

Call for applications

Genshagen Trilateral Winter School 2020/2021 The Coronavirus Crisis – Curse or Opportunity for a “Social Europe”?

October 2020 – March 2021



About the Winter School

Every summer since 2012, the Genshagen Trilateral Summer School brings together students from German, French, and Polish universities at beautiful castle Genshagen close to Berlin to discuss a topic of European relevance. Due to Covid-19 the 2020 edition of the Summer School will be organized differently than the years before. It will take place as a “Winter School” between October 2020 and March 2021 and will be held in a hybrid format structured in two parts.

In a first part, students will learn about the basics of this year’s topic in a series of online lectures. The online lectures will be complemented by virtual “Students meet practitioners” sessions, where practitioners from various institutions will give insights into their everyday work and career opportunities in their respective sectors. In a second part, students will get the opportunity to apply their knowledge in an interactive simulation game. After an online preparation phase, the game will be carried out during an **intensive weekend at Genshagen Castle from 18-21 March 2021**. If the final phase of the simulation game cannot take place in Genshagen due to Covid-19 restrictions, it will also be organized online.

About this year’s topic

The social dimension of the European Union has not been at the centre of European policy debates for a long time. But especially since the 2009/2010 financial crisis, which has significantly increased social inequalities within Europe, calls for a “Social Europe” (e.g. in the form of the introduction of a European minimum wage or a European unemployment insurance) have become louder. There are already indications that the coronavirus crisis will further exacerbate social problems in Europe. This also challenges the EU to establish itself even more strongly as a socio-political actor in order to prevent a further drifting apart of social standards in Europe.

The goal of the Winter School will be to make students accustomed with the basics of European social policy. How has it evolved and which are the actors involved on the EU decision-making level? Why is this policy field underdeveloped and which developments have led to its “renaissance”? What are the main challenges European social policy is facing today and what can be done to make social conditions across Europe more equal? Will the coronavirus crisis mark a turning point for European social policy? And

what are the Weimar Triangle states' positions vis-à-vis a further Europeanization of national social policies and how do they differ?

Who can apply?

We invite applications from **students at Masters level as well as early-stage PhD students** enrolled at a German, French or Polish university (all nationalities) and students with German, French or Polish nationality enrolled at universities in other countries. Prior experience with the topic is welcome, but not obligatory. As the Winter School's working language is English, its excellent command is a prerequisite. Up to 5 students from each country will be able to participate in the Winter School.

How can I apply?

Please send us a cover letter detailing why you wish to participate in the Genshagen Winter School 2020/2021 and your interest in the topic as well as your CV. Everything should be in English, as that is the Winter School's working language. We only accept electronic applications sent via e-mail to: summerschool@stiftunggenshagen.de. The **deadline for applications is 13 September 2020** and successful candidates will be notified by 18 September 2020.

How much does it cost?

The **tuition fee is 200 € per participant**. This also covers all costs related to your stay in Genshagen in March 2021: a single room at the castle and all meals are included. Unfortunately, we cannot cover your trip from your hometown to Genshagen and back. Please organise your travel by yourself.

Please note that participation in the online lectures and the virtual "Students meet practitioners" sessions is mandatory to qualify for participation in the March 2021 intensive weekend in Genshagen!

Contact

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Funded by:



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Winter School Programme Lineout

Virtual Introduction Day

Friday, 9 October 2020 (9:30 am – 4:00 pm)

Keynote Lecture: Social Europe – The basics: history, mechanisms, institutions + a virtual Teambuilding experience

Online lecture series

Lecture 1

Friday, 23 October 2020 (10:00 – 12:00 am)

Topic: A comparison of different social welfare systems across Europe – The cases of France, Germany, and Poland

Lecture 2

Friday, 6 November 2020 (10:00 – 12:00 am)

Topic: The impact of EU crisis management on “Social Europe”: From the euro crisis to Covid-19

Lecture 3

Friday, 20 November 2020 (10:00 – 12:00 am)

Topic: The 2017 European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR): A turning point for EU social policy?

Lecture 4

Friday, 4 December 2020 (10:00 – 12:00 am)

Topic: Perspectives for a European minimum wage – Can it become a reality?

Lecture 5

Friday, 18 December 2020 (10:00 – 12:00 am)

Topic: Dealing with unemployment in Europe – What can the EU do?

Simulation game

Virtual preparation phase (January-March 2021)

Most of the time, participants will be able to self-organize. If live plenary sessions are held, the dates will be announced as early as possible.

Intensive weekend in Genshagen (18-21 March 2021)

A detailed programme will be announced as soon as possible.