

SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 17-02-2012

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On Monday 20 February we will celebrate the World Day of Social Justice, even if this day will not get the media attention that it deserves. Social justice is one of the core values for a movement like SOLIDAR. But have we made real progress in this matter? The last report on [Employment and Social Development in Europe](#) shows that inequality is rising even in countries which are often used as reference points for the welfare state and European social model like Scandinavian countries and Germany.

Is it astonishing to state that EU Member States are not even able to reach the Europe 2020 Strategy target of reducing the number of people living in poverty by 20 million? Currently, the 27 Member States between them are only targeting 12 million people living in poverty. And this at a time when labour markets are becoming more and more divided through atypical work contracts and a lack of social dialogue. Being working poor has become a reality, and is not only getting worse in countries under the threat of austerity measures.

Social Justice remains our aim inside and outside of Europe. It can only be reached if we stop social dumping and exclusion, if we invest globally in social protection schemes, and it must be accompanied by the defense of fundamental rights and anti-discrimination policies. Is this a dream? No, all of the above is in the Lisbon Treaty and just needs to be translated into legislation. There is an alternative; we just need those who dare to put it in place.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

MEPS DISCUSS USING UNSPENT ESF GRANTS FOR TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

This week in the Plenary session in Strasbourg, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) discussed the Commission's idea to use unspent European Structural Funds (ESF) grants to create jobs and reduce youth unemployment by refocusing and adapting programmes in countries particularly facing this issue. The idea goes back to a [Franco-German proposal](#) for EU growth and competitiveness programmes.

MEPs from different groups supported the idea of having a real investment in tackling youth unemployment and fully exploiting the potential of the ESF in doing so. They remained however skeptical about the practicability of the proposal. The respective ESF subsidies might in some cases indeed not yet have been allocated to concrete projects, but they are already committed to programmes within the Member States. [Read more...](#)

VIDEO: REFRAMING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - LOW WAGE WORKERS IN ITALY

The number of people working in low wage jobs in Italy is increasing. These workers often do not earn enough money to stay above the poverty line. What is the role and the tools and models that are necessary for effective industrial relations to ensure decent work for all? People in low paid jobs and stakeholders in industrial relations voice their views. See the [video](#):

Reframing Industrial Relations: Low Wage Workers in Italy.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

LEF DOCUMENTARY SELECTED FOR BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL

The Pakistani Labour Education Foundation's (LEF) documentary "[Rise of the Oppressed](#)" on the working conditions of power loom workers of Faisalabad has been selected for the Talent Campus of the International Berlin Film Festival 2012. The film directed by Ammar Aziz was highlighted last year in Brussels during the SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards 2011 where LEF, also a member of the [Global Network](#), received the International Solidarity Award.

ENLARGEMENT

NEW BRIEFING: RESPECT AND PROTECTION OF LABOUR RIGHTS IN KOSOVO

Kosovo* is facing complex political, cultural and economic challenges. In addition, social challenges - including labour rights - were never addressed in an appropriate way, either under the United Nations administration or after the country's independence from Serbia in 2008. This new [briefing](#) shows that although some progress has been made in the field of labour rights in Kosovo, there are still many challenges to overcome. This is partly due to complex legislation as a whole and partly due to its weak implementation.

MEMBERS NEWS

Volkshilfe is calling for donations in Ukraine: About 600 people have died from the cold during the last days in Europe. For that reason, Volkshilfe Österreich supports Narodna Dopomoha, the Ukrainian Volkshilfe, via a call for donations and reinforces emergency aid activities in cooperation with AWO Bavaria. With only 2 Euros, a homeless person can be accommodated for one night. Please [help now](#).

Banana Link and War on Want issued a [press release](#) on Silver Rose Winner 2012 Winner Iris Munguia.

Read the **Pas d'Education, Pas d'Avenir!** Campaign 2012 [newsletter](#)

Discover **La Ligue de l'Enseignement**'s new [website](#) with information and resources on "la vie associative".

Read **Pour la Solidarité**'s new [study](#) "Le Fonds social européen dans le cadre financier pluriannuel 2014-2020 : état des lieux et enjeux pour l'économie sociale".

Read **Arci**'s [newsletter](#)

PARTNERS NEWS

EUCIS-LLL invites you to its [Public Hearing](#) on "Social Innovation in Education and Training" on 6 March 2012 from 9:30 to 12:30 in Brussels.

AGENDA

Feb

- 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 - [Register](#)
- 20 SOLIDAR Round Table: Young People and the Search for Decent Work, EP, Brussels - [register](#)

March

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

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