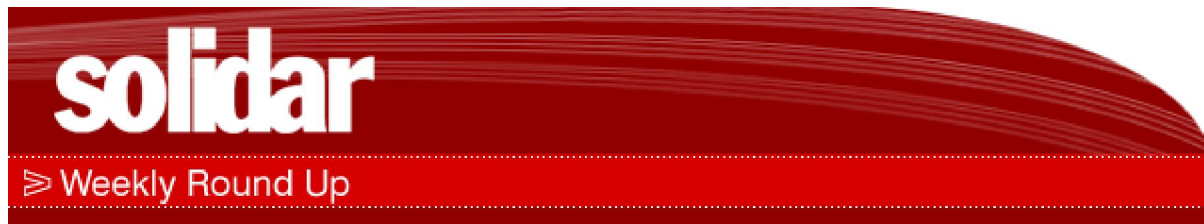


SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 27-04-2012

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Aan: Veerle Solia

**1 May: Winds of change?**

This year's 1 May the call for Decent Work and Youth Employment should be the key message! In 10 days France will elect a new President. The results of the first round of elections and the polls indicate that these elections will be politically significant for all of Europe, as well as globally. With the Socialist candidate having taken the lead in this first round, progressives are of course full of hope, but they do have to look into the results: with 20% voting for the extreme right with a very high number of young people voting for the first time.

Is it responsible to continue to preach for more flexibility and to tell young people that they cannot expect to have decent work throughout their career? To be honest, if the only answer from the EU and some governments continues to be fiscal and financial consolidation translated by more austerity measures, there is a high risk to see another lost generation and an even stronger populist and extreme right.

Youth employment is the key, and this needs to be done through a youth guarantee based on investment in education and training. Policy is about choices, choice of investment instead of "kaputt sparen". And our task as SOLIDAR is to continue contributing to social transformation by calling for investment in the future generation!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS**Unions and NGOs cooperate for effective industrial relations and decent work**

On Tuesday (25 April), two Round Tables on "effective industrial relations in low wage sectors" and "migrant workers and the search for decent work" took place in the European Parliament within the context of the project ["Making Industrial Relations Work for Decent Work"](#).

Discussions started on the situation of workers in the cleaning, health and care sectors, where low wages often lead to in-work poverty. As SOLIDAR Secretary General pointed out "a cheap product normally has a high social price", which is why a high quality service must be guaranteed, and this through decent wages, equal pay and equal conditions for equal work.

[Read more.](#)

Social services sector - key driver of employment growth

This week, the Social Services Europe network - of which SOLIDAR is a co-founder - issued a [briefing paper](#) explaining the key role of health and social services providers in creating employment opportunities, as well as in providing responses to the growing demands for care in Europe. [Read more.](#)

ENLARGEMENT

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance proposal: MEPs endorse SOLIDAR recommendations

On Tuesday, the European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee voted in favour of MEP Marije Cornelissen's (Greens/EFA) draft opinion strengthening the social dimension of the EC's proposal on the [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance](#) (IPA II). MEPs backed the key elements in SOLIDAR's [proposed amendments](#) made based on SOLIDAR's public consultation with trade unions, think tanks and civil society organisations in the Western Balkans and the work of members and partners in the region. [Read more.](#)

Time to stop neglecting the social dimension of Enlargement

This week, a draft report on "Enlargement: policies, criteria and the EU's strategic interests" was presented by MEP Maria Eleni Koppa's (S&D) in the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs. The report calls for setting social criteria to ensure positive social transformation in the Western Balkans, more intense monitoring efforts by the European Commission, greater involvement of the civil society in the accession process and additional financial support through the Civil Society Facility, all issues which SOLIDAR strongly supports. [Read more.](#)

MIGRATION

Recommendations from Joint NGO Letter on Seasonal Workers Directive taken up

Ahead of the orientation vote on the Seasonal Workers Directive, which took place on Wednesday (25 April), SOLIDAR, PICUM, ENAR, CIRE and 11.11.11 submitted a [joint letter](#) to Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. The letter called on Members to vote in favour of certain wordings in the Compromise Amendments that would protect the rights of seasonal workers and vulnerable groups, like migrant workers, with regards to social protection, labour standards and housing standards.

The Compromise Amendments in question were adopted with 52 votes in favour and one abstention.

Following fruitful cooperation with the rapporteurs of this EP report, SOLIDAR will continue to accompany the upcoming negotiations with the European Council and the European Commission on the Seasonal Workers Directive.

EDUCATION

New Education Training Manual

"Social Europe!? Components for the political education of European trade unionists" ([English](#), [German](#) and [French](#)) is a new training manual created for training trade union officials and workers on topics like politics, economics and society in the broader European context. This material was produced by the Europäische Akademie der Arbeit (EAdA), European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and SOLIDAR between October 2010 and September 2011, within the framework of the [project](#) Network of European Trade Union Academies - Better Information and Training of Trade Unionists.

A set of specific case studies and problems in the practical part of the course provide insight into the contradictions, challenges and opportunities that trade unionists are confronted with and to change their perspective of seeing those issues only from a national perspective. It also introduces a transnational dimension of the processes happening nowadays in Europe.

NETWORK NEWS

SOLIDAR has created a feed list named SOLIDAR Members for our network on **Twitter**. If you have Twitter and are not on the list, get in touch with us on [Twitter](#).

Learn more about **La Ligue de l'Enseignement** and **Solidarité Laïque**'s [campaign](#) for better education taking place from the 14 to 27 May 2012.

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

Don't miss **War on Want**'s [comedy gig](#) on the 1 May 2012.

Join Union Solidarity International in their [campaign](#) for more solidarity with Greece.

Visit **SOLIDAR Suisse**'s [site](#) and blow the whistle on Sepp Blatter for a fair World Cup 2014 in Brazil.

PARTNERS NEWS



Read the **Social Platform**'s press releases on the [Europe 2020 targets](#) and a [call](#) for investment as alternative to austerity.

EFFAT is looking for a [Press and Communication Officer](#).

Danish People's Aid is searching for a [Technical Adviser](#) for DAARTT and a [Training Specialist](#) for DAARTT in Afghanistan.

Read this **ILO** [report](#) on Governing globalization for jobs and equity

AGENDA

May

- 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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