

## SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 04-05-2012

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The Eurozone unemployment rate rose to a new high - 10.9% in March - the European Commission is doing right by [putting youth unemployment](#) at the top of its agenda stipulating entrepreneurship as a method to combat youth unemployment. As our network has recently carried out [three investigations](#) (nos. 42-44) into young people and the search for decent work, we need to draw the attention to the fact that self-employed persons are three times more likely to become working poor than regular employees. It can be an opportunity for young people but can also easily lead to situations where they are trapped.

We need to ensure that self-employment does not replace regular labour market opportunities and that it is decent work. There is no alternative to promoting regular working conditions in the industrial or service sector based on social dialogue. This is why self-employment should only be promoted with the provision of sufficient guidance, tools and instruments for investment in education and training preventing young people from falling into poor working conditions of permanent self-exploitation, insufficient social protection, debts and bankruptcy.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

### SOCIAL AFFAIRS

#### European Platform Against Poverty: austerity and social services

Following SOLIDAR's participation in last year's European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion (EPAP) organised by the European Commission's DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, a stakeholder dialogue meeting took place yesterday in Brussels to discuss austerity cuts and social services. Exchange on a regular basis with the Commission on how to combat poverty is a very positive step, we would however in the future encourage the participation of a wider base of Commission DGs, like Economic and Financial Affairs, to also hear the realities of poverty on the ground.

For SOLIDAR, it is not about singling out services which are essential and not so essential. Social services are an easy target for cuts by policy makers in Member States, but it must not be forgotten that social services and their users did not cause the crisis. There needs to be a change in discourse to highlight that there is a social return on investment which is higher than we estimate; we also need to contemplate what it will cost us in the long term if we do not invest now. The next EPAP Convention will take place from 5-7 December 2012 in Brussels. Like last time, there will be a chance to organise workshops. More information will follow.

### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

#### Domestic Workers Rights: Uruguay First to Ratify Domestic Workers Convention

The Uruguayan Senate approved ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention on 25 April 2012, after the House of Representatives approved it on 11 April. The ILO Domestic Workers Convention (C189) - adopted on 16 June 2011 - requires governments to provide domestic

workers with labour protection equivalent to those of other workers, including for working hours, minimum wage coverage, overtime compensation, daily and weekly rest periods, social security, and maternity protection.

It also includes specific protections for children, requiring governments to establish a minimum age for domestic work and ensuring that domestic work by children above that age does not interfere with their education. With its 120,000 domestic workers, Uruguay becomes the first Government to ratify the Convention. [SOLIDAR](#) and the [Global Network](#) support the ILO C189 Ratification Campaign.

## ENLARGEMENT

### ENPI: Mobilising for Social Justice

With the current revision of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENPI), the European Commission is aiming to eliminate the lack of coherence between the EU's internal instruments and policies and ENPI. This is a positive step as the Commission needs to address the increased vulnerability and exclusion of people from decent work and a decent life in the South and the rising poverty rates in the East, thus comprehensively tackling severe socio-economic disparities.

For SOLIDAR, the new Instrument should: include in the specific objectives the ambition to support the most vulnerable citizens and those most at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion, to strengthen the capacities of social partners to develop social dialogue promoting decent work and quality working life and the capacities of community-based initiatives focusing on active inclusion and social cohesion. [Read more...](#)

## NETWORK NEWS

**ASB Germany** is running a [campaign](#) to raise awareness on the social grievances in the Ukraine called: "Hilfe für die Ukraine".

Have a look at **ARCI**'s [awareness campaign](#) on people in Italy not allowed to vote, which is even more important with the upcoming elections.

Learn more about **ARCI**'s involvement in the [campaign](#) "Open Access Now - Open the doors. Let us go!" which is raising awareness for the conditions under which refugees are detained.

Sign **Solidaridad International**'s [petition](#) against a Spanish healthcare reform, which will increase restrictions for refugees to get healthcare.

**ACPP** supports a [manifesto](#) by NGOs and international organisations warning of the negative consequences caused by the state coup which took place in Guinea Bissau on 12 April 2012.

See this **Solidar Suisse** [report](#) on a new law on domestic violence in Nicaragua.

## PARTNERS NEWS

Read the 13th edition of **ENoP**'s quarterly [newsletter](#).

## AGENDA

<b>May</b>	11	SOLIDAR Board, Brussels
	22-24	Global Network Global Conference, Rio - <a href="#">register</a>
	7	SOLIDAR Annual General Assembly, Brussels

June

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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