

Conclave

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The Transform! – Akademia Network

The idea of creating the network “transform! akademia” is the result of the new possibilities for cooperation with scholars and academics which emerged during the past year. The basic goal of “transform! akademia” is to involve people in the work of transform! europe, with whom cooperation on the European level is desirable for various reasons.

Transform! believes that the strengthening of its cooperation with researchers, academics and intellectuals is one of the major issues for the coming period. Such cooperation has already long occurred on the initiative of transform! members. At the present time, with the sharpening of the crisis in all its dimensions – the existential crisis of the Euro, even of the EU – new possibilities for cooperation at the European level are appearing with intellectuals, academics and researchers who wish to be involved in their particular way in the ideological and political confrontations and contribute (in activist, voluntary forms) to resistance – from the constitution of a front against austerity and authoritarian modes of governance, to the refounding of Europe, the resurgence of crucial thought and the emergence of a new hegemony. Transform! increasingly appears as a partner, as a protagonist that makes possible the creation of spaces for working and establishing lasting relationships with the forces of Europe’s alternative left. A certain number of universities and research centres are producers of very rich work whose major results the alternative left needs to appropriate. At the same time, a dialogue with the forces of the alternative left can be a stimulant for them.

It is for all these reasons that transform! has decided to open a new European working space called “Akademia”, in experimenting with participants and cooperating on an individual basis, in full respect of both the intellectual and scientific autonomy of the individuals involved and the interests of our member and observer organisations too. So that the participants in such a working space (which is not a new structure) can begin to put in place and produce the first results in cooperation with the working structures of Transform!, the network has put at its disposal a certain number of tools (a collaborative site linked with the Transform! homepage, where resources can be found; logistics; human resources and is formulating a certain number of topics around which we can ask for work (the drawing up of reports on the state of research; working and discussion notes and policy papers ...; the organisation of workshops and conferences ... Transform! is soliciting (groups of) researchers on the basis of these topics. Transform! is also looking to gather proposals for work on topics, research and projects coming from (groups of) researchers who would like to cooperate with us. The journal *transform!* could equally benefit from these new relationships.

The Akademia network is clearly and visibly located in transform!’s framework. Its coordination occurs in cooperation with the Managing Board and is facilitated by a person nominated by it. Its work is based on thematic working groups without formalised membership, that is, which are open to all persons willing to cooperate regardless of their membership in any of the organisations belonging to transform! (

Concretely, several groups could rapidly start up work around selected projects formulated by transform! or by the (groups of) researchers (in consultation with transform!). For 2013, transform! could thus find an answer to what it established as an objective at the time of its General Assembly: the preparation of a set of texts (working notes, discussions, policy papers ...) on questions of great importance. A first balance sheet of the experiment will be drawn up at the end of the first semester of 2013.