

SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 09-04-2012

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EASTER SURPRISE?

This week, Eurostat released the new [unemployment statistics](#) for Europe. They show that within one year, the number of unemployed people has risen by nearly 1.5 million in the Eurozone, with a huge disparity between countries like Spain, and Germany and Austria. Figures from countries applying austerity measures are anything but encouraging, with rising unemployment and social disintegration leading to desperate acts like the suicide of a [Greek pensioner](#).

As the European Commission's DG for Economic and Financial Affairs and the Council are focusing on fiscal and financial consolidation, more and more voices in Europe are concerned by the lack of investment strategy for jobs and sustainable growth. Where is the vision for a new industrial policy in Europe with huge job creation built on smart and sustainable development? In our sector, health and care, with an ageing Europe and a changing labour force, there is a real call for new jobs; but these jobs need to be stable, with decent working contracts and working conditions.

Social NGOs and social service providers approved the Voluntary European Quality Framework for SSGIs and believe that investment in training and quality jobs in this field can contribute to more employment, but to make this happen, we also need to see public investment in education and training. The Commission will soon present its employment package and we want to see intelligent proposals for pathways to decent work and quality employment, and not more flexibility and volatility. Proposals from networks like Social Services Europe and the Social Platform have been tabled.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

A PLATFORM ON INNOVATIVE SOCIAL SERVICES: GET INVOLVED!

SOLIDAR recently sent round a [questionnaire](#) to collect examples of innovative social services from all over Europe. The questionnaire is part of [InnoServ](#), a research project aiming to define what can be considered innovative in social services and to assess the added value of social innovation in the provision of more inclusive, affordable and efficient services.

SOLIDAR strongly encourages its members and other organisations representing social services providers to feed into the project and to circulate the questionnaire through their networks. The information gathered through this questionnaire will be used to realise a comparative report providing criteria to identify and evaluate innovation in healthcare, education and welfare services in Europe.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CRISIS SHOULD NOT BE EXCUSE TO REDUCE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION CONTRIBUTIONS

According to new [OECD figures](#) released on Wednesday, major donors' aid to developing countries fell by nearly 3% in 2011, breaking a long trend of annual increases. As [observed by CONCORD](#), almost all European countries are making cuts in their aid programmes to the developing world and for the first time since the start of the financial crisis, 12 EU countries have slashed their aid budgets. The biggest cuts were in Spain (-32.7%) and Greece (-39.3%), with substantial decreases in Belgium (-13.3%) and Austria (-14.3%).

SOLIDAR believes that cuts in development aid respond to a narrow, short term and austerity driven vision. Moreover, the 'rhetoric' of scarce available resources 'due to the financial crisis' should be combined, to be credible, with an active and constant action to look for new resources and innovative funding for development. Two examples among others: 1) support the establishment of a [Financial Transaction Tax](#) that would give billions to tackle poverty in Europe and abroad ; 2) Fight illicit capital flight which costs developing countries an estimated \$1 trillion a year (3% proceeding from corruption and over 50% from tax dodging by companies).

NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL NETWORK

The global network of labour movement activists, coordinated by SOLIDAR and IFWEA, have released their monthly [newsletter](#). Read about the actions taking place around the globe on the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers, amongst others. Also, check out the Global Network [Facebook page](#).

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

Lend your Leg for a Mine Free World: **Norwegian People's Aid's** Solidarity Youth Movement, encourages everyone to lend their legs for a mine free world on 4 of April, the UN Day for Mine Action and Mine Awareness. read more about [NPA's Mine Action work](#).

Check out **Humanitas'** [film](#) about their Home Administration project, where Manou tells us how a volunteer supported and taught her how to independently manage her home finances and administration.

Book your ticket for **War on Want's** [Comedy Gig](#) is on Tuesday 1 May at the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London.

CSV has issued [press release](#) responding to the newly issued [Riots, Communities and Victims Panel Report](#), an independent report investigating the riots in the UK last summer.

Read **IFWEA's** [newsletter](#).

Read **Arci's** [news](#).

PARTNERS NEWS

Egyptian Constitutional Court has judged that "Trade Union Elections are Not Constitutional" In its session held yesterday Saturday 31 March 2012 the Constitutional Court ruled that Article No. 11 of the Decree of the Minister of Manpower and Training No. 146 for the year 1996 is not constitutional. [Read more...](#)

Read **Eurodiaconia's** [press release](#) calling for real commitment to Roma inclusion

AGENDA

April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 SOLIDAR Round Table: Why Social Protection Should be an Essential Part of EU Development Cooperation Strategy, EP, Brussels. 25 Round Table: The Search for Decent Work: Low Wage Sectors and Migrant Workers, EP, Brussels - register 11 SOLIDAR Board, Brussels
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22-

24
May

Global Network Global Conference, Rio

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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