

Vision Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR, inviting you to the Global Progressive Forum event on 2-3 April in Brussels.

## **SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **ASSOCIATIONS - SERVICE PROVIDERS AND FORCES OF SOCIETAL INNOVATION?**

SOLIDAR member UNALG co-organised a conference of the national federation of French associations active in the field of child and youth welfare, education, disabilities and labour market insertion (FGPEP), held this Wednesday and Thursday in Nantes. These associations are facing far-reaching reforms concerning not only the structures of public administration, but also and more importantly, the character of their relationship with public authorities.

In France and across Europe, a shift in the type of cooperation between public authorities and associations from being privileged partners building on a complementarity of tasks towards a relationship based only on public tendering and contracts for the provision of personal social services can be witnessed. This new environment, characterised by competition with other social economy organisations and for-profit enterprises, will very likely, in the long term, reduce the role of associations to one of sub-contractors of public policies and service providers, filling in gaps or focused only on the most vulnerable persons and/or economically disadvantaged groups. [Read more.](#)

### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPORT ON SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

The European Commission published its [Annual Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion](#) (in all EU languages) last week. The report highlighted the fact that 16% of Europeans are living at risk of poverty and 8% of workers are still below the poverty line; but with the financial crisis, these figures are likely to keep rising. SOLIDAR is in agreement with the main messages of the report which concentrate on the social impact of the crisis and the need for an adequate social response, but we do find that the report lacks measures on how to make progress on social exclusion and poverty and to deliver on the overarching objectives of the open method of coordination (OMC).

SOLIDAR believes that what is really needed to increase ownership and to tap the full potential of the social inclusion strategy is a more active involvement of the European Parliament and national Parliaments in the OMC process. Furthermore, SOLIDAR calls for a robust social policy strategy and strengthened OMC to support employment and the creation of quality jobs as well as to implement quantified targets and indicators on poverty. [Read SOLIDAR's 3 recommendations to strengthen the OMC.](#)

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### **FAIR GAMES FAIR PLAY: WORKERS ENJOY THE SHOW TOO!**

On January 2007 in Nairobi, a [campaign on decent work in the construction sector](#) towards and beyond the hosting of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa was launched. The campaign is led by Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) and its South Africa Construction sector affiliates, SOLIDAR Global Network partner the Labour Research Service (LRS), and in partnership with SOLIDAR member Swiss Labour Assistance (SLA), who also campaigned to promote the same aims around the UEFA championships in Switzerland and Austria in 2008.

The campaign aims at promoting decent work, fighting for: the right to work, to organise, to bargain, the right to a living wage, to zero accidents, to quality jobs, improved basic conditions, health awareness and skills development. [Read about workers also enjoying the show.](#)

## **EDUCATION**

### **EUCIS-LLL ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The European Platform for Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL), of which SOLIDAR is a member, is holding its Annual General Assembly in Brussels on 19 March 2009. This day is very important for the platform and its members and will be organised in two different phases: in the morning a meeting of stakeholders working in education and training and the EUCIS General Assembly in the afternoon.

Programme for morning [EN](#) | [FR](#) & afternoon [EN](#) | [FR](#)+ [contact](#)

## MEMBERS NEWS

On the **Members Area** this week: register for the Education committee, EP Press release on Sri Lanka, latest funding update, week ahead in the European institutions. Don't have a password? Contact [Abigail](#)

Read the Spotlight on SOLIDAR member **Fos-socialist solidarity**

SOLIDAR UK member **UNISON** is supporting the [Put People First mobilization](#) before the G20 summit in London

Like each year, **Solidarité Laïque** in France is the French actor in the Global Campaign for Education. Many [activities](#) are coming up in France for this campaign in April.

## PARTNERS NEWS

**CEV** is organising an [event](#) on 'Developing employee volunteering - a joint venture between volunteer organization and companies? Strategies - Success Stories - Challenges' in May 2009.

16-18	Conference: Social Rights, Active Citizenship and Governance in the EU, Brussels
17-18	SOLIDAR Board meeting
19	EUCIS-LLL Annual General Assembly, Brussels
25-26	Conference: Flexicurity - Lifelong Learning and Social Protection Components, Prague
28	Global Day of Mobilisation for G20 Summit, London
1	Global Network Steering group meeting, Brussels
2	G20 meeting, London
2-3	Global Progressive Forum event, Brussels
14	Civil Society Day, Brussels
14	SOLIDAR Development and International Funding Workshop, Brussels
15	SOLIDAR West Africa Working group, Brussels
16-18	Conference: Social Economy, Prague
22-23	Conference: Social Services - a tool to Mobilise Workforce and Reinforce Social Cohesion, Prague
29	SOLIDAR-FEPS conference: 'Together for a Social Europe'

**SOLIDAR** is a European network of 50 NGOs and labour movement organisations. Working in cooperation with progressive civil society and trade unions, SOLIDAR promotes equality, solidarity and social justice in the fields of social affairs, international cooperation and education. SOLIDAR's Weekly Round Up provides you with the latest information and news from the SOLIDAR Network. If you have any comments or wish to have further information on any of the articles featured in the Weekly Round Up, please do not hesitate to contact [SOLIDAR's Communications Officer](#)

[www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org)