

# REAL WORLD ECONOMICS

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## PLAN B and DIEM-25

### New Perspectives For



# The wider context

## Anti-austerity protests

- mass demonstrations
- marches
- square protests
- assemblies & experiments with new forms of democracy
- strikes
- actions of civil disobedience
- new social movements
- new political left wing parties/platforms

## and new transnational left-wing alliances

- Firenze 10+10
- Alter Summit in Athens in 2013
- Blockupy Frankfurt
- Initiative for a European Spring
- Initiative 'Founding Europe anew!'
- Agora99
- Conferences of the Euromemorandum Group
- Strategy Meetings in Amsterdam, Brussels
- Campaigns against TTIP/CETA

# “Plan B” versus “DIEM-25”?

- Two “new” but different pan-European initiatives
- Competitive projects?
- Reinforcing each other?
- Commonalities/overlaps?
  - both proceed by summits and manifestos
  - both more or less left-wing
  - strong top-down character, building on prominent figureheads
  - highly intransparent
  - not yet fully-fledged programmes and strategies: work in progress!
- Differences?
  - involve to some extent different groups of people
  - time lag of 2 weeks
  - have a different focus:
    - +/- progressive nationalism vs. an EU federalist solution
    - broad agenda versus democratizing the EU institutions



- a pan-European initiative for a series of summits about the future of Europe
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in Paris: 23-24 January (300+ participants)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in Madrid: 19-21 February
- driven by Oskar Lafontaine & Jean Luc Melenchon
  - Plan B as a back up for Plan A (re-negotiate the EU Treaties)
  - manifesto published in September 2015
    - Signed by well known left wing politicians/scholars: Joseph Stiglitz, Ken Loach, Noam Chomsky, Ada Colau, Susan George
- Programme for Madrid Summit:
  - social/labour rights
  - alternative international trade/investment regime
  - public and private debt
  - migration: alternatives for Fortress Europe
  - euro as a joint currency and European governance
  - environmental crisis
  - Plan B must be feminist

<http://planbeuropa.es>



<http://www.diem25.org>

**Democracy in Europe  
Movement -- 2025**

- driven by Yannis Varoufakis
  - manifesto published in January,
  - Plan C (or return to Plan A)
  - for a “broad based” and “open” grass roots social movement
  - Inauguration at the Volkshausbühne in Berlin, 9 February
- One simple agenda:
  - rethink the EU and democratize EU institutions by 2025

Step 1: transparency (immediate priority)  
Step 2: a constitutional assembly (mid-term)

Tentative agenda:

  - a proper European Parliament, sharing powers with national parliaments, regional assemblies and municipal councils
  - respect for national self-determination

# Discussion

- Utterly naïve? Doomed to failure?
- Democracy as unifying rationale for left-wing convergence?

Chasms in Europe's left:

- a disparate set of struggles with a plurality of agents
- different degrees of indignation
- no shared understanding of the trenches and the tactics of how to chart an alternative future for Europe
- mainstream, statist left  $\leftrightarrow$  new horizontalist, radical social movements