

**Veerle Solia**

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## EDITORIAL: PARTNERSHIP? PARTNERSHIP!

How can social NGOs contribute to the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy? This was the topic of the meeting between the Social Platform and Troika at the informal meeting of the Ministers for Employment, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) in Cyprus on Thursday. Indeed, social NGOs like SOLIDAR have expertise not only as European policy advocates, but principally because our members are at the forefront of the social consequences of this crisis and are finding responses to the urgent social needs and social challenges in a creative and **socially innovative** manner.

Yes, we are part of civil dialogue on EU level - which still does not work quite as it should - but apparently there remains reluctance or misunderstanding from certain EU stakeholders to fully include us in negotiations. Whereas the European Commission takes our contributions seriously, it seems that others have not understood the role of the "corps intermediaries" and what our field of competences are. If we do not have expertise, why would the EP's Regional Development Committee have put NGOs and social partners in the second row when it comes to the design and implementation of European Structural Funds, like the European Social Fund (ESF). [Read more...](#)

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### PARTNERSHIP IN EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS SUFFERS HEAVY SETBACK

On Wednesday, the Committee on Regional Development in the European Parliament voted on the **Common Provisions Regulation** for EU Structural Funds (2014-2020), whereby they considerably weakened the sound **proposal of the European Commission** for a strong partnership in future funding programmes. This vote is of special consequence for SOLIDAR members as potential partners and implementers of programmes and projects under the European Social Fund or the European Regional Development Fund. [Read more...](#)

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### VIDEO: MOBILISING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NORTH AFRICA

A **video report** of the SOLIDAR "Mobilising for Social Justice in North Africa" event, which took place on 27 June in the European Parliament, is now available. The video brings forward the SOLIDAR network's recommendations on how to create more social justice in North Africa in the wake of the Arab Spring and reactions from European decision makers. The **full briefing paper** is also available.

## ENLARGEMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD

### 75 CSOs AND TRADE UNIONS APPLAUD PROPOSALS IN DRAFT REPORTS ON IPA II AND

## ENLARGEMENT

On Monday, 75 civil society organisations (CSOs) and trade unions from the Western Balkans sent out a statement to the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee welcoming proposals intending to strengthen the social dimension of the Enlargement process put forward by MEP Kristian Vigenin in the draft report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) and by MEP Maria Eleni Koppa's in the draft report on "Enlargement: policies, criteria and the EU's strategic interests". [Read more...](#)

## EDUCATION

### HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION: ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The North-South Centre, European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of Council of Europe has launched a call for the next edition of its Global Education online training course that will be organised on 6 - 31 August 2012. This particular training course on global education, with a focus on human rights is designed for practitioners in the field of education and development, teachers, social and youth workers, as well as stakeholders - policymakers, civil servants and local and regional authorities. Deadline for applications is 25 July 2012, and you can read more information on the [application procedure](#).

## MIGRATION

### THE DIASPORA HANDBOOK

This week, the Global Forum on Migration and Development released a new publication "[Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries](#)". The research in this handbook reinforces work that SOLIDAR is carrying out within the "[Making migration work for development](#)" project to underline the value that diaspora populations bring to development efforts worldwide. [Read more...](#)

## NETWORK NEWS

The **FIC SOLIDAR Youth Network** has released a [pamphlet](#) aiming to engage young people - students, young workers and youth in vocational training - in relevant activities. The young people already involved said that it is much more interesting to be active within such a diverse group and not just to be with people doing the same things as themselves.

Nadia Bellaoui, national secretary for French member **La Ligue de l'Enseignement**, was elected in as [new President](#) of the Conférence Permanente des Coordinations Associatives (CPCA) - the main gathering of associations in France.

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

## PARTNERS NEWS

**Sindyanna of Galilee** is a fair trade organisation closely connected with WAC-MAAN. Check out the new [Facebook page](#) in English.

The **PES Group in the CoR** are organising a [workshop on Youth unemployment](#) in the framework of the 2012 CoR Open Days.

The **Social Platform** is looking for an [Administration and Finance Officer](#).

## AGENDA

Sept

- 4 SOLIDAR Board meeting, Brussels
- 5 SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee, Brussels

October

## 7 World Day for Decent Work, Worldwide

*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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