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Advancing social justice in Europe and worldwide

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SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 05-10-2012

Editorial: Decent Work? Decent Work!

by Conny Reuter, Secretary General

During the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre (Brazil) in 2005 SOLIDAR, together with the ITUC and other NGO networks, took part in the creation of the “Alliance on Decent Work for a Decent Life”. Following the launch in 2007 of the global campaign, the ITUC instituted the World Day of Decent Work on 7 October, beginning in 2008.

When we started, none of us could have imagined the situation we face in Europe today, brought about by the ongoing crisis: 120 million people living in or on the verge of poverty, 25 million unemployed and almost the same number working for poverty wages. In the rich countries of the EU, the labour market is becoming more and more segmented, creating more indecent and precarious working conditions. In EU Members States faced with blind austerity measures, young people are particularly hard hit by the high levels of unemployment, resulting in the exodus of a whole young generation from their country in search of a decent life elsewhere.

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New Decent Work Online Library to Celebrate World Day for Decent Work

The [SOLIDAR Decent Work Online Library](#), launched today, brings together a wealth of resources that have been produced by the network and its partners over the past four years to claim, defend and extend the right to decent work and quality jobs for all workers.

The comprehensive collection of videos, briefing papers and other learning materials available in this library highlights the different issues facing workers in Europe and around the world, offering recommendations on how to make decent work and quality jobs a reality in Europe and worldwide. Users can search by topic (migration, rights at work, social dialogue, social protection) or by country. It also features new materials such as a short clip on decent work in the Western Balkans.

Social Affairs

Social Enterprises and the Europe 2020 Strategy

On 3 October, the Social Economy Interest Group in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) organised a [conference](#) on 'Social Enterprises and the Europe 2020 Strategy: innovative solutions for a sustainable Europe'. The event brought together a large number of civil society representatives to discuss how social enterprises can help meet the Europe 2020 targets, and to examine ways of enhancing its impact.

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International Cooperation

MEPs call for a more social approach in international cooperation spending

The European Parliament's (EP) Development Committee adopted in September a series of amendments to the European

Commission's (EC) proposal for the [2014-2020 Development Cooperation Instrument \(DCI\)](#). Based on their gross national income per capita, 19 countries have been removed from the list of aid programmes in the EC proposal, while many of them are still facing enormous challenges caused by poverty and inequality.

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Enlargement

“Rights first!” campaign

On the occasion of the World Day for Decent Work, 7 October, the Decent Work Balkan Network launched a video in English and five local languages as part of the public campaign to raise awareness about the need to promote mechanisms that can guarantee basic rights and ensure decent work in the region. The aim is to also encourage those in precarious conditions, informal workers, future workers and the unemployed to get informed and demand their rights and better protection via existing socio-economic partnerships including NGOs, trade unions and the media.

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Education

New Briefing Paper: Building learning societies and the role of non-formal and informal (adult) education and training

SOLIDAR released a [new briefing paper](#) on 2 October. There are currently more than 120 million people living in poverty, or at risk of falling into poverty, within the European Union. Approximately 25 million people are unemployed, of which 5.5 million are young people, while 77 million Europeans still have only lower secondary education. To draw attention to this situation, SOLIDAR has submitted this briefing paper, including policy recommendations on the role of non-formal and informal (adult) education and training, to the Irish Minister of Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn T.D., in preparation for the Irish EU Presidency in 2013.

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Network News

Support **Solidar Suisse's** [campaign](#) against food speculation.

Italian member **ARCI's** [newsletter](#) is out.

Belgian member **Pour la Solidarité** will host a conference in Brussels on 9 October. See the [programme](#).

Read the [latest news](#) by Italian member **AUSER**.

Learn more about U.K. member **USI**'s [activities](#).

See the latest [event report](#) by Swedish member **Olof Palme International Center**.

Read the [latest news](#) by Belgian member **FOS**.

Learn more about Australian member **Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA** [new cooperation](#).

Partners News

See this [letter](#) by Spanish NGO network **Coordinadora ONG para el desarrollo Espana**.

Our Egyptian partner the **Centre for Trade Union & Workers' Services** released a [press statement](#).

The **PES** has [news](#) about its' latest congress.

Our Israeli partner **Workers Advice Center** published a [new report](#).

The new **EPC newsletter** is out.

Have a look at the latest edition of **ENAR's** [webzine](#).

Read **FEANTSA's** [news flash](#).

ETUC has published a new [newsletter](#).

Agenda

7 October: World Day for Decent Work

16-18 October: SOLIDAR International Cooperation Forum

17 October (10.30-12.30): Round Table- Protecting Domestic Workers Rights: What is the Role of the EU?, European Parliament

17 October (13.30-16.00): Round Table – Mobilising for Freedom of Association: Human Rights Defenders Tell Their Stories, European Parliament

18-19 October: Global Network Steering Group

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 www.solidar.org

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