



2017 EISS Conference – Amsterdam (the Netherlands)

Devolution and Decentralisation of Social Security in Europe: Dismantling the Welfare State or a Democratic Promise for the Future?

28th-29th September 2017

Protestantse Diaconie, Nieuwe Herengracht 18
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

CALL FOR PAPERS

I. Conference

In many developed states regional and local authorities are given more powers in the field of the development and management of social security and welfare. The background of this decentralisation trend is diverse. Local authorities are thought to be in close contact with the citizens and their organisations, which makes them suitable actors to involve civil society in the running of the welfare state. Also constitutional devolution may play a role, as some states are actively redefining the balance of power between the central state and regional government, a process which also affects the architecture of the social security system. The background may also be financial; it is not unusual for central government to involve local administration in realising budget cuts in exchange for more powers for the latter.

On September 28th and 29th, the EISS organises together with the University of Groningen an international conference which is devoted to this trend of devolution and decentralisation in social security. The conference is aimed at bringing together academics, policy makers, social security administrators and client representatives. It has an outspoken ambition to present research from multiple disciplines, thereby contributing towards a more global understanding of the devolution and decentralisation trends in social security.

II. Call for papers

Researchers are kindly invited to participate at the EISS Conference 2017 by presenting a research paper in one of the following four tracks:

- 1) Devolution and Decentralisation: The Response of European law (day 1)
- 2) Devolution and Decentralisation: Book Panel (days 1 & 2, only upon a prior invitation)
- 3) Devolution and Decentralisation: Miscellaneous (days 1 & 2)
- 4) Social Security: Young Researchers (day 2)

The set-up of the conference aims at giving the floor to a greater number of researchers (both young and more experienced). The papers presented in the first track address the response of European law (EU law and ESC) to the devolution and decentralisation trends. In the second track, academics who were invited to participate in the publication of a book bearing the same title as the conference will present their contributions. The third track accommodates other research which fits within the theme of the conference. The range of subjects covered by the conference theme is big and exceeds the boundaries of a single academic discipline. Here is a shortlist of example subjects:

- Philosophical, sociological and economical background of the decentralisation trend
- Changes in law and institutional setting from a comparative perspective
- Regional powers versus national responsibility and EU involvement
- The division of financial responsibility between the national, the regional and the local level
- Ministerial responsibility for the quality of the local welfare state
- The governance split between functional and territorial decentralisation
- Local authorities as the bearer of international responsibility of socio-economic fundamental rights
- Local differentiation versus the principle of equal treatment
- Citizen involvement in policy making, good and bad practices
- Local discretion, tailor made decisions and the risk of arbitrary decision making
- ICT solutions and privacy in a local environment
- The problem of taking responsibility for excluded or marginalized groups (failed asylum seekers, the homeless, etc.)
- Settlement of justice in the quasi legal sphere of the local welfare state
- Models of civil society involvement
- Contracting out to private partners versus in-house solutions
- Not rowing but steering: national financial incentives and supervision

While the first three tracks are thematic and confined to the theme of the conference, the fourth track is of an open character. It provides young talent with the possibility to present their research in social security to a wider academic audience. The research conducted in this track must not necessarily have links with the devolution and decentralisation trends.

III. Procedure and important dates

If you would like to present a research paper at the EISS Conference 2017, please:

- Register on the [conference website](#). Please take into account that attendance at the conference is **limited to 100 participants**.
- Send a paper abstract of max. 500 words to eiss-conference@rug.nl (deadline **1st of August**). Please include the (concept) title of the paper, an indication of the relevant track number (1, 2, 3 or 4) and a short list of keywords that describe your topic.



Please take into account the following important dates:

- **1st of August:** submission of a paper abstract (max. 500 words)
- **10th of September:** submission of the full paper (max. 5000 words)

For more information and updates, please consult <http://www.rug.nl/law/eiss-conference-2017> or send an email to eiss-conference@rug.nl