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1. Editorial

TIME FOR REFLECTION

During these months of May and June, the activities of the TUDCN will slow down a bit to make room for reflection and looking forward. Not only will there be the Network meeting in Helsinki, nearly entirely devoted to an in-depth look at the settings of the Network and its future, but in June we will also meet in Vancouver for the 2nd ITUC Congress.

This ITUC Congress, the first congress to take place after the founding congress in Vienna in 2006, will have to take stock of the evolutions and the progress made in the achievement of the “new internationalism” that was put forward as the overall objective of this first congress period. Reorganising international trade union action in light of the multiple international crises is not an easy task. It was partly our mission through a shared trade union development cooperation approach to reinforce the trade union movement in its ability and its capacity to engage at national, regional and international levels on decent work, green jobs and democratic ownership of development.

In the meanwhile, the structured dialogue with the Commission is on its way with a number of “consultations” taking place through workgroups and conferences.

We will report to you on the outcomes of all these reflections in the next issues of the newsletter. We are also very much interested in reading your contributions based on your national experiences and policy evolutions.

The TUDCN team



2. News from the Network

The Network has its webpage (<http://www.tudcnetwork.org>) on the ITUC website. You will find the latest news on trade union positions, solidarity actions and update information on activities.

Please send any relevant information for publication in our next issues to the Network Information Officer at: luc.vermeersch@ituc-csi.org.

(Please send your contribution for the next issue before 20 May)

CIVIL SOCIETY AND AID EFFECTIVENESS: FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICE

The WP-EFF's Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness (AG-CS) produced a substantial body of work, including a concept paper and an issues paper, numerous reports on national regional and international consultations, and a Case Book, which fed into the production of the two final reports included in the present volume: the AG-CS' Synthesis of Findings and Recommendations and its companion document, the Exploration of Experience and Good Practice.

The Synthesis of Findings and Recommendations is the AG-CS' final report to the WP-EFF and to the community at large. It was endorsed by the WP-EFF in July 2008, and served as a resource in drafting the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA). Copies were circulated to all participants at the Accra High Level Forum. Because the Synthesis of Findings and Recommendations is a collective document representing the views of its members, it is reproduced here with only minor edits as a historical record of the consensus achieved by the AG-CS.

The Exploration of Experience and Good Practice is intended to accompany the Synthesis of Findings and Recommendations by illustrating the AG-CS' findings and recommendations with examples of experience and good practice from different parts of the world. The Good Practice paper is perforce a work in progress, because case study experience is continually growing, and the number of cases that we have been able to cover here is obviously very limited in both depth and breadth. We believe that it provides a solid point of departure, nonetheless, and hope it will help readers to appreciate what is meant operationally by the recommendations included in both the AG-CS Synthesis of Findings and Recommendations and the AAA.

([read the whole document](#))

FIGHTING POVERTY BY STRENGTHENING UNIONISATION IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

The MSI (Movement for International Solidarity), the trade union cooperation association of the General Confederation of Liberal Trade Unions of Belgium (ACLVB/CGSLB), has been working with trade union partners in Burundi since 2003. In 2009, it launched the 2009-2011 triennial trade union capacity building programme in partnership with the national transport workers' federation, FNTT (Fédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Transport). This programme, a north-south partnership between the MSI and the FNTT, is co-funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation agency.

The contributory role played by trade unions in the establishment of social democracy benefitting the whole population is thus confirmed within development policies. The programme involves a trade union partner from the south in the defence of informal economy workers' individual and collective rights. The aim of the project is not only to mobilise and train these workers, which contribute to the workings of society at large, but also to build their "self help" capacities. It organises them within a democratic trade union structure. The programme also contributes to the recognition of the problems facing informal workers on the ground as well as to their progressive involvement in social dialogue.

The informal economy is, indeed, an ever-growing phenomenon, and all the more so since the onset of the global economic crisis, yet it remains unrecognised, unprotected and unsupported. There is still very little national interest in giving informal economy workers a specific status, which would contribute to improving their working conditions. It remains the rather haphazard world of resourcefulness and jobs with no future. Whilst several studies carried out in recent years underline the complexity of the informal economy, and even its solidarity mechanisms, it is still largely devoid of the pillars of decent work.

The overall aim of this multi-year partnership is to contribute to the fight against poverty, inequality and injustice in the south, within the framework of the informal economy, by strengthening the capacities of free, independent and democratic trade unions and defending workers' individual and collective rights.

Paper

The informal economy, bicycle taxis and trade union organising

In Burundi, the workers are prey to an unfavourable social, economic and political climate. This climate affects all workers, but above all those who have to take refuge in the informal economy. Indeed, in the absence of a sufficiently developed and structured private sector, informal activity has become the main component of the national economy. The informal economy continues to grow still today, but without even the minimum conditions of decent work and without any adequate social dialogue.

Specific trade union support for the informal economy therefore works towards the defence of individual and collective rights and can thus contribute to creating sustainable and decent working conditions.

The transport sector occupies a significant place in the informal economy. In Burundi, bicycle taxis respond to the everyday needs of individuals in terms of mobility, as well as meeting considerable socio-economic needs. But, whilst there is extensive call for their services, bicycle taxis are also the target of much criticism from road users and the authorities. These criticisms have, on occasions, placed them in a precarious situation.

Altercations between road users, and even riots, are often blamed on bicycle taxis. The authorities have stopped them from working on a number of occasions. It is in this sense that the FNTT has provided them with the appropriate trade union support.

The FNTT, as a transport confederation recognised by the authorities and present throughout the country, took the initiative of organising the bicycle-taxi workers and, subsequently, the parking, motorbike-taxi and transport touts, etc. The project targets informal economy workers in the transport sector (except air transport) and its related services. The related services include activities or services directly or indirectly linked to the operation and development of the transport sector. Many trades are linked to the transport sector, use it regularly and rely on its smooth running: coffee growers, cotton growers, rice growers, brick makers, mechanics, welders.

A dynamic promoting the informal economy

It is the dynamic of the project that has been able to provide the individual and collective defence mechanisms needed to contain the difficult and precarious situations facing informal transport workers. The bicycle-taxi trade union is now recognised by the Labour Ministry and can therefore take part in social dialogue. The members pay their dues, are defended individually if required, and can take part in education and training activities. A group of bicycle taxi drivers have, for instance, benefited from highway code courses in partnership with the police. They use the infrastructures better and are recognised as transport professionals. Later on, they can even envisage other career paths and sustainable integration within the labour market. It is, indeed, impossible to work as a bicycle taxi driver forever.

Today, sectoral organising in the informal economy has strengthened trade union services and mobilisation capacities, as well as the leadership capacities on the ground and the ability to defend the workers and enter into a constructive dialogue with the authorities, not only for our partner, but for trade unions as a whole, in Burundi and the provinces.

It is important that this action go beyond the capital, that it be extended to the regions and integrate the problems on the ground. The informal economy is also a reality in the rural world. The programme integrates workers from the entire country within a democratically organised trade union structure. The trade union partner sustainably strengthens its membership base, is able to offer more effective trade union services and represents informal economy workers within social dialogue structures.

The project aim is to mobilise and train, but also to build the workers' "self help capacities". The approach is based on the development of trade union support services and on the information and training techniques traditionally used in the trade union world. It is not a "turnkey" project. The specifics on the ground, in the country and of the partner's trade union culture are taken on board. Organising and defending workers usually requires a material infrastructure, places to meet and assemble, such as trade union offices, etc.), logistical infrastructure (means of communicating, reproducing documents, storing and processing information, etc.) and a human infrastructure (union officials, etc.).

The programme plans to establish autonomous trade union offices in the 13 provinces. This self-financing releases time and resources that can be devoted to trade union solidarity activities, such as meetings, campaigns, health and safety, awareness raising and the services provided to members to defend their individual and collective rights. The trade union officials will have more time to dedicate to meeting with local representatives, employers, etc., to discuss problems encountered and to draw up demands. The aim is to strengthen solidarity and mutual support through the redistribution of profits, the provision of services at affordable prices and to inject dynamic into the trade union structures created through the programme and to reduce poverty through sustainable development.

[Mouvement pour la solidarité internationale \(French/Dutch\)](#)

HAITI ON THE PATH TO RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

An important contribution has been made to the recovery process of Haiti by a meeting of more than 120 trade unionists from all over the world, including many workers representing the majority of the labour movement in Haiti.

The final outcome of the summit was a trade union roadmap that emphasises the decent work agenda, the strengthening of Haitian trade unions and social dialogue as key in rebuilding Haiti stronger and fairer than ever.

The roadmap details how a national employment policy should be established, what needs to be carried out to create decent work and salaries for women and men, and how to ensure respect and protection of workers' rights. Good governance, political and judicial reforms and an integrated social protection system for all are mechanisms that will enable social and economic development in the longer term. The meeting also made a call to foreign and local employers, including NGOs and international organisations, to promote decent jobs and to respect ILO labour standards and the Haitian Labour Code.

[Read the full roadmap](#)

[Read the background document](#)

3. Development Cooperation Policies

European Union

EU DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING (DEAR) – information notice

In the context of the Structured Dialogue of the EU (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured_dialogue), Development Education is one of the supporting themes to be addressed. The objective is to come up with an evaluation study by the end of 2010, including recommendations to the EC to improve the quality of the program, and to frame a European Strategy on Development Education.

Specifically, the objectives of this study are the following:

- to obtain an overview and an analysis of the projects financed by the EC in the area of DEAR in the past 5 years (2004-2009): March – July 2010
- to obtain an overview and an analysis of the main actors and initiatives in the field of DEAR in the 27 Member States of the European Union: April – July 2010; and
- to identify possible options for improving the EC actions in the field of DEAR, based on the findings of the study and on consultations with stakeholders: July – November 2010.

During the launch seminar (April 13 in Brussels) some background analysis of the program was provided. The team of independent experts, commissioned by the European Commission to carry out this study through the European Consultants Organization (ECO), presented an initial analysis of Non-State Actor and Local Authority projects supported by the European Commission during the past five years ([read analysis](#)).

Also, the **timetable** of activities has been presented:

Between April and November 2010 the study will involve significant fieldwork and consultations in Member States as well as other forms of stakeholder engagement.

- May – June: **fieldwork** in the 27 EU member states: [Calendar - Field visits - Objectives \(Ppt\)](#)
- July: **Interim report** covering the analysis of projects and results of the fieldwork; also includes options to improve future EC support for DEAR
- September – October: **consultations** on options to improve future EC support for DEAR
- **11th – 12th October: conference** involving DEAR stakeholders to discuss the study's findings and to further develop the options for improvement
- November: **final Study report** providing conclusions to the study and recommendations to the EC

For additional information please contact : paola.simonetti@ituc-csi.org

EU STRUCTURED DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS - information notice

Within the EU Structured dialogue (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured_dialogue), the Democracy and Human Rights Support Initiative aims at improving cooperation with CSOs involved in democracy and human rights by strengthening consultation mechanisms and CSO access to the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) programmes.

The specific objectives of the Democracy and Human Rights Support Initiative include:

- to pursue a common understanding of key concepts in the field of democracy and human rights;
- to allow a better assessment of the challenges faced by CSOs in implementing democracy and human rights projects;
- to achieve better complementarity in EU approaches and programmes related to democracy and human rights;
- to map the roles, added-value and means of mutually supporting involvement of various categories of CSOs in democratisation and human rights promotion; and
- to identify the role of European stakeholders (EC, Member-States but also European CSO) to promote an enabling environment for civil society at the country level.

The Democracy and Human Rights Initiative will come out in September 2010 with two main contributions to feed into the structured dialogue.

- A study on the complementarity between EIDHR-funded democracy and human rights projects and those funded by other thematic instruments, geographical instruments and projects/programmes run by Member States.
- A manual of good practices collected from EU Delegations, CSOs, EP and other donors and focused on operational as well as substantial issues.

These two documents will be prepared on the basis of the contributions received from EU delegations in the ENPI countries, from EU Member States, members of the European Parliament as well as from civil society organisations active in these countries.

The ITUC is currently contributing to this process, following the next activities:

- **CSOs consultation in Brussels** (26-27 May)
- **Seminar in Amman** (28 June - 2 July): this is a regional seminar on cooperation in the field of democracy and human rights promotion. This seminar will focus on ENPI as an example, as the region concentrates the largest share of projects implemented under EIDHR, and it will include CSOs from the region.

For more information please contact: paola.simonetti@ituc-csi.org

International

THE MDGS AT 10 AND CIVIL SOCIETY

The UN General Assembly is convening in September an "MDG Summit" (High Level Plenary Meeting) with the primary aim of "accelerating progress" towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. This summit comes at a critical juncture for the international community. The global economic and food crises of 2008-2009 caused devastating setbacks for millions of people around the world. But even before these recent catastrophes, the international community--despite some very significant progress, including in some of the poorest countries-- was already falling far short and even going backward in some key areas. Much more must and can be done in the countdown to 2015 to meet the MDG promise.

The summit process is an important opportunity to take stock of which development strategies are working and which ones are not, and what strategic decisions and actions at national and international levels are urgently needed to make decisive progress in the next five years.

In an effort to enhance the participation and inclusiveness of this process, the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) and the UN Millennium Campaign have launched a consultation with civil society across the globe that will compile their views into a single report, which will be issued in conjunction with the General Assembly's "Hearings" with representatives of civil society and the private sector on 14-15 June.

The consultation is designed to build on the analysis and recommendations of the UN Secretary-General report for the summit, '[Keeping the Promise](#)', around four themes:

1. Why are we so far behind in key areas?
2. Emerging issues and challenges
3. Proposals to accelerate progress
4. An action- and accountability-oriented agenda for all stakeholders

If your organization or network is interested to participate in this consultation please visit: <http://www.un-ncls.org/mdgconsultation>

The deadline for submissions is 7 May.

For more information on the MDG Summit process and the civil society Hearings in June, please visit: <http://www.un-ncls.org/mdg2010>

4. Project Opportunities

EU PROJECT FUNDING:

Open calls for proposals:

Human rights

- Enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries and regions where they are most at risk

Please also consult the [page concerning the country-based calls for proposals](#)

5. Resources

THE PARAMETERS OF A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX AND THE OECD GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD RESOURCE GAP, 2010 – 2020

This paper examines the value and parameters of a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) in the context of enormous OECD country public resource gaps created by the financial crisis, on the one hand, and significant government commitments for financing development and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures on the other. As a result of the global crisis, including the bailing out of the banking sector, OECD government deficits have reached unprecedented levels.

For the OECD, the size of fiscal consolidation projected at \$300-370bn per year over the coming years will place severe budget constraints on governments. Working families risk paying twice for the crisis: first through rising unemployment and falling incomes and then, as a result of cuts in public expenditure, through reduced access to social services and the corresponding rise in inequality. The OECD fiscal consolidation programme would put post-war welfare systems and social cohesion at risk. And yet these same governments have still to deliver on their commitments to finance global public goods, including raising Official Development Assistance to 0.7% of Gross National Income and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures for developing countries. The global public good resource gap that would emerge would be in the range of \$324-336bn per year between 2012 and 2017 (\$156bn for climate change, \$168-180bn for ODA). These figures could change should the global economy move to self-sustaining recovery and growth rates and hence tax receipts rise. Nonetheless, at least part of the new public policy coming out of the crisis should be grounded on a revision of tax policy. The criteria for tax policy must be social justice, economic value and political acceptability. On all these grounds an FTT would make sense.

[Read more on the TUAC website](#)

SUMMER SCHOOL ON LABOUR ECONOMICS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The ILO's Global Employment Agenda acknowledges that there are fundamental differences in labour markets in developing and developed countries. Labour markets in developing countries are typically characterised by a rapidly growing labour force and relatively low levels of unemployment but high levels of underemployment. The vast majority of workers are located in the urban informal and rural economies. As a consequence, labour productivity is low, resulting in insufficient wages and high rates of working poverty. In contrast, the main problems facing advanced economies are high open unemployment, ageing populations and precarious jobs.

Basic differences are also evident in the organisation and governance of labour markets. In fact, in the absence of any structure in labour supply (people seeking work) and labour demand (private and public job offers), the role of labour market policies and institutions is very different than that of advanced economies. Wage-setting institutions, minimum wages, labour market policies and employment services all require some form of collective organisation of supply and demand, which are often absent in developing countries, or exist only in the small formal segment of their economies. For this reason, policies that address qualitative mismatches (e.g., training or public employment services) are unlikely to be effective.

Course Objectives

The short and longer term objectives are as follows:

- The immediate objective is to provide participants with a sound understanding of the key labour market challenges in developing countries and the role of labour market policies and institutions in these economies, including in terms of responding to the global financial crisis.
- The longer term objective is to contribute to the adoption of more effective labour market and employment policies in developing countries through the design of effective strategies including labour market regulations, institutions and policies.

[Read more](#)

6. Agenda 2010

May

Network meeting (Helsinki 10-11-12 May)

June

ITUC Congress (Vancouver 21-25 June)

UNDCF (New York 28 June)

24-26 August

Open Forum GA

September

TUDCN Capacity building seminar in Latin America

October

Network Meeting (Brussels)

TUDCN Capacity building seminar (Singapore)

November

Seminar for the new EU Member States on advocacy/capacity building

December

Meeting Experts Group Regional Consultations (Brussels)

European Development Days (Brussels 9-10 December)



The TUDCN team:

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