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Advancing social justice in Europe and worldwide

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SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 05-07-2013

Editorial by Conny Reuter, Secretary General

“Viva Egypt! We Made It!”: Peaceful Revolution, Military Coup d’Etat?

On Wednesday evening, this message reached me on my mobile from one of our Egyptian partners: “Morsi succeeded to gather us all for one goal”. How to better describe the energy and determination that has driven the Egyptians to organise massive protests in the streets of Egypt? Some sources are reporting 30 million people in the streets, out of a total population of 82 million Egyptians, this is huge. Read [joint statement by Egyptian Civil Society Organisations](#) | [CTUWS statement](#) | [ESDP statement](#).

Yesterday [Thursday] our partners were reporting that the atmosphere in Tahrir was positive, old catholic nuns protesting side by side with young Muslim activists. The solidarity between people was overwhelming and everybody was calling for the same thing: new elections and a government that will sincerely try to meet the demands of the protestors, the same since the first revolts in 2011: a State based on the rule of law, a democratic government that keeps its promises, more social and economic justice, a free and pluralistic society and more space for civil society to participate in decision making processes at all levels. Our partner said later on the phone “in 2011 we had Egyptian revolts, now we can speak of a Revolution of the Egyptian people”. [Read more...](#)

50 Years of Franco-German Youth Office

One concrete measure of the Franco-German Treaty (Elysée Treaty), signed in January 1963, was the creation of the Franco-German Youth office (FYGO) which celebrates its 50th anniversary today, 5 July, in Paris. Over 50 years, several hundred thousand young people from both countries have participated in exchange programmes, being school, youth, sports, cultural or other exchanges. [Read more...](#)

International Cooperation

New Briefing: Freedom of Association Under Threat in Middle East and North Africa

The Arab Spring has fundamentally changed the political landscape of Europe’s Southern neighbourhood – the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). But despite high expectations, after more than two years, the revolutions so far have been unable to produce consolidated and stable democracies and some countries are still facing ongoing turmoil. Despite significant changes, measures continue to limit the democratic space in the region.

This briefing paper “[Freedom of Association Under Threat in Middle East and North Africa](#)” analyses freedom of association and peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and information and democratic transition and civil dialogue in the Middle East and North Africa region. It was produced following a consultation process to provide an opportunity for the organisations within the network to comment on the Progress Reports on the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy 2013. [Read more...](#)

Social Affairs

No More Hot Air

Heads of State and Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs came together on Wednesday in Berlin on the invitation of

the German government to discuss and decide on concrete measures to reduce youth unemployment in Europe. As the electoral motivation of the German Chancellor was clear, the young people mobilised by the German Trade Union Confederation DGB and young socialists, challenged the Chancellor by calling for “no more hot air” (see [photos](#) and a [video](#) of the action). [Read more...](#)

Public Procurement Directive: Agreement Reached Between European Parliament and Council

Last week, the European Parliament and the Council reached an [agreement](#) on the revision of rules governing public procurement and concessions, although it was decided that some articles will be addressed at technical level. [Read more...](#)

SOLIDAR Assumes Presidency of Social Services Europe

As of 1 July, SOLIDAR took over the 6-monthly rotating Presidency of [Social Services Europe](#) from CARITAS Europa. The network, set up in 2012, brings together the relevant social service provider NGOs at European level with the aim to strengthen the profile and position of quality social services and promote the role of not-for-profit social service providers in Europe. [Read more...](#)

Welcome Croatia!

On 1 July, Croatia officially became the 28th Member State of the European Union. SOLIDAR congratulates all Croatians and welcomes them to the European Union. The accession of Croatia into the European Union is a crucial signal for the enlargement process both in the EU and in the Balkan region. We are confident that the progressive NGOs and civil society organisations in Croatia will add a valuable contribution to the struggle to advance social justice in Europe as well as foster positive social developments in the Balkan region. [Read more...](#)

Members News

France

From 27-30 June, **La Ligue de l'Enseignement** held their [annual Congress](#) in Nantes. This year's Congress looked at the topic of popular education «éducation populaire » and revisiting it now in this climate of crisis.

Italy

Read **Iscos** [China news](#).

Partners News

Read **Social Platform's** [media release](#) on Happy 5th anniversary of the equal treatment directive proposal!

Read the **European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning** (EUCIS-LLL)'s [newsletter](#).

Read WAC MAAN's latest updates: [Wave of Palestinian workers organizing in West Bank](#) and [annual meeting](#) held in Tel

Aviv 15 June 2013 shows progress in organising Jewish and Arab workers.

Read **ILO Brussels Office's** [newsletter](#).

The **IROHLA** project focuses on improving health literacy for the ageing population in Europe. Read their [newsletter](#).

P. Nikiforos Diamandouros [congratulates](#) Emily O'Reilly on her election as **European Ombudsman**.

Read **Confrontations Europe's** latest [newsletter](#).

Read **Plan EU Office's** [newsletter](#).

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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