To: IUSY Member Organisations  
Cc: IUSY Presidium  

Vienna, 20 December, 2019

IUSY WORLD CONGRESS 2020  
“DIGITALIZATION: CHALLENGE OR THREAT?”  
Panama City, Panama  
April 23-26, 2020

THE DIGITALIZATION AND THE DEMOCRACY: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

We, as socialist, social-democratic and labor organizations, have tremendous challenges to address the impact of new communication technologies on democracy. As young people, we have witnessed how the internet has penetrated into the human life. The process of digitalization of public conversation is critical - in deliberative societies - for the quality of the democratic political process. Although the internet was initially associated with the positive impacts of increased participation, today those benefits begin to be weighed: less optimism, network impacts on politics, even hacker interventions in elections.

Social bots, bubble filters, fakes news, artificial intelligence, big data, targeted advertising, data privacy, large digital corporations, among others, are relevant issues in times of social networks, where the messages are adapted to the tastes of each user and communication is filtered by algorithms. The information is tremendously valuable for anyone who accesses it and can process it, in the construction of social imaginary and the search for control of these spaces.

Additionally, as leftist organizations which have as one of our core values the principle of equity, there is the need to pay attention to the high cost of data or internet usage to less-privileged communities. To ensure that the large number of people at the bottom of the social strata have access to affordable internet, there is the need for governments, through their power of regulation, to ensure that the service providers do not engage in exploitative business models that renders internet costs to remain at its present unaffordable state.

That is why it is important to discuss the democratization of information technology and the potential impact of the upsurge of these technologies on representative democracy in general, and on political parties in particular, within the context of multiple challenges confronting us presently. The renewal of links with the social base, the conservation of its
central place as intermediary actors between the State and society, and the ability to offer alternatives for social, community and participatory interaction are relevant.

As organizations that fight against inequality, we have to put this issue at the top of our priorities. We have to fight for a world where the power of technology is not above the power of democracy, through our individual and collective actions. We need to think globally and act locally to generate positive change for our societies!

In Solidarity,

Johanna Ortega
IUSY President

Ana Pirtskhalava
IUSY Secretary Genera

Bernardo Meneses
FJPRD President
1. Registration of Delegates
All delegates need to be registered through filling in the https://forms.gle/BL9xUYr9yWENWfQK8 provided in the invitation email. We urge all delegations to register before the 31st of January 2020 (since this means a better estimate on the number of participants attending the Congress). After this date only a reduced travel reimbursement for all eligible organizations will be available. The same rules apply for those who are in need of visa.

The last deadline for registration is the 29th of February 2020. For delegations registering after the 29 of February no travel reimbursement will be granted and their acceptance depends on the situation of the registrations before the deadline. To make sure you get a visa, please register before the first deadline!

In case of any issues, please get in contact with the IUSY Secretariat (congress@iusy.org) immediately.

Deadlines
1st deadline to register – 31st January, 2020
2nd deadline to register – 29th February, 2020

2. Statutory Requirements

2.1 Right to Vote
Full member organizations have the right to 2 (two) votes per organization. For full voting rights, each organization must have paid their membership fee for the year 2020, as well as any outstanding debt. The delegation must have a 50% (+1) gender balance for the entire delegation. If an organization does not satisfy this last requirement it will lose one vote. If more information is needed, or if you have any questions, regarding your member organizations membership fee or debt situation contact the IUSY Control Commission through the IUSY Secretariat as soon as possible.

NOTE: IUSY Control Commission will not make any agreement on spot at the day of the Congress under no circumstances! All agreements need to be done in advance by contacting IUSY Control Commission President Roland Gur at roland.gur@iusy.org or there will be special spots designated for concrete delegations during arrival day (you will be notified about it in advance), that will be the last chance to make any agreement.

2.2 Gender Balance
All delegations must respect the statutory requirement of 50% gender balance in the entire delegation, including additional delegates and Presidium members.

2.3 Size of Delegations
Full member organizations are entitled to send four (4) participants and two (2) additional delegates paying higher participation fee.
Observer organizations are entitled to send two (2) delegates. Invited organizations (guests) are invited to send one (1) delegate. Presidium members are counted as participants of their delegations for the IUSY World Congress; they are included in the total number of delegates of their organizations.

3. Nomination of Candidates
All full member organisations of IUSY – that have fulfilled the obligations to IUSY (paid their membership fee) – have the right to make nominations. More information about nominations will be sent out on 31st of January and deadline for nominating is the 29th of February. After the deadline and after the verification of the applications validity by the Control Commission, all nominations will be made public in IUSY webpage.

3.1 The applications for nomination needs to be sent to congress@iusy.org and roland.gur@iusy.org
Note: If applications will not be sent respecting deadlines or it will not include both emails, it will not be considered valid.

4. Resolutions & Amendments to the IUSY World Congress documents
All organisations will receive the preparatory documents and templates for the Congress on the 20th of January. If you wish to present proposals for resolutions and declarations to the Congress for adoption, all organisations are kindly asked to send these to the IUSY Secretariat (congress@iusy.org) in advance, but no later than 17th of February. From the 9th of March, all proposals received will be made available on the IUSY website at www.iusy.org.

Proposals for Resolutions and Amendments - except amendments to IUSY Statues - can still be presented at the Congress. To ensure enough time for all Member Organizations to study your proposals we kindly ask you to send your proposals before the 17th February. Deadline for amendments to resolutions is the 30th of March.

Deadlines
20th January - Sending out the templates (by secretariat)
17th February – Sending resolutions, statements etc.
9th March – publishing documents at IUSY website
30th March – deadline for amendments of the published documents

All documents (resolutions, declarations) should be submitted at least in one of the three official languages of IUSY, namely in English, in Spanish or in French. Delegations are also entitled to submit documents in more than one official language which helps the work of the Secretariat.

NOTE: All submitted documents should be in the templates provided otherwise the submission will not be valid.
5. Participation fee
Every delegate and guest must pay a fee to cover part of his/her costs for the World Congress. In the spirit of international solidarity, the fees are different according to world regions.

The participation fee (expressed in Euros, €) for registrations before the 1st deadline, 31st of January, will be the following:

a) Participants from organisations belonging to the European Committee (organisations from European Union's member countries, from Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland): €150.

b) Participants from other organizations: €130.

c) Extra delegates from organisations belonging to the European Committee (organisations from European Union's member countries, from Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland): €180

d) Guests/Extra delegates from other organisations: €150.

The participation fee for registrations before the 2nd and last deadline, 29th February, will be the following:

a) Participants from organizations belonging to the European Committee (organisations from European Union’s member countries, from Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland): €180.

b) Participants from other organizations: €150.

c) Extra delegates from organisations belonging to the European Committee (organisations from European Union’s member countries, from Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland): €200.

d) Guests/Extra delegates from other organisations: €180.

Please send a confirmation of the participation fee payment to the Secretariat. Kindly note that all delegations must present the original bank transfer receipt at registration upon arrival to the Congress.

The participation fee covers all costs for meals and accommodation during the days of the event. With the participation fee, each participant directly contributes to making the IUSY World Congress truly global and to ensuring a broad participation. The participation fee secures the possibility for IUSY to give financial support for travel costs to delegations coming from outside of Europe.

The fee has to be transferred by the 20th March to the IUSY bank account. In case of exception needed, please get in touch with the IUSY Secretariat ASAP.

IUSY bank account details:
Bank: BAWAG PSK
Account Number: 05310660380
BLZ Code: 14000
SWIFT Code: BAWAATWW
IBAN Code: AT41 1400 0053 1066 0380
6. Logistics

6.1 Travel and Transfers
The World Congress will take place in the Panama City, Panama. We encourage you to arrive as early as Thursday, April 23rd, as the Congress starts on Friday morning. Departures are foreseen on Sunday, 26 April.
You need to arrive to Tocumen International Airport (PTY). Transfers will be provided ONLY from this airport and ONLY on the day of arrival and ONLY on the day of departure.

6.2 Accommodation
Accommodation will be provided for the dates of the Congress at the hotel El Panama (https://www.elpanama.com/).

IMPORTANT: To avoid problems we would like to make it strictly clear that hotel rooms and other assistance will only be provided for those delegations that have informed the IUSY Secretariat on their travel details by the designated deadlines. Organizations confirming their participation and not showing up for the Congress will be requested to pay the hotel expenses and this sum will be added to the debts of the organization. Please note that the hosting organizations are not responsible for covering any travel expenses.

Should you require accommodation before or after the actual congress, please let us know. The hosting organizations can assist you in making additional reservations for your delegates. Kindly note that costs of additional accommodation in Panama will not be covered by the hosting organizations or by IUSY.

Please note that our hosting organizations are not responsible for any cost outside of those strictly indicated as part of the Congress. Therefore, the hosting organization or IUSY will not account for any personal costs incurred by the participants at the hotel such as phone calls, room service or the use of mini bar.

6.3 Venue
Congress will be hosted at hotel El Panama (address: Calle Eusebio A. Morales 111, Panamá, Panama)
6.4 Meal requirements
Food will be provided for the days of the Congress, starting from the dinner on the arrival day and finishing with the breakfast on the departure day.
If you have any dietary requirements please do not forget to mention it in your application. In case of changes you need to inform the Secretariat immediately sending an email to congress@iusy.org.

7. Travel Reimbursement
We are kindly advising all organizations to start booking flights immediately in order to get the best possible price. IUSY will be able to support your travel costs for delegations not from Europe* with a fixed maximum amount per delegation depending on the date of the registration as mentioned above.

A list with reference prices will follow for each region. Please note that the full amount of travel reimbursement listed can only be given to the delegations registering before the 31st of January. After this date only a reduced travel reimbursement for all eligible organizations will be available. For delegations registering after the last deadline (29th of February) no travel reimbursement can be guaranteed. In case the organization has not paid its membership fee for the year 2020 or has some debts from previous years, membership fee and all debts should be paid or will be automatically deducted from travel reimbursement. To claim Travel Reimbursement, the delegations must respect gender balance and must attend 100% of the programme, with no exception!

All travel reimbursements will be made in Euro by bank transfer after the meeting. Exceptions will ONLY be made for those who contact the IUSY Secretariat before the second deadline for registrations. Please send the attached travel reimbursement form with complete bank information to the Secretariat (congress@iusy.org).

8. Visa
8.1 Application
We ask all delegates to ask at the nearest Consulate, Embassy or High Commission of Panama if they need visa to enter the country. All delegations needing visa MUST make the necessary arrangements with sufficient time in advance, and follow the application procedure, requesting regular information on its development, in order to resolve any problems that may arise. Please make sure that you apply for your visas well in advance and that you follow the procedure regularly.
8.2 Letter of Invitation
All those that require visa will need a letter of invitation from the hosting organizations. For this reason, we are asking you to fill in the registration form correctly with ALL information in it. The hosting organizations will send an invitation to your organization and a copy to the respective consular authorities, which will help you obtain the visa. It will NOT be possible to obtain visa on arrival from the airport, land border or seaport. Please take this information seriously in order to avoid any problems.

8.3 Deadline
Please note that the deadline for sending visa requests is also the 31st of January 2020. In order to be able to assist the delegates of your organization the IUSY Secretariat needs to receive the passport details immediately! Please do not overlook this.

9. Security and insurance
Kindly note that neither IUSY nor the hosting organizations will be responsible for any health costs incurred during your stay in Panama. We would recommend that you make travel insurance before your departure from your own country. There are special policies that cover unforeseen expenses such as hospitalization, theft and costs deriving from loss of flight.

10. Additional Information

10.1 Currency
USD

10.2 Time zone
GMT-5

10.3 Electricity
In Panama, the power plugs and sockets are of type A and B. The standard voltage is 110 V and the standard frequency is 60 Hz. In Panama, the power plugs and sockets are of type A and B. Please do not forget your adaptor in case you need one to plug your devices.

10.4 Climate in Panama
The average temperatures you'll face in April would be between 25.0°C and 33.0°C, with exceptional possible peaks as low as 20°C and high as 36°C as observed in previous years.

11. Contact the IUSY Secretariat

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» FOLLOW US ON: ☞ IUSY_GLOBAL ☞ IUSY.GLOBAL
All inquiries related to the Congress should be sent to: congress@iusy.org

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