LPE in Europe Policy Kickstarter: Non-reformist Reforms

On 19th and 20th of May 2025, Law and Political Economy (LPE) in Europe hosted a two-day 'policy-kickstarter' event at the University of Glasgow with twenty-six LPE scholars, civil society organisations (CSOs), and policy actors. The aim of the event was to co-develop **'non-reformist reforms'** in three key domains of socio-economic transformation: **Finance, Food, and Industrial Policy.**

Non-reformist reforms go **beyond temporary fixes and aim to transform the deeper structures of power and decision-making in the economy** to create the conditions for lasting change. They are reforms that build capacity and power within society to **change the deep institutional structures and rules of permission** that consistently enable wealthier and more powerful economic actors to extract value and resources out of society. Advancing non-reformist reforms could involve pursuing legal changes that decommodify essential social sectors, decentralize production by empowering communities to influence the allocation of productive resources, expand public ownership or financing capacities, establish democratic oversight within corporate governance, or drive deeper transformations in the foundational legal concepts underpinning the current extractivist economy.

Ahead of the workshop, invitees were asked to draw on their knowledge and diverse professional competences to **put forward one suggestion for a reform in their field of interest that they consider has the characteristics of a 'non-reformist reform'** and to identify **two concrete steps** that could be taken to move towards the achievement of the reform taking into account factors such as the legal barriers that need to be overcome to achieve the reform, and the need for movement building to support and sustain the reform's implementation.

Participants spent two days collectively brainstorming these ideas, and discussing questions relating to the overarching strategy that LPE in Europe should pursue in order to meaningfully advance these initiatives. As an outcome of the workshop, we will be launching new Taskforces in these key areas of interest to advance some of the proposals put forward for discussion. Watch this space!

Participant List:

- Prof. Alessandra Acuri – Professor of International Economic Law at Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Dr. Federica Agostini – Assistant Professor of International and European Law, Utrecht University.
- Paola Alarcón – Doctoral Researcher, University of Glasgow
- Anna-Luiza Behrens – Programme Officer, Partners for a New Economy
- Dr. Donald Buglass – Lecturer in Law, University of the West of Scotland
- Dr. Anna Chadwick – Senior Lecturer in International Law and Legal Theory, University of Glasgow
- Robert Clarke – Client Earth
- Sabrina Espeleta – Senior Campaigner, War on Want
- Prof. Tomaso Ferrando – Research Professor of Food Law, University of Antwerp
- Prof. Marco Goldoni – Professor of Legal Theory, University of Glasgow

- Dr. Giedre Jokubauskaite – Senior Lecturer in International Law, University of Glasgow
- Jack Jones – Doctoral Researcher, University of Glasgow
- Dr. Ioannis Kampourakis – Associate Professor of Law and Markets, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Alex Lombos – Client Earth
- Rowan Mataram – Project Office, Public Alternatives Team, Trannational Institute
- Dr. Julia McClure – Senior Lecturer in History, University of Glasgow
- Dr. Andrew McClean – Lecturer in Competition Law, University of Edinburgh
- Dr. Clair Quentin – Tax Justice Campaigner and Senior Lecturer in Tax Law, Loughborough University
- Federico Sibaja – IMF Campaign Manager, Recourse
- Prof. Javier Solana – Professor of Corporate and Financial Law at the University of Glasgow
- Dr. Susi Stuehlinger – Policy Coordinator, Scottish Crofting Federation
- Dr. Sean Vanatta – Senior Lecturer in Economic History, University of Glasgow
- Dr. Sophie Van Huellen – Senior Lecturer in Development Economics, University of Manchester
- Dr. Tara Wight – Scotland Policy and Campaigns Coordinator, Landworker's Alliance
- Max Willems – Doctoral Researcher, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies
- Dr. Mingzhe Zhu – Lecturer in Just Transitions Law, University of Glasgow