

## **Challenges of Europe: Building and Promoting Human Security** Inclusion and Exclusion in Contemporary European Societies, Edition 10

### **Utrecht/Brno/Zagreb and the Inter University Center Dubrovnik (Croatia)**

**Period**

**April 18-22 2016**

**Department:**

Utrecht School of Governance, Utrecht University, The Netherlands; Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic; Faculty of Political Science, Zagreb, Croatia; The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia; Inter University Centre Dubrovnik, Croatia

**Course directors:**

Prof. dr. Wieger Bakker (Utrecht University School of Governance); Viktor Koska MA (Faculty of Political Science, Zagreb University), Prof. Dr. Ladislav Rabusic (Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University Brno) and Dr. Paul Stubbs (The Institute of Economics, Zagreb)

**Lecturers:**

International staff (incomplete) : Prof. dr. Brigitte Unger (WSI-Germany / Utrecht University School of Economics), Prof. dr. Godfried Engbersen (Sociology Department, Erasmus University Rotterdam), Dr. René van Rijsselt (Utrecht University), Prof. dr. Frans van Waarden (University College Utrecht, Utrecht University); Prof dr. Trudie Knijn (Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, Utrecht University)

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### **Topic of the course**

Europe is struggling with human security. Human Security, a concept developed by the UN in 1994, refers to security threats individuals experience, which go beyond national security and are related to global or regional developments, conflicts and crisis. UNDP defined 7 areas of threats: Economic security, Food security, Health security, Environmental security, Personal security, Community security and Political security. The global economic and financial crisis, the conflicts and migration flows that result, in part at least, from it, as well as the changing landscape of economic powers impact on all these types of security in European countries today.

Dominant in the public and political debate are issues like the endangered security of the citizens of Ukraine and of the EU due to military conflicts; the growing number of refugees and migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean to escape from conflict and poverty, escaping one human tragedy only to face, often, another; the fear of terrorism within the EU related to the activities of IS in Syria, Iraq and North Africa; and increased xenophobia and violence against migrant populations within the EU.

But as the concept of Human Security suggests, security is not only an issue to be discussed and debated in relation to violence and conflict. It is also a topical subject

in relation to the growing marginalization of vulnerable groups in European countries, to a large extent related to the effects of the financial and economic crisis of the past 8 years and the austerity policies that followed from it. Especially the situation of the unemployed, older people, young people, people with disabilities, migrants and ethnic minorities, and others, can be considered insecure in relation to income and access to food, healthcare and basic social security. In addition, there are growing concerns about the security of the natural environment in terms of global warming, rising sea levels and decreased access to clean water and air. Combined, one could argue that in a broad sense 'Human Security' within Europe is at stake.

In this course we will address Human Security in Europe by looking at three questions:

- In what ways is Human Security threatened in European countries today, both within the EU and in wider Europe as a whole, and what new and emerging forms of social exclusion are associated with these threats?
- How are these threats related to regional or global developments and crises and what mechanisms are involved?
- What can be done by which actors on what levels, to protect individuals, groups, communities and societies from these threats?

The course encourages diverse approaches to these questions from different academic disciplines, including, but not limited to: anthropology, sociology, political science, economics, and law. Above all, we encourage explorations of these issues which combine theory and practice, addressing both analytical questions and issues of policy interventions, governance and political strategy, whether at the local, national, comparative, European and/or global level, as well as on the importance of activism and social movements.

### **Course History**

This course is the tenth edition of a bi-annual series of courses of which Inclusion and Exclusion in Contemporary European Societies is the central theme. In 1998 the emphasis was on the exploration of the concepts of In- and Exclusion. In 2000 there was an accent on empirical data. The edition of 2002 focused on Inclusion and Exclusion in terms of (policy and governmental and non-governmental) intervention. In 2004 the course focussed on the EU-enlargement and the future of 'civil society' and 'governance'. In 2006 we looked at the dilemmas in dealing with diversity and the directions that are open for action. In 2008 we addressed the emerging paradoxical trend of a Europe that is on the one hand becoming more provincial, parochial and frozen and on the other hand becoming more dynamic, cosmopolitan and a global player. In 2010 we concentrated on the consequences of the financial crisis for exclusion and inclusion in the EU and in 2012 we paid attention to the ways in which soft power, compared to hard power, could contribute to solving social problems. During our last course in 2014, we focussed on the role of citizens and the importance of citizenship in Europe.

### **Working methods**

In this course we bring together students that are likely to have a future career within or connected with the public domain (and lecturers and researchers) from the so-called 'old EU' (especially the Netherlands), new and candidate member states of the EU and from the so-called 'new neighbours'. The aim is to share and to discuss our knowledge and perspectives on the Challenges of Europe. The intensive international part of the course in Dubrovnik includes different longer and shorter plenary presentations by resource persons from different countries, workshop sessions with presen-

tations by participants, forum debates, simulation games, future creating workshops, and so on. As lecturers and participants stay in the same hotel, discussions will be extended during evening hours within an informal setting.

### **Participants**

The course is primarily open to Masters and Phd students. For most participating departments this course has the character of a so-called 'honours programme'. In general the course is aimed at students of disciplines that are dealing with issues related to the public domain (social sciences including e.g. sociology, political science, public administration and policy sciences, anthropology, European Studies, law, economics, organizational sciences etc.). The course is selective. The selection will be made by the course directors and/or the participating institutes.

### **Assignments**

Participants are obliged to give a workshop presentation and to prepare a paper in advance on research related to the central theme of the course. The participants will be asked to send in proposals for papers and workshop presentations. The proposals have to be related to the central theme of the course. Participants can for instance choose (or combine) different angles to approach the central theme of the course. These may include, but are not limited to:

- identifying, describing and analyzing new or changing forms of social exclusion on a local, national, regional or European level (and showing the European dimension of it), especially those related to ideas of citizenship in its broadest sense
- focusing on and evaluating ways to address (intervention, public policy) forms of exclusion (and how relations with other countries and the EU influence these)
- focusing specifically on the possibilities and limitations of addressing these issues on a European level or by the EU.

During the months preceding the course there will be assistance through information on the website and by e-mail. The final papers will be published on the website after the course. Furthermore, participants are expected to write a short summary of their own presentation and a short report on one of the other presentations. The summaries will be part of the hard copy and the e-version of the final report of the course. Requirements can be found on the website [www.inclusionexclusion.eu](http://www.inclusionexclusion.eu).

### **Information**

For information on the program, costs, grants and the application procedure for Dubrovnik 2016, please contact Raphaël Lepot who is assistant to the course. His E-mail address is: [raphaellepot@gmail.com](mailto:raphaellepot@gmail.com). Reports from earlier editions since 1998 are available.

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