

## **Society of austerity and migration**

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The economic crisis has given rise to a new socio-economic and political model which goes under the name of “austerity”. Besides being an economic model, the main feature of the current austerity is that it represents a social and political-legal model that is punitive to individuals and is guided by the belief that the excesses of the past must be repaired by sacrificing the present and future whilst at the same time implementing a bold project for the erosion of social rights and the economic liberalization of society. In general, austerity resulted in unprecedented cuts to state welfare services, alongside high unemployment and reductions in public and private sector pay, pensions and conditions.

In what concerns to migration, the economic turbulence has affected immigration flows and migration is often portrayed as adding further strains on scarce resources and services, and ethnic diversity as making it harder for people to work together to meet their needs. The European project is being tested since investments have been cut at exactly the moment when immigrant populations are most vulnerable and governments continue to come under significant pressure to make cuts across the board. Taking this into account, the aim of this workshop is to debate and reflect on how the political and socioeconomic choices of the austerity paradigm influence the migration policies on the Eurozone.