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Advancing social justice in Europe and worldwide

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SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 12-07-2013

Editorial by Conny Reuter, Secretary General

From Casino Capitalism to Banking Union?

Words are not neutral. After the first shock wave of the crisis in 2008 when EU leaders were proud to highlight that the so-called automatic stabilisers (meaning essentially our social protection schemes) had served their purpose as a safety net and protected millions of workers from unemployment, the wording has now moved to “Euro” and “public debt” crisis.

Human brains are being overloaded with short-term messages in this world of communication and it seems that the collective memory of what unleashed the crisis and the vicious circle we are in is being forgotten. But let me remind you, it is due to uncontrolled speculation in the financial institutions. “Too big to fail” was the leitmotiv justifying why public (taxpayers) money was and is spent to save private banks from collapsing. [Read more...](#)

Please note that the Weekly Round Up is taking a break over the summer and will be back on 6 September. We hope that you can all enjoy a summer break.

SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards 2013

On 26 June, the SOLIDAR Silver Rose July 2013, chaired by Francisca Sauquillo, President of Movimiento por la Paz-MPDL and Vice-President of SOLIDAR and made up of representatives from European civil society organisations, met in Brussels to decide on the winners of the 2013 Awards. We are delighted to announce that five awardees have been selected. A new format Silver Rose Awards ceremony will be taking place most likely at the end of September, once again celebrating people and organisations who have taken extraordinary steps to promote social justice in Europe and worldwide.

11 July: Srebrenica Day

On 15 January 2013, the European Parliament voted on a resolution to make the 11 July a Day of Remembrance of the genocide in Srebrenica. In July 1995 more than 8,000 Bosnians were killed in the enclave protected by the UN. This remembrance is important as the massacre took place on our continent, under the eyes of the UN. Maybe Europe has lost its credibility there. And if there is a need, it is not a new narrative, but the reminder that Europe is based on values and should build and maintain protection and peace.

Education

Defending Democratic and Human Rights Education

Fundacion CIVES run by SOLIDAR member [La Liga Espanola de la educacion](#) has issued a [Memorandum](#) to the Council of Europe regarding the Spanish Government's proposal to remove democratic citizenship and human rights education from school curricula. As presented in the draft proposal for educational reform, democratic citizenship and human rights education is to be removed from all school study programmes at primary, secondary and baccalaureate levels, which is contrary to the objectives of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education signed by Spain. [Read more...](#)

Task Force on the Validation of Non-formal and Informal Learning

SOLIDAR has initiated a proposal to set up a task force within the [European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning \(EUCIS-LLL\)](#) to work on the political and practical proposals around the Council Recommendation on the validation of non-formal and informal learning that acknowledges the important role of validation in reference to employment, mobility and lifelong learning. The Recommendation aims at valuing and making more visible the knowledge, skills and competences acquired outside of formal education establishments, and puts learning outcomes at the heart of its approach. [Read more...](#)

SOLIDAR Briefing: Recognition of Competences Acquired in Non-formal & Informal Learning Environments

SOLIDAR together with partners DGB-Bildungswerk, AIAS, ABF and FIC, have developed together an [arrangement that validates skills, competences and knowledge, acquired through learning in non-formal and informal environments](#) (i.e. on-the-job learning, volunteering, social engagement, active citizenship). To unlock the 'hidden' potential in society and offer better future perspectives, it is important to properly document and assess these skills, competences and knowledge of workers. [Read more...](#)

International Cooperation

CSOs Call for Social Protection Floors to be Standing Objective in Post-2015 Development Agenda

In the context of the [2013 substantive session of the UN's Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#), the "Dialogue with Civil Society: A Forward-looking Discussion on the Post-2015 Agenda" took place on 1 July in Geneva. During the meeting, a representative of the [Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors](#), of which SOLIDAR is a member, highlighted the need for the Post-2015 International Cooperation Agenda to include a separate objective/target for a social protection floor, including in particular the four social security guarantees formulated in ILO Recommendation No. 202, i.e. income security for (i) children; (ii) adults without other forms of livelihood; and (iii) people in retirement; as well as (iv) access to affordable healthcare. [Read more...](#)

Social Affairs

EU Citizenship: Crossing Perspectives

SOLIDAR participated in the Conference organised by the [European Year 2013 of Citizens Alliance \(EYCA\)](#) which took place at the beginning of the week in Zagreb. This alliance aims to bring together its members to develop a new vision on the European project and a European community. The accession of Croatia into the European Union during the Year of Citizens provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on EU citizenship from a different perspective and to engage with the core question of citizens' participation in Europe. [Read more...](#)

Strengthening Active Inclusion: Main Obstacles and Best Practices

At the [European Year 2013 of Citizens Alliance \(EYCA\)](#) Conference which took place at the beginning of the week in Zagreb, a session took place looking at the main obstacles and best practices for strengthening active inclusion. SOLIDAR, [Initiative for Development and Cooperation](#) (Serbia), [SOS Montenegro](#) (Montenegro) and [Lokalna Inicijativa Razvoja](#)

(Bosnia and Herzegovina) made presentations to support the fact that policies and processes aiming at enhancing social inclusion and fighting inequalities should be based on a comprehensive and coherent approach: one cannot exercise his or her civic and political citizenship rights unless in capacity to enjoy social and economic citizenship rights. [Read more...](#)

Members News

The **Members Area** has [new information on European Commission calls](#): changes to the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) call to be issued in September 2013 and the European Civil Resource Centre which aims to facilitate access to the European Commission's "Europe for Citizens" funding programme.

Germany

Read the **Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe newsletter** on "Technical assistance programmes for the elderly" about placing new technologies at the service of patients and help them maintain the quality of their social environment.

UK

War on Want's Breathless for Blue Jeans is a shocking undercover report from Chinese sweatshops, shows a killer disease being inflicted on workers in the name of fashion.

Partners News

Read the **Social Platform's media release** "A step forward undermined by budget cuts".

Read Egyptian partners **CTUWS statement** congratulating the Egyptian people for rising up and taking to the streets.

Read the **Western Sahara-Info Newsletter**.

The **European Ombudsman says** the Commission should improve accuracy and monitoring of the "Transparency Register".

Read the **European Economic and Social Committee Group III's** newsletter in [English](#) | [French](#).

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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