

In this Issue

In the 9th issue of *Warsaw Forum of Economic Sociology* we turn attention of ours and our Readers to the topic of civic dialogue. Since the summer of 2013, tripartite social dialogue in Poland has been defunct, following trade unions' decision to exit the central-level social dialogue body in a gesture of disapproval to voluntarist attitude of the government. Civic dialogue is one of the alternative routes to the classic tripartite formula that have been discussed in recent months. This does not mean that tripartism is a closed chapter in the post-1989 history of Polish deliberative democracy, yet there are other options under debate. It remains to be seen if, how and when the present deadlock is resolved.

The issue consists of six papers.

Guglielmo Meardi continues his comparative analysis of industrial relations in Italy, Spain and Poland ('Peripheral convergence in the crisis? Southern and Eastern European labour markets and industrial relations'). The quest was initiated by the author two years ago in his paper 'Mediterranean Capitalism' under EU Pressure. Labour Market Reforms in Spain and Italy 2010–2012", in which he followed the process of complex labour market reforms in the two largest Southern European EU countries [WFES vol. 3, no. 1(5) Spring 2012]. In this issue the author moves to the East, and shows that in the post-crisis EU the South and the East have been drawn closer than prior to 2008.

Yury Vashkevich delivers a paper called 'Reflections on Identity and Social Consciousness of Belarussians'. The article is focused on the mental legacy of the Soviet times and on the impact of traditional culture of Belarus on current national and socio-economic attitudes of the Belarussian society.

Paweł Ruszkowski deals in his paper called 'Strategic dilemmas of social dialogue participants') with the phenomenon of instrumental treatment of social partners by the government, and points out to the necessity of developing civic dialogue.

The issue of civic dialogue is also the subject of another paper, by Dominika Polkowska ('Parental Movements in Poland as the bottom-up forms of action: Success or Failure? The Cases of First Quarter Mothers and Save the Little Ones'). The paper is devoted to analysis of two Polish social movements which emerged in recent years in a bottom-up manner: the 'Mothers of the 1st Quarter' and 'Save the Little Ones'. The two movements rose against the social policy of the government.

Włodzimierz Pańków in his paper called 'The crisis of the social dialogue or the crisis of democracy? On the system of hegemonic party or coalition' analyses the current current, crisis in social dialogue in the context of the global crisis of democratic structures. The crisis, as the author claims, is on the one hand produced by the supremacy of market mechanisms, but, on the other hand, is also a result of residuals of the former 'communist globalisation'.

Mateusz Barański targets the issue of temporary employment in Poland. In his paper 'Determinants of temporary employment in Poland', he explores and analyses the key drivers of the process of employment contracts for limited duration becoming increasingly widespread. Special focus is put on people below 30 years of age, as they are most severely affected by the process.

Finally, the issue contains a review of the book by J. Gardawski (ed.) *Rzemieślnicy i biznesmeni Właściciele małych i średnich przedsiębiorstw prywatnych (Craftsmen and Businessmen. Owners of Small and Medium Size Business Enterprises)* published in Polish in 2013. The book delivers an account of the large survey study on the community of the owners (also co-owners) of Polish small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

We are slowly approaching a small jubilee of WFES, as the next issue (no. 10) of the journal is on the way, and the debate on social dialogue in Poland will continue. Meanwhile, please enjoy the current issue. We are looking forward to your feedback, and new submissions.