrimination.

The 'Europa Social' debate is a shared initiative of the Third Sector Platform of Catalonia (*Taula del Tercer Sector*) and Catalonia International (previously known as DIPLOCAT) which holds its fifth gathering this year, 2024. The debate seeks to showcase the voices of local and EU stakeholders that aim at influencing the definition of new policy agendas.

Ultimately, the role of multi-stakeholder and inter-territorial partnerships will also be explored in depth, as these paradigms also represent practical pathways for improving policymaking and policy implementation. Accordingly, the debate will focus on the role that key stakeholders -such as third sector organisations and local and regional governments- play in improving European Union governance and policy impact.

PROGRAMME

9:30h Welcome of participants

Event led by **ISAAC ROMERO**, journalist and director of "DIVIK. Connect and communicate"

10:00h Welcome regards

- ▶ **ENRIC MORIST**, President of the Third Sector Platform of Catalonia.
- ▶ **LAURA FORASTER**, Director General of Catalonia International.
- ▶ **JOSEP ANTONI ROM**, Rector of the Ramon Llull University.

10:20h Roundtable discussion: 'Where do we come from and where are we heading on the European Union social agenda?'

The first roundtable will analyse the evolution of the European Union social agenda from 2019 to 2024 and the conditions that will determine the current legislature.

- ▶ **MARIA NIKOLOPOULOU**, Vice President of the Working Group on Equality and NAT section (agriculture, rural development and the environment) of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).
- ▶ **DANIJEL ĆUBELIĆ**, Vice President of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR).
- ▶ **CARLOS SUSÍAS**, President of the European Anti Poverty Network and EAPN-Spain.
- ▶ **PILAR MURO**, Professor at the Faculty of Communication and International Relations at Blanquerna - Ramon Llull University.

11:30h Coffee break

12:00h Roundtable discussion: 'Priorities for advancing the new social agenda of the European Union'

The second roundtable will focus on debates and policy areas that are set to be expanded within the EU's emerging social agenda. Priorities will be addressed with a spirit of human rights promotion through public-private-social innovation.

- ▶ **HAMZA BENNIS**, Policy Officer in charge of Employment, Digitalisation and Public Services at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions - CEMR (Belgium).
- ▶ **DELAL ATMACA**, Director of Da Migra network (Germany).
- ▶ **BARBARA MITATS**, Head of Programmes and knowledge at the Mental Health Federation of Catalonia (Catalonia).
- ▶ **RAFFAELLA SCALISI**, Head of International Activities and Strategic Projects at Torino Social Impact (Italy).

Open debate.

13:15h Closing remarks

- ▶ **MÒNICA MARTÍNEZ BRAVO**, Minister of Social Rights and Inclusion of the Government of Catalonia.