

The Greek Initiative for a Debt Audit, the European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad), the Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt (CADTM), the Bretton Woods Project UK, Research Money and Finance, Debt and Development Coalition Ireland, Afri Action from Ireland, Jubilee Debt Campaign UK, the Observatorio de la Deuda en la Globalización Spain invite you to

Debt and Austerity: From the Global South to Europe

Global Gathering in Athens, Greece

6th-8th May 2011

Athens Law School, Auditorium 1

Address: Sina 3 and Massalias, Athens

AGENDA (draft)

Friday 6th May

17.30 – 19.00: The reality of the crisis in Greece

This session aims at developing a deeper understanding of the causes and nature of the debt crisis in Greece, including the fiscal system and taxation policies; gaining a clearer understanding of the economic and political situation in Greece and learning about how the crisis is impacting on the people.

Speakers:

- Leonidas Vatikiotis, journalist and economist
- Nadia Valavani, author
- Kostas Doyzinas, Professor of Law and Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities
- Notis Marias, Academic in European Economics

19.30 – 21.00: Debt in Europe - Key players and current politics

This session aims at discussing impacts and views of the crisis in other European contexts and to learn about and discuss the European political response to the crisis and the approach and impacts of the new European Union/ European Central Bank/ International Monetary Fund combination of lenders. Panellists from Ireland, Portugal, Germany and Poland will start off the debate by presenting the current reality of tackling debt and lending levels and policy condition trends in their countries.

Speakers:

- Andy Storey, Action from Ireland (Afri)
- Darius Zalega, Poland
- Andrej Hunke, Die Linke, Germany
- Portugal: Speaker to be confirmed
- Comments from the floor from other indebted European countries.

Saturday 7th May

11.30 – 12.00: Welcome and practical information

12.00 – 13.30: The global problem of debt: Debt Crises in the global South

This session will present the roots and current situation of the debt crises in the South, including specific country cases. Panellists will also touch upon the role of the International Monetary Fund with regards to debt crises in the South and provide analysis on the links between debt and tax justice in Northern and Southern countries.

Speakers:

- Introduction to debt crises in the South, speaker TBC
- Mimoun Rahmani, ATTAC/CADTM Morocco
- Fathi Chamki, RAID/ATTAC/CADTM Tunisia
- Nick Dearden, Jubilee Debt Campaign UK

13.30: Lunch

15.00 – 16.30: Alternatives for dealing with debt - international lessons

This session aims at discussing alternatives for how to react to current and future debt crises, including illegitimate debt. Panellists will provide participants with an introduction to concepts of default, restructuring and repudiation and use specific examples to analyse implications of different policy responses.

Speakers:

- Oscar Ugarteche, Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- Alan Cibils, Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina
- Fanwell Bokosi, African Network and Forum on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)

17.00 – 18.30: Experiences of debt audits from around the globe

The session aims at gaining insights and into the impacts of different kinds of debt audits and their benefits and limitations, and discussing lessons learned relevant to a European context. All panellists will present their hands-on experiences from working with debt audits.

Speakers:

- Maria Lucia Fattorelli, Auditoria ciudadana de la deuda - Brazil
- Claudio Losano, MP in Argentina
- Eric Toussaint, CADTM Belgium
- Malou Tabios, Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD), the Philippines

18.30: Snack

19.30 – 21.00: Implications of different euro-zone debt outcomes

Drawing on lessons and discussions from earlier sessions, this Saturday evening session invites panellists and participants to analyse and debate the implications of different alternatives for euro-zone countries.

Speakers:

Costas Lapavitsas, Research on Money and Finance, SOAS, UK

Andy Storey, Action from Ireland (Afri)

Last speaker TBC

Sunday 8th May

11.00 – 13.30: Open space for participants to organise workshops and internal strategy meetings.

13.30: Lunch

14.30 -15.00: Taking stock - Summary of previous days

15.00 – 16.30: Demands and actions for debt justice

During this session representatives from various social movements and trade unions will give practical snap-shots of their ongoing work. The session aims at exploring next steps for civic action in Greece and in Europe and strategies for linking Southern and Northern initiatives.

Moderator:

Sofia Sakorafa, Greek independent MP

17.00 – 18.30: Athens debt declaration

This session will present one of the outcomes of this global gathering: The Athens debt declaration.

Moderator:

Leonidas Vatikiotis, journalist and economist

Speakers:

- George Katrougalos, Constitutionalist and international lawyer, Associate Professor of Public Law Panayiotis Sotiris, academic and part of political party ANTAPΣYA's coordinating team
- Yiannis Tolios, economist and member of political party SYNASPISMOS's political secretary
- European non-Greek representative to be confirmed
- Global South representative to be confirmed

Registration and further information

To register, please send the following information to debtcrisisconference@gmail.com before 28. April

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

E-MAIL

COUNTRY

Main languages for the conference are Greek and English. Please let us know if you need interpretation into other languages.

For more information, please contact

Greece: Christina arbutus@riseup.net

Ireland: Nessa Ní Chasaide nessa@debtireland.org 01 6174835 / Andy Storey andy.storey@ucd.ie

UK: Nick Dearden nick@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk + 44 207 324 4722

Other countries: Øygunn Brynildsen obrynildsen@eurodad.org +32 2 894 4645

Welcome!



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