

INVITATION**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE****“The unemployed and the working poor in the age of crisis.
The challenge of social inclusion”**

The Scientific Society for Social Cohesion and Development (EPEKSA) is organizing in the framework of the Programme **“Working Together for an Inclusive Society”** in turn funded by the PROGRESS Community Programme four International Conferences- Debates over a two-year period (2009-2010). The aim of the Debates is to highlight the role of civil society in the design and implementation of National Action Plans on Social Inclusion. Through the organization of these Debates we intend to enhance the knowledge and mobilize social NGOs, local authorities and social partners with the opportunities provided by the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) and the importance of their input in the formulation of the Greek social inclusion policy.

Representatives from NGOs, local authorities, social partners and vulnerable social groups will participate in the above-mentioned International Conferences-Debates. The dialogue among a variety of actors involved in the field is expected to shed light at the root-causes of the limited involvement of civil society in the elaboration of the national social inclusion policy and highlight the conditions required for their active involvement. A total of twenty experts (researchers, activists, national officials) will be given the opportunity to communicate to the Greek audience the experiences of other European countries and/or European NGOs. The Programme's target groups include the unemployed, the working poor, the elderly, the disabled, immigrants, single-parent families and children living under the poverty threshold. The key points of the Debates will be communicated to the Greek Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs, the European Commission, NGOs and all other parties interested in improving the Greek social protection system in the form of a Report.

The 1st International Conference- Debate focusing on the unemployed and the working poor will take place on the 16th July 2009 in Athens. Participants from the invited NGOs, local authorities and social partners will present their experience from their participation –thus far- in the elaboration of the National Action Plans, the OMC in general and their proposals regarding the amelioration of the position of the unemployed and the working poor.

Given your interest in the field, we would like to invite you to the Debate and look forward to your input in the discussion.

The Debates are co-organized by NGO-PRAKSIS, the Institute for Youth, NGO-Hellenic Anti-Poverty Network, NGO-Life Line Hellas, NGO- European Network of Women, NGO- Greek Forum for Migrants and NGO- Disability Now.

Kind Regards**Prof. Theodoros Sakellarios****EPEKSA President**

The Programme is supported by the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013) (80%) and the Institute for Youth (20%).

