

SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 16-03-2012

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**EDUCATION - INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE**

If there is one topic which appears to have consensus amongst decision makers on national and European level, it is about education. For some, education is the main resource remaining in an ageing Europe and in times of global competition, for others, it is about the match between the needs of the labour market and the necessary qualifications. The most recent OECD study shows that systems with the highest private sector in education also produce the most inequalities, like Chile and the UK. Investing in education requires finances and a strong public sector.

Unfortunately the reality is slightly different: in countries suffering from austerity and which have no more capacity for investing in education - often also under IMF and EU programmes - wages of teachers are being cut and tuition fees are being increased. How do we solve this dilemma in times of global competition and demographic change? A Financial Transaction Tax is one answer, but it goes further than this, it is about tax justice and raising the income side of countries with large deficits. Knowing that the effects of investment in education only pay off after 10 years, all the mistakes of today will have long lasting effects.

Young people want to be part of society and have access to the labour market and have decent working and employment conditions. Education systems should offer skills and competences which go beyond technical skills, and should be adjusted to the transition from education to work. The main aim of formal education providers should be to provide learners with an adequate set of skills and competences and lifelong learning opportunities. Empowering learners to be a part of the society they live in reaches far beyond being more than just an "employee with the right skills", it is also about empowering people to participate in an inclusive society!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS**DECENT WORK & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS STUDIES LAUNCHED**

A series of studies conducted by project partners illustrating indecent working conditions and pinpointing good practices for effective industrial relations to foster quality employment have just been launched. The studies are grouped around three clusters: young people, migrants and workers in low wage sectors in given European countries.

In [Denmark](#), [Estonia](#) and [Lithuania](#), the studies portray the situation of young people facing unemployment or precarious working conditions. In [Romania](#) and [Italy](#), they explore how labour migration policies in sending and receiving countries affect migrants' working conditions and discrimination against them. In [The Netherlands](#) and [Italy](#), the studies focus on the increase of working poor and specifically in the sectors of cleaning and care.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**DOMESTIC WORKERS RIGHTS: GLOBAL NETWORK ASIA ASKS PHILIPPINE**

GOVERNMENT TO RATIFY ILO CONVENTION 189

On International Women's Day, the [Global Network Asia](#) gathered in Manila to urge the Philippine Government to take the lead in the ratification and future implementation of the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (C189). In the [letter](#), signed by 14 Asian organisations, the Global Network Asia highlighted that millions of Filipino women work as domestic workers abroad and within the country and that the ratification of the ILO Convention is necessary to protect their rights and welfare.

SOLIDAR, together with its Global Network Partners, supports the ITUC-led [12 by 12 Campaign](#) for the Ratification of C189. On the 2011 World Day for Decent Work, SOLIDAR requested European Governments to support this call for dignity. If ratified and implemented, domestic workers around the world will have the same basic labour rights as those available to other workers: reasonable hours of work, weekly rest of at least 24 consecutive hours, a limit on in-kind payment, clear information on terms and conditions of employment, a safe and healthy working environment, social security including maternity leave, respect for the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining as well as protection against abusive practices.

MIGRATION

EP HEARING ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM FUND

On 7 March, SOLIDAR took part in a panel at a European Parliament Hearing "[EU Funding on Migration, Integration and Asylum Testing the Added Value](#)" on establishing a [migration and asylum fund](#) in an effort to streamline funding and to give DG Home Affairs an external dimension. While this approach may enable a more transversal policy approach to migration, SOLIDAR considers that the grounds for proposal and the specific objectives for the proposal should go beyond border security, re-admission and skilled migration. Indeed, this focus on channeling migration does not reflect the essential realities of migration. Therefore, migrants' rights and the lack of decent work and poverty related push factors have to be put at the centre of the discussion on a viable rights-based EU migration policy.

MEMBERS NEWS

Banana Link's [Make Fruit Fair](#) campaign: Take action to protect melon workers' rights in Honduras.

War on Want is [calling for an end to sweatshop exploitation](#). They are working in countries like Bangladesh, supporting women in their fight for better pay and decent conditions.

PARTNERS NEWS

EUCIS-LLL invites you to its [Annual Conference](#) on «Social Innovation for Active Inclusion: Lifelong Learning Contribution for better Tomorrow» on 14 May 2012 from 9:30 to 18:00 in the Auditorium "Zeger Van Hee" in College De Valk (KU Leuven University) Leuven.

CONCORD AidWatch is looking for a [consultant/report writer](#) for the first AidWatch report in 2012. The deadline for application is Sunday, 25 March 2012, 12 PM Brussels time.

Francine Mestrum from [Global social justice](#) has written an article on [Social Protection Floor: beyond poverty reduction?](#)

EU in Crisis - analysis, resistance and alternatives to corporate Europe | Saturday 5 - Sunday 6 May 2012 | Maison des Associations Internationales, Brussels
Join Corporate Europe Observatory, Transnational Institute and representatives from social movements and trade unions across Europe for this two-day event to examine the EU's response to the crisis, discuss democratic alternatives, strengthen networking, and develop concrete plans for action. [Register now](#).

The **International Labour Organization** (ILO) has launched a [video contest](#) for young people

(from 18 to 29 years) to show how the global jobs crisis is affecting their lives.

PES have launched their campaign for a [European Youth Guarantee](#)

AGENDA

April

- 20 SOLIDAR Round Table: Young People and the Search for Decent Work, EP, Brussels
- 20-21 SOLIDAR Round Table: Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, Paris - [register](#)
- 20-21 SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee, Brussels - [register](#)
- 28 SOLIDAR International Cooperation Committee, Brussels - [register](#)

- 11 SOLIDAR Round Table: Why Social Protection Should be an Essential Part of EU Development Cooperation Strategy, EP, Brussels - [register](#)

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