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Advancing social justice in Europe and worldwide

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SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 07-09-2012

Editorial: Summertime blues by Conny Reuter, Secretary General

Pushing the reset button after the summer break is not possible when we look at the human dramas that this crisis is producing everyday in countries like Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland. We have heard stories of people killing themselves because they cannot afford to buy food, people suffering from starvation because they want to keep their houses.

Exclusion and extreme poverty have become a real danger, also for the middle classes, and there resides the political risk. When people turn away from democracy because they do not see a future, it paves the way for all kinds of extremism and xenophobia.

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Firenze 10+10: Joining Forces for Another Europe

10 years after the first European Social Forum, much has changed in Europe. On 8-11 November 2012, a [gathering](#) - spearheaded by SOLIDAR members ARCI and La Ligue de l'Enseignement – will take place in Florence gathering civic associations active in many European countries. This will be an opportunity to look at the present and future, and how to join forces from all over Europe because the moment is serious and we must act together.

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Social Affairs

Extended Time for Negotiations on EU Working Time Directive

Since last November European social partners have been attempting to conclude an agreement which would amend the existing EU Working Time Directive (2003/88/EC), and should be implemented by a Council decision. Unfortunately, the partners were not able to conclude these negotiations within the nine month period foreseen by the EU Treaty. In August, the European Commission therefore accepted their request to extend the time for negotiations until the end of the year.

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21st Annual Volonteurope Conference: Making a Difference through Engagement

The [21st Annual Volonteurope Conference](#), organised by SOLIDAR UK member [CSV](#), is taking place in Florence from 18-20 October 2012. The event will showcase the growing importance of volunteering to promote active citizenship and civic engagement, focusing on the current European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations, and also look into the upcoming European year of Citizens 2013.

International Cooperation

EC Communication on Social Protection in Development Cooperation Adopted

On 20 August, the European Commission published its [Communication](#) on Social Protection in European Union Development Cooperation. The Communication includes proposals on revenue reform for fiscal space, support for transformative social protection and the support for the National Social Protection Floors as a "well defined basis on which to build coordinated and, where possible, joint EU support for social protection with partner countries which decide to develop them" (section 8).

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Global Network Africa Study on wage raise demand from South African mine workers

The [Global Network](#) coordinator for Africa, Labour Research Service ([LRS](#)), published a study on the incident that happened on 16 August at the Marikana mine in South Africa in which 34 workers were killed by the police. In the [study](#) LRS analyses the demand from the workers to double their wages to 12.500 rand (about 1200 Euro).

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Migration

NGO Letter on EUROSUR

On Monday (3 September), SOLIDAR together with NGOs [AEDH](#), [PICUM](#), [JRS](#), [ENAR](#) and [REMDH](#), signed a [joint letter](#) sent to the European Parliament on the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR) requesting the establishment of a legal basis within the EUROSUR surveillance system proposal to guarantee fundamental rights for all migrants and asylum seekers. Currently, the EUROSUR initiative criminalises irregular migrants by emphasising the fight against organised crime and irregular migration. Furthermore provisions for search and rescue and the EU responsibility towards third countries are also neglected.

Education

Study Visit on Adult Education

One of the newest SOLIDAR member organisations, [AOF Norway](#), carried out a study visit in Brussels on 3-4 September. 15 AOF board members participated in sessions presenting the current status quo of adult education and the Lifelong Learning Programme at European level and the challenges in the field. This visit took place on the eve of the official presentation of a proposal for a Council Recommendation by the European Commission, which invites national governments to establish a [validation system for non-formal and informal learning](#).

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Discover the new SOLIDAR Website

SOLIDAR has launched its new website which aims to present the SOLIDAR network and our work in a clearer and more attractive manner. The address remains: <http://www.solidar.org>. You can discover our new video report on our recent Mobilising for North Africa event, read more about our areas of work and check out our new searchable publications section...

Network news

Read an interview with **SOLIDAR** on “Social Innovation: The Role of Social Service Providers”.

Read the latest **Global Network** newsletter.

Read Italian member **Arci**’s newsletter.

Read Belgian member **Pour la Solidarité**’s new publication on integration in Brussels and Wallonia.

Read French member **Fédération Nationale Léo Lagrange**’s latest news.

Discover **Foundation for European Progressive Studies** (FEPS)’s new issue of Queries.

Learn more about **SOLIDAR Suisse**’s event on 10 September in Geneva on forced labour camps in China.

Partner news

Join SOLIDAR’s Egyptian partner **CTUWS** in spreading the word about the situation and an upcoming strike by flight attendants of Egyptian airlines.

Join the first European Citizens Initiative on water as a human right to reclaim water as a common good and not a commodity, launched by **EPSU**. The Citizens Committee aims to collect over a million signatures by May 2013. Find out more: <http://www.right2water.eu>.

The deadline for submissions for the **EESC Civil Society Prize 2012** (EN | FR) on 30 September 2012 is approaching.

Read **Finance Watch**’s press release on high frequency trading.

Read **PICUM**’s press release on access of undocumented migrants to health care in Spain.

Read **ENAR**’s open letter to European Commissioner Viviane Reding and Prime Minister of France Jean-Marc Ayrault on the situation of Roma in France.

The **ILO** has launched updated figures on worldwide youth employment trends (EN|FR).

Calendar

September

4: SOLIDAR Board meeting, Brussels

5: SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee, Brussels

October

7: World Day for Decent Work

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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