

**6th Annual Political Economy Meeting**

**Thematic panel "Towards an epistemology of cohesion and sustainability policies"**

**Call for Communications**

The definition of social development policies that promote community cohesion and sustainability, and escape the dominant logic of top-down decisions mainly based on economic and financial criteria, poses important challenges to Political Economy. What is at stake, in particular, is the safeguarding of democratic processes in the elaboration of action plans that assure the social, economic and environmental components of community development. Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinarity are assumed, in this context, as essential epistemological approaches, both for crossing the frontiers of disciplinary knowledge and for establishing a holistic vision that provides the link between the local and the global and that legitimizes the accountability of actors at different decision levels. Therefore, a reflection on aspects of the definition of these policies is justified, such as:

- The internal and external actors that must be involved;
- The approach to the history and identity of communities;
- The concepts, methodologies and mediators involved in the consultation processes;
- Identification of community needs;
- The modes of deliberation involved in the design of social development policies;
- The mode of monitoring the application of policies and evaluating the achievement of their objectives.

In this sense, we propose to organize the thematic panel “Towards an epistemology of cohesion and sustainability policies” to be focused on these aspects.

Communication proposals, to be presented as established in the Call for Communications for the 6th Meeting, must be sent by 23 September to Vítor Neves &

João Maia (vneves@fe.uc.pt) with the subject “6th EcPol Meeting - Thematic Panel 'Towards an epistemology of cohesion and sustainability policies': communication proposal”.