

SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 20-04-2012

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A PATHWAY TO JOB-RICH RECOVERY?

Yesterday (18 April), the European Commission presented its communication on how to help Europe recover from the crisis by boosting labour demand and exploiting the employment potential of some key sectors (read our full analysis below). The document recognises many issues that SOLIDAR and others have been calling for, such as the employment potential of the health and social sector and decent and sustainable wages.

The communication also underlines the need for social dialogue at a time where it is being sidelined by many Members States blindly applying austerity policies. It also recalls the agreement on pathways to flexicurity which were on our agenda in 2007. Finally, minimum wages are at least mentioned as a good example in some countries.

When it comes to the financial instruments, like the European Structural Funds (ESF), we can only reiterate that social NGOs want to see any conditionality deleted from the proposal and support strongly the Commission's proposal on earmarking 25% of ESF for social inclusion. The communication has certainly done a good job in identifying issues and making proposals. We will now see what difference it is actually going to make to the 24.5 million unemployed people in Europe, which will very much depend on the Member States.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

EC COMMUNICATION ON JOB-RICH RECOVERY IN THE EU

Yesterday (18 April), the European Commission launched its "employment package", a policy communication on a "job-rich recovery" accompanied by a series of [Staff Working Documents](#), in which the EC seeks to carry forward the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and its flagship initiatives. [Read our analysis...](#)

UNDERDEVELOPED: SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN SOCIAL SERVICES

Due to fragmentation in the social services sector, low recognition and organisation of social service providers as employers and a lack of common understanding as to what social dialogue includes, the social services sector still shows an underdeveloped social dialogue system in most EU Member States. These are the first findings presented at the mid-term coordination meeting of the project "[Promoting Employers' Social Services Organisations in Social Dialogue](#)" (PESSIS), in which SOLIDAR is a partner. [Read more...](#)

TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE QUALITY OF WORK

Eurofound, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, organised a major conference 'Quality of work and employment: A policy tool towards an inclusive and sustainable growth' in Brussels on 12 April addressing the challenges inherent in

achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy towards 'smart, sustainable and inclusive growth'. At the event, Eurofound also presented findings from its latest [European Working Conditions Survey](#). [Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

GLOBAL NETWORK IN SRI LANKA CAMPAIGNS FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS RIGHTS

The Institute of Social Development (Global Network in Sri Lanka) together with the National Trade Union Federation, ACTFORM & National Workers' Congress have set up a "CCC 189 campaign committee" to demand the Sri Lankan government to ratify the ILO's Convention 189 on domestic workers. A signature campaign has been launched and is expected to collect 50,000 signatures to be handed over to the President of Sri Lanka. On 25 April 2012, the campaign committee will hold a public signature collection in front of one of Colombo's main railway stations.

GLOBAL NETWORK CONFERENCE: THE ROLE OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT IN SHAPING THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENDA AFTER 2015

On 22-24 May in Rio, the Global Network will have its [global conference](#) bringing together Global Network partners, trade union centers, progressive forces linked to the labour movement, and labour and human rights activists from at least 20 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Arab Countries and Europe.

Issues for debate include the right to social protection and the campaign for domestic workers rights. The conference will also provide the opportunity to hear about successful campaigns and projects, including experiences of people organising in the informal economy. As a result of the conference, a policy statement will be sent to government representatives participating in the ILO International Labour Conference and Rio+20 Summit in June 2012.

MIGRATION

AWO CONFERENCE ON CARE

On the 17 April, SOLIDAR Member Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO)'s Bavaria hosted a conference on the current situation of care in Germany and Europe, with in addition, two sessions with care givers and relatives of people in need of care giving an insightful overview of current dilemmas faced. Participants agreed that the discussion on care as a moral right has to primarily focus on the needs of those affected.

SOLIDAR presented the ongoing European discussion on care. Other speakers included Thomas Beyer, Chair of AWO's Bavaria, Franz Wölfl, Bavarian Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Family, Reiner Prölß, City Counsellor of Nuremberg, and Edelgard Bulmahn, former German Minister for Education and Research.

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

Learn more about **UNISON**'s [online campaign](#) to influence MEPs not to support a new enhanced trade agreement with Israel without human rights for Palestinians.

Register for a [discussion](#) by **Pour la Solidarité** on: "TIC et services à la personne: vers une meilleure inclusion des personnes dépendantes? on 26 April 2012 in Brussels.

[Sign](#) **SOLIDAR Suisse**'s petition for a World Cup 2014 respecting human rights and find out about [FIFA's response](#) to the campaign.

Look at **Solidaridad Internacional**'s [online questionnaire](#) to increase solidarity in Spain.

Read **Legacoopbund**'s [article](#) on how the social economy has helped 266 disadvantaged people find work.

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

Read **Olof Palme International Centre's** [letter](#) calling on the UN to extend the MINURSO mandate to monitor and report on human rights violations in Western Sahara.

PARNTERS NEWS

Social Platform has launched a new edition of [Engage](#).

Sign up for this [webinar](#) by **DEEEP** and **IDEA** in the series "Development as shared Responsibility" on "Educators as Agents for Social Change" which will take place on 30 April at 1 pm.

Read the **Fair Trade Advocacy Office's** latest [newsletter](#).

Register for the **EUCIS-LLL Annual Conference and General Assembly** 2012 on 14-15 May in Leuven (Belgium).

AGENDA

April
May

25	Round Table: The Search for Decent Work: Low Wage Sectors and Migrant Workers, EP, Brussels.
11	SOLIDAR Board, Brussels
22- 24	Global Network Global Conference, Rio - register

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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