

SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 27-01-2012

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Some optimistic news for the EU this week with the positive result of Croatia's referendum to join the EU which took place last Sunday. We fully welcome the EU's Enlargement in the Western Balkans to help countries in the region keep on track with promoting democracy, transparency and the fight against corruption. And we think that there is a necessity for the EU to continue having this Balkans perspective.

The [Decent Work Balkans Network](#), of which SOLIDAR is an active member, has conducted [research](#) that confirms that countries in the Western Balkans are still far from being able to guarantee, protect and fulfill socio-economic rights. It is therefore crucial that, in this worsening economic climate, the EU firmly insists on the full implementation of adopted labour and employment legislation and ensures that legal control mechanisms for the promotion of workers' and labour rights are guaranteed.

As well as encouraging these processes to continue in the Western Balkans, at the same time we also need to be promoting similar processes in Turkey and Neighbouring countries. Civil society is a crucial stakeholder - together with social partners and all levels of credible authority - to monitor the EU's Enlargement Strategy and how it can continue to strengthen the social pillar, like through socio-economic partnerships. Let's work together to make a stronger, larger Europe!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SILVER ROSE AWARDS 2012

You can now [register](#) for the SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards. The event, taking place on 6 March in the European Parliament, will celebrate individuals and organisations whose extraordinary acts have contributed to social justice and solidarity in Europe and throughout the worldwide. Winners will be announced in the week of 6 February.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS**FRANCO-GERMAN PLANS TO RE-USE UNSPENT ESF FUNDS IN RECOVERY PROJECTS**

Last week, France and Germany proposed re-using EU structural funds to stimulate growth and employment in countries having serious economic difficulties or under a bail-out programme. The idea is to use the unspent EU funds from European Regional Development Funds (ERDF), Cohesion Fund and the European Social Fund for "growth and competitiveness" projects in these countries. [Read more...](#)

ECJ: REPLACEMENT NEEDS MAY JUSTIFY REPEATED FIXED-TERM CONTRACTS

On 26 January, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled on a case that was brought to court by a German juridical clerk who had 13 fixed-term contracts concluded successively and without interruption over a period of 11 years. In its [judgement](#) the court declared that the renewal of fixed-term employment contracts may be justified by replacement needs, even where that need

is recurring or even permanent. However, the non-abusive use of those successive fixed-term contracts may, where necessary, be verified, taking into account their number and cumulative duration. The court added that the number and cumulative duration of fixed-term contracts concluded in the past with the same employer must be taken into account in assessing the abusive nature of the situation. [Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

THE ARAB SPRING ONE YEAR LATER

Almost a year has passed since the revolution in Tunisia and protests in Cairo's Tahrir Square toppled dictatorship regimes, lighting up popular calls for democracy in the Arab world. It is still difficult to foresee where these events will eventually lead, as many challenges still loom ahead of the Arab people and nations: high unemployment rates, drastic socio-economic discrepancies, uncertain future for the majority of youth. But there is no turning back. New social and political movements and structures are emerging, power is shifting, and there is hope that democratic processes will strengthen and spread across the Arab world in 2012. [Read more...](#)

EU REPORT CALLS FOR LEGISLATION DISCOURAGING JEWISH SETTLEMENTS GROWTH

A report drawn up by EU diplomats in Jerusalem, presented in Brussels this week, calls on the European Commission to consider legislation to discourage "financial transactions in support of settlement activity". The report says that "successive Israeli governments have pursued a policy of transferring Jewish population into the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in violation of the fourth Geneva convention and international humanitarian law". "If current trends continue, the prospect of Jerusalem as the future capital of two states becomes increasingly unlikely and unworkable, undermining the two-state solution." [Read more...](#)

MEMBERS NEWS

Read new documents in the **Members Area**: Members Update on Decent Work for Domestic Workers and the latest funding opportunities (for access details, contact [Abigail](#)).

Find out about **War on Want's** [final push](#) to stop supermarket bullying.

Read [Arci](#)'s newsletter.

PARTNERS NEWS

In the face of a worsening economic and social situation and the ever-tougher austerity measures being imposed by Europe's leaders as the only solution, the **European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)** has called for a [European day of action](#) on 29 February, the eve of the European Council. Trade unions will mobilise across Europe to have jobs and social justice placed at the heart of political priorities.

Read the **ETUC's** [Declaration](#) on the "Treaty on stability, coordination and governance in the economic and monetary union".

EUCIS-LLL are organising a [public hearing](#) on Social Innovation in LLL on 6 March 2012 in Brussels.

Workers Advice Center (WAC-MAAN), Sindyanna of Galilee and Hanitzotz Publishing House annually organise the fantastic [Exhibition: Bread and Roses](#) which brings together works by both Arab and Jewish women.

Join **Global Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Human Trafficking's** [Facebook](#) group.

European Volunteer Centre is looking for a new [Director](#).

Workability Europe is looking for a part-time [Communications Officer](#).

AGENDA

Feb
3 Achieving decent work through industrial relations - low wage sector, Amsterdam
9-10 Achieving decent work through industrial relations - migrants and young people, Bucharest
22 Decent Work in the Western Balkans, EP, Brussels
22 SOLIDAR Italian Members Meeting, Roma
6 SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards, EP, Brussels

March
20- SOLIDAR Round Table on Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, Paris
21

SOLIDAR is a European network of 56 NGOs active in over 90 countries working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the concerns of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the policy sectors social affairs, international cooperation and lifelong learning. For more info <http://www.solidar.org/>

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