

SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 03-02-2012

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THIS IS NOT ABOUT FOOTBALL

Yesterday in Egypt, 74 people were killed at a football game in Port Said. It is being reported that the police did not intervene even after recurring violent episodes took place during the match. This only provides another reason for the thousands of Egyptians to keep protesting against the military regime which maintains power over the country.

Lessons from transition processes in Greece, Spain and Portugal in the seventies, in Central and Eastern Europe in the eighties and nineties, and now in the Middle East and North Africa, have shown that getting rid of a dictator is only the first step. The more complicated process is rebuilding a just, fair and inclusive society.

SOLIDAR wants to contribute to transition in the region by empowering progressive movements to build the more just and equal society that they are calling for. Europe's credibility has suffered from the support given to dictators, and it should therefore seize this opportunity to contribute to the emergence of another society. This needs partnership between all actors in society and therefore the empowerment of civil society is not just a token gesture, but an essential part of the process.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

Austerity measures imposed by a treaty negotiated behind closed doors will restrict growth, weaken Europe's cohesiveness and erode democracy, argues [Conny Reuter in his capacity as President of Social Platform](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

INNOVATIVE SOCIAL SERVICES

This week, a project aiming to build a [platform on innovative social services](#) was launched. Over the next two years, SOLIDAR, together with other project partners, will support the University of Heidelberg in implementing a multi-level dialogue process on innovative social service delivery.

The project will increase knowledge on what can be considered innovative in social services and develop a clear understanding of how evidence in innovative social services can be evaluated and assessed. Short visual examples will be produced and combined with theoretical case studies of innovative practices. The final product is a report indicating the key elements of and future scenarios for innovative social services in Europe with regard to the sectors of health, education and welfare. [Read more...](#)

SEMINARS: THE QUEST FOR EFFECTIVE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS FOR DECENT WORK

A series of seminars are taking place over the next weeks bringing together representatives from local authorities, workers' organisations and international stakeholders to investigate tools and models for effective social and industrial dialogue to promote decent work.

Today, the focus of the seminar in Amsterdam is on the low wage sector and next week (9-10 February) the focus of the seminar in Bucharest will shift to migrants and young people. The seminar will explore how labour migration policies in sending and receiving countries affect their working conditions and how young adults can integrate into quality employment. [Find out more and register.](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

HOW TO PREVENT A DEEPER JOBS CRISIS ACCORDING TO THE ILO

Last week, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) launched its [Global Employment Trends for 2012: preventing a deeper jobs crisis](#). The main finding of the report is that the world faces the "urgent challenge" of creating 600 million productive jobs over the next decade in order to generate sustainable growth and maintain social cohesion.

The labour market trends presented in the report emphasise that not only more employment needs to be created, also decent and better-paid jobs should be assured. Therefore the ILO highlights the importance of effective government policies with real positive impact on people's lives. To address the global employment challenge, policies need to coordinate at global level, aim at the regulation of the financial system and encourage investments from the private sector, all this without putting fiscal stability at risk.

ENLARGEMENT

ROUND TABLE: MAKING THE SYSTEM WORK - ENSURING DECENT WORK & QUALITY JOBS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

On 22 February, come and join national and EU stakeholders, and Members of the European Parliament at a [round table](#) to discuss how the European Enlargement Strategy can continue to support socio-economic partnerships between social partners, relevant civil society organisations and all levels of authorities to better address this implementation and enforcement and to establish a set of priorities for the region.

MEMBERS NEWS

Support **Banana Link**'s online petition calling on the EC to regulate supermarket buyer power as part of the [Make Fruit Fair campaign](#).

Support **Volkshilfe Austria** campaign [Poverty Made in Austria](#). There are countries where having a warm place to sleep is not a given. Countries like Austria.

Read **Solidaridad Internacional**'s [publication](#) "Egipto, un año después de la euforia al miedo"

PARTNERS NEWS

EURODIACONIA [calls for action](#) to tackle increasing over indebtedness

Read the **European House in Hungary**'s [communication](#) on the incident that happened in Budapest, in front of the European Commission Representation in Hungary last Saturday.

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 SOLIDAR/ENOP Round Table: Decent Work in the Western Balkans, EP, Brussels 22 SOLIDAR Italian Members Meeting, Roma 6 SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards, EP, Brussels
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March

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

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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