Title: Income inequality and participation: A comparison of 24 European countries

Abstract: Scholars studying inequality have demonstrated that trends in inequality, and variations between countries, are very different in different parts of the income distribution. However, up till now, the literature on the consequences of inequality has not incorporated this finding. Using EU-SILC 2006 data for 24 European countries, we develop a measure of income inequality and analyse how inequality in different parts of the income distribution is related to civic, cultural and social participation. Results indicate that a substantial part of the impact of inequality manifests itself through resources at the individual and societal level. However, independent of resources, it is still the case that more inequality magnifies the relationship between income and participation, and this is most pronounced for inequality above the median income. This is in line with a view that inter-individual processes explain why inequality diminishes participation.