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Advancing social justice in Europe and worldwide

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## **SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 17-05-2013**

**Editorial by Conny Reuter, SOLIDAR Secretary General**

## How to Reverse the Tendency?

The seed is growing: governments and media in some EU Member States have started giving arrogant advice to other Member States on how to best tackle the crisis. The risk of a North-South Europe divide is more than just geographical, as these kinds of comments are threatening our common European project.

The [latest polls](#) presented by the Pew Research Center this week show that EU citizens' support for the European project has fallen sharply from 60% in 2012 to only 45% this year. And at a time when the debate has been launched on how to move towards a genuine Economic and Monetary Union, the same poll shows the support of EU citizens to European economic integration is also declining from 34% in 2012 to 28% in 2013 – with some figures from some individual Members States faring much worse. [Read more...](#)

## Global Breakthrough as Retail Brands sign up to Bangladesh Factory Safety Deal

The world's leading retail labels [commit](#) to the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh before the midnight deadline. The Accord now covers more than 1000 Bangladeshi garment factories. Implementation starts now!

## International Cooperation

### Launch: Freedom of Association Global Policy Campaign

SOLIDAR network members met this week and launched the campaign "mobilising for freedom of association" (background paper available soon). In recent years, the freedom of peaceful assembly and association, which are fundamental human rights and the cornerstones of democratic systems, have come under growing pressure from regimes that are determined to marginalise or eliminate all perceived sources of opposition and dissent. [Read more...](#)

### Social Protection for All: An Opportunity for CSOs

Yesterday, SOLIDAR and the European Working Group on Decent Work and Social Protection in Development Cooperation, organised a Round Table on "Social Protection for All: the Social Protection Floor and the role of CSOs" in the European Parliament. During his speech, Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food stressed that social protection is crucial to the realisation of other human rights such as the right to food. [Read more...](#)

## Social Affairs

### Commission Calls for Investing in Social Europe

Following its 'Social Investment Package' (SIP), the European Commission has issued a publication calling for "[Investing in Social Europe](#)". The worsening social situation and problems of sustainability of social protection require action across Europe. The brochure therefore explains the social investment approach and shows many illustrative examples. For SOLIDAR, the SIP is an opportunity to reorient the current EU policies towards a much needed integration of social and

economic policies both at EU and member state level. [Read more...](#)

### **Video: Promoting well-being and preventing health problems**

The project "Santé Communautaires à Seclin" is part of a community well-being initiative – promoted by SOLIDAR member CEMEA – involving elected officials, health and social services professionals and the inhabitants of a city neighbourhood which is classified as a sensitive (deprived) urban zone ("Zone Urbaine Sensible") in the framework of city policies. "Santé Communautaires à Seclin" was selected as an example of an innovative social service by the INNOSERV project. You can [watch the film](#) and share your opinion about it filling in the [online questionnaire](#). [Read more...](#)

## **Education**

### **Re-thinking Learning**

On 14 May, the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) held its Annual Conference on "Rethinking learning: Transversal competences in the spotlight" that aimed at creating a space for debate on the role of transversal competences within the European Strategy on "Rethinking Education".

SOLIDAR stressed the need to prioritise non-formal and informal learning (NFIL) in the EU agenda as it not only creates opportunities for the development of key skills and competences for better social, economic and political participation of people in society, but also - in combination with the proper guidance – can be an effective tool in bringing people back to employment. [Read more...](#)

## **Network news**

### **Italy**

Read [Auser's latest news](#).

### **Germany**

[Take action](#) with [AWO International](#) for Syria.

### **UK**

Read [Banana Link's latest news](#).

## **Partners news**

Read [Eurofound's latest news](#)

Read the [article](#) in Israeli paper covering the work of our partner, the independent union **WAC Maan**, in organising Palestinian workers in Israel. The article gives a strong boost to the demands of the workers in an industrial park which sits on the seam line between Israel and the Palestinian territories, putting it in Area C, which is under Israeli military and civil control. This means that the Palestinians need permits to work there. As far as the employers are concerned, though,

they're outside the law.

The first ever **European Citizens Initiative** to make it! **Water is a Human Right** – has collected over 1.5 million signatures across Europe.

Watch the **European Network Against Racism**'s 'Recycling Hatred' [video](#) 'What's worse: being discriminated because you're a woman, blind, or Muslim?'

## Agenda

27 June: SOLIDAR Annual General Assembly

*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](http://www.solidar.org)*

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