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EDITORIAL: MORE UNION?

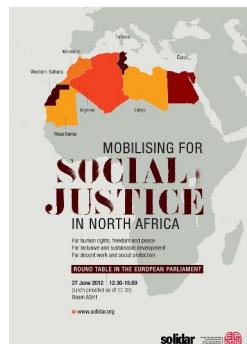
Another European summit took place yesterday (28 June) which again highlighted the opposing views of how to get out of the crisis: a banking union, a fiscal union, or a political union? On a positive note, the French Socialist President's proposal to devote ?120 billion in stimulus to encourage growth and create jobs was adopted, with ?55 billion being taken unused European structural funds.

There are just two dimensions missing. Firstly, the social union. If the consequences of engaging more public money for saving private banks and a financial system leads to more flexible labour markets and precariousness, then the long term answer will not only be more poverty, but more people turning away from society and the democratic consensus as they lose hope and trust in their future.

Secondly, a fiscal union that does not finally regulate the financial sector and create tax justice throughout Europe will not prevent tax evasion from Greece to Switzerland or Germany, and will not decrease competition on low corporate taxes between Member States and regions. [Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

MOBILISING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NORTH AFRICA



On Tuesday and Wednesday, SOLIDAR welcomed a delegation of 20 civil society organisations and trade union representatives from North Africa to Brussels for a series of meetings on mobilising for social justice in North Africa to tackle the serious challenges that the region is now facing. At an event at the European Parliament on Wednesday, at which MEPs Marie-Christine Vergiat, Judith Sargentini and Malika Benarab-Attou and Austrian MP Muna Duzdar were present, a [new briefing paper](#) proposing recommendations to European decision makers on how to create more social justice in North Africa in the wake of the Arab Spring was launched.

Esraa Abdelfattah from the Egyptian Democratic Academy told EU decision makers "we have learnt a great lesson from the Arab Spring - that the power is with the people." In his conclusions, Conny Reuter, SOLIDAR Secretary General, said: "we have seen the need for a regular dialogue between civil society organisations in the North and South of the Mediterranean and therefore plan to set up a SOLIDAR Civil Society Forum for the Mediterranean". A video report of the event will be available next week.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

HOW TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR?

Last Friday, the final conference of the project "Promoting employers' social services in social dialogue" (PESSIS), including SOLIDAR, took place in Brussels. Recommendations to EU and national decision makers include the development of social dialogue at EU level, further research on social dialogue in the sector, the empowerment of local actors and broad networking to enhance employers' responsibility taking. The final report and all recommendations will soon be published on the [PESSIS website](#). [Read more...](#)

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN THE SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR

This week, partners of the FP7 project '[A social platform on innovative social services](#)' (InnoServ), including SOLIDAR, met in Frankfurt to discuss the first results of the research activities carried out in the previous months as well as to organise the further steps.

Two reports have been produced (soon available on the SOLIDAR website). The first one is the analysis of a literature review carried out in 13 languages on the concepts and state of the art of social innovation in social services. The second report is based on a sample of more than 150 innovative local practices and aims at exploring the unmet needs in society driving social innovation as well as the new forms of partnership, governance and service provision which have emerged in the last years in the social service sector.

EU TRANSPARENCY REGISTER FACES SHARP CRITICISM

The pro-transparency group Alter-EU exposed the shortcomings of the voluntary European transparency register in a [report](#) launched on Monday (25 June). This register created by the European Commission and the European Parliament was established to increase transparency on the lobbying activities in Brussels. However some companies in the pharmaceutical, nuclear energy, financial sector, agri-business, as well as some Brussels-based think tanks, are still refusing to give insights into their activities. [Read more...](#)

EDUCATION

TRADE UNIONS VOICE NEED FOR RECOGNITION OF INFORMAL AND NON-FORMAL LEARNING

On 26-27 June, SOLIDAR participated in the European Trade Union Confederation conference on "Informal and Non-formal learning: parallel practices for a systemic integration". The conference built on the results of a research project conducted in 10 European countries on the recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning in the view of the upcoming Council Recommendations on the promotion of Non-formal and Informal learning in 2012. [Read more...](#)

ENLARGEMENT

CALL TO EUROPE: CHALLENGES ON THE EU's DOORSTEP

Last week, [Decent Work Balkan Network](#) representatives from AGENDA Institute (Albania), PROGRESS (Macedonia), Centre for Democracy Foundation (Serbia) and Centre for Civic Cooperation Livno (BiH) addressed the "Challenges on the EU's doorstep" at the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) "[Call to Europe](#)" conference. [Read more...](#)

NETWORK NEWS

War on Want is launching a [new campaign](#) to end sweat shops in Adidas' production chains.

Learn more about **Solidar Suisse**'s [water supply project](#) in Mozambique.

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

PARTNERS NEWS

Show your solidarity with **ILGA-Europe** by joining a [protest demo](#) outside the Ukrainian mission to

the EU next Monday against a proposed discriminatory law on "homosexual propaganda".

Watch this [new video](#) for the **Europeans for Financial Reforms** (EFFR) campaign to regulate credit rating agencies.

Read the **ETUC's statement** on the EU-Colombia/Peru free trade agreement.

SOLIDAR is a European network of 59 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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