

# ***AISSEC - Italian Association for the Study of Comparative Economics***

***Luiss, School of European Political Economy***

## **Workshop: Well-being and growth across Europe**

**Rome, September 30, 2016, Luiss, Viale Romania 32, room 406**

**(h 11.00 – 17.30)**

Europe's future is increasingly in danger. After financial crisis and Great Recession, material conditions have been worsening, well-being is declining, and mistrust among peoples are aggravating. Moreover, the democratic deficit, which has been affecting the European Union since its inception, is transforming in an even worse problem, that is the fading-out of the hope that the integration process could deliver a better standard of life for European citizens. The possible outlook is an increasing support for populist movements, even more so after the inadequate management of the migration question. The backward countries of the Eurozone are particularly hit, as the austerity has not delivered a significant recovery in GDP growth. Life satisfaction perceived by larger shares of the population is diminishing, as an effect of unemployment and lower wages further worsening the trend of income inequality. To restore mutual trust and hope in the future, steps towards "further integration" should be mostly oriented to improve living conditions. The European Union is in urgent need of more comprehensive policy reforms. The creation of a "fiscal space" at the national level should be devoted to boost aggregate demand by resuming income redistribution to the poor and the young. The construction of a Fiscal Union could start from a common fund for unemployment transfers, aimed to smooth-out after negative shocks asymmetries in business cycles across countries, which disproportionately penalizes GDP growth recovery in the EZ Periphery.

### **Programme**

**11.00-11.45: Roberto Tamborini (Trento University), Europe at the interdependence war**

**11.45-12.30: Maurizio Franzini (Sapienza University of Rome) and Mario Pianta (University of Urbino), Economic and social drivers of rising inequality in Europe**

**12.30-13.15: Andrea Brandolini (Bank of Italy), A scheme of unemployment insurance for the European Union**

## **Lunch**

**14.30-15.15: Andrew Clark (Paris School of Economics), Happiness, Income and Poverty**

**15.15-16.00: Conchita D'Ambrosio (Luxembourg University), Cognitive and non-cognitive consequences of mother's economic vulnerability**

**16.00-16.45: Francesco Farina (Siena University) and Gianluca Grimalda (Kiel Institute for the World Economy), Preferences for redistribution and Welfare State models**

**16.45-17.30: General discussion**