

**THE WORLD IN CRISIS: ECONOMIES AND POLICIES FOR GLOBAL  
TRANSFORMATION**

**Alternative ECOFIN Conference**

30 March – 1 April 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

**Invitation**

Dear colleagues and friends,

We have the pleasure to invite you to **The World in Crisis: Economies and Policies for Global Transformation – Alternative ECOFIN Conference** which will take place in Prague from March 30<sup>th</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.

The meeting of EU Economic and Finance ministers (ECOFIN) is taking place for the first time in the Czech Republic. The historical conjuncture of this event is exceptional. The world is witnessing the deepest financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression in 1929. At the same time, the climate crisis seems to be escalating; energy crisis, poverty and hunger are increasing.

In such a situation, civil society has to raise its voice and to mobilise for change. The economic paradigm dominating the last decades, has failed. We urgently need alternatives. The EU has to play an eminent role in the process of change. Our conference is meant to discuss such alternatives and to contribute to the process of reform ahead.

Prague conference continues in the tradition of Alternative ECOFIN Conferences held since 2006 in Vienna, Berlin and Ljubljana. With respect to deep and multiple crises, the conference will go beyond the EU financial and economic policies.

**Organizers**

Prague conference is organized by Prague Global Policy Institute – Glopolis with support of Action Aid, Attac, Brettonwoods Project (UK), EURODAD, CEE Bankwatch and Counter Balance, European Alternative Economic Memorandum, Hnutí Duha – Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Greenpeace Czech Republic, Heinrich Böll Foundation, International Forum on Globalization (USA), New Economics Foundation (UK), Social Watch (Uruguay), Tax Justice Network, Third World Network (Malaysia), Vedegylet – Protect the Future (Hungary), WEED - World Economy, Ecology & Development Assoc. (Germany).

**Date and venue of the meeting**

The conference will start on **March 30<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** at 13:00 and will finish on **April 1<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday)** by 13:30.

It will take place in historical centre of Prague at **Michnův Palác, Újezd 450/40, Praha 1**

### **Program of the conference**

In the attachment you can find current version of the program. Please, note that it is still a working version, which is still amenable to partial changes. We will up-date the program regularly. For up-dates, please check [www.glopolis.org](http://www.glopolis.org) (in the menu on the left side).

### **Registration and funding**

In the attachment you can find conference registration form. Please fill in all required information and send it back to [knechtlova@glopolis.org](mailto:knechtlova@glopolis.org) by **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Since our financial resources are limited, we would kindly ask the participants to cover their travel and accommodation costs.

The conference fee is up to EUR 25 for all participants (except speakers and facilitators). The fee can be waived if based on justified request. Please check information package for details!

We kindly ask those who would need further financial assistance to fill *Application for funding* which is attached to registration form and send it to [knechtlova@glopolis.org](mailto:knechtlova@glopolis.org) by **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Language of the conference:**

The main language of the conference will be English.

We will provide simultaneous translation of all panels into Czech and English. At this moment we cannot confirm translation into French. Please, do not forget to indicate your language preferences in the registration form.

Discussions in workshops will be held mainly in English (we will try to provide “personal” voluntary interpreters for those who prefer Czech or French if necessary)

### **Logistics and organization**

Due to our limited capacities, we would like to ask participants to book accommodation on their own. In the attachment, you can find the information package, which includes tips for accommodation and other logistical and organizational information.

For more information, please check [www.glopolis.org](http://www.glopolis.org) (in the menu on the left side) where you can find downloads of up-dated versions of the program, registration form and other useful information about the conference.

Should you have any further inquires on the content of the conference, you can contact Ondrej Kopecny at [kopecny@glopolis.org](mailto:kopecny@glopolis.org) or Petr Lebeda at [lebeda@glopolis.org](mailto:lebeda@glopolis.org). If you need help with logistics, please contact Jana Knechtlova at [knechtlova@glopolis.org](mailto:knechtlova@glopolis.org).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Prague soon.

With warm regards

Glopolis  
On behalf of the organization team

The conference is financially supported by:

