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Advancing social justice in Europe and worldwide

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SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 13-09-2013

Editorial by Conny Reuter, SOLIDAR Secretary General

State of the Union: “Talk it up, or talk it down”?

On Wednesday, European Commission President Barroso presented his speech on the State of the Union to the European Parliament. He was right by saying that “Europe has been more present in the lives of citizens than ever before” by mobilising funds to help countries struck by the crisis and the like. He also drew attention to the social effects of the crisis without however providing any proposals for overcoming the increasing divide between rich and poor in Member States as well as between rich and poor Member States themselves. [Read more...](#)

Silver Rose Awards 2013: 16 October

Book your calendars! The European Parliament’s civil society event is back. SOLIDAR’s [Silver Rose Awards](#) will be taking place on Wednesday 16 October at 6.30pm. This year we will gather to celebrate five award winners’ contributions to social justice and solidarity in Europe and around the world. Registration will open very soon.

Education

Education Committee: A New Strategy for Lifelong Learning

On Monday (9 Sept), the Directors of SOLIDAR member organisations met in Paris, hosted by La Ligue de l’Enseignement, to discuss a new approach to promoting non-formal and informal learning (NFIL). Throughout the Union, austerity measures have resulted in severe reductions of budgets for NFIL while at the same time the number of young people who are not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) is growing rapidly, adult (work-based) learning is decreasing and social exclusion is increasing. [Read more...](#)

Promoting Decent Work for Young People: Job Patrols

Last Thursday and Friday, SOLIDAR met with CGIL FILCAMS (Italy), IDEAS Institute (Ireland) and FIC (Denmark) to promote decent work and quality employment for young workers and young people who are not in employment, education, or training (NEETs). In times of crisis, when job opportunities are scarce for young people, a tremendous pressure can be witnessed on working conditions partly due to the lack of awareness of young people on their rights-at-work. Case studies have been developed in Italy, Ireland and Denmark underlining this trend. To overcome this awareness-gap, the organisations present agreed to develop new initiatives for “[youth job patrols](#)” where young people visit workplaces and promote decent work and quality employment.

Citizens’ Engagement in European Decision-Making Processes on National Level?

A commonly heard complaint is that national governments are forced by Brussels to make “hard” decisions, while in parallel these same governments have a strong influence in defining these decisions through the European Council. While national parliaments have a role in scrutinising government’s positioning and actively engaging civil society and citizens in the process, when it concerns European policies, this does not necessarily happen. [Read more...](#)

International Cooperation

Decent Work for Domestic Work: ILO C189 Entered Into Force!

Last week, on 5 September, the ILO Domestic Workers Convention (ILO C189) entered into force. The Domestic Workers Convention No. 189, adopted by International Labour Organization (ILO) members in 2011, aims at improving the working and living conditions of the estimated 50 to 100 million domestic workers worldwide.

To date, eight countries have ratified the Domestic Workers Convention – Bolivia, Italy, Nicaragua, Mauritius, Paraguay, The Philippines, and South Africa. SOLIDAR, its members organisations and the [Global Network](#) have been [actively supporting the campaign](#) to ensure Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

Social Affairs

EYCA: Working to Promote Active Citizenship Among the Most Disadvantaged

This week (12-13 September), the plenary and working group meetings of the [European Year of Citizens Alliance](#) (EYCA) took place. In the framework of the Alliance, SOLIDAR coordinates a [working group](#) on social and economic rights which will develop recommendations on how to empower the most socio-economically disadvantaged groups and remove obstacles that prevent them from fully exercising their citizens' rights and actively participate in society.

Learn more about the European Year of Citizens with the [infographic](#) made by the EYCA team. Also read the [summary of discussions](#) on EU citizenship which took place in July in Zagreb.

Members News

Italy

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

Read **Iscos-Cisl's** "[China News](#)" newsletter july-august 2013.

Belgium

Read **FOS'** latest [news](#).

Germany

Read AWO's [position](#) on the recruitment of qualified foreign workers in the German health and care sector.

UK

Read **Make Fruit Fair** [newsletter](#).

International

Read Samaritan International's latest [news](#).

European

A group of 22 NGOs, including **AEDH**, **calls** for the Commission to take further action in relation to pre-trial detention in the EU.

Read **FEPS'** latest **news**.

Partners News

Read **Social Platform's** **response** to State of the Union address.

Read updates on the **situation in Egypt** from our partner **CTUWS**.

Read **Finance Watch** **media release** on "Financial reforms since Lehmans are not enough - a new approach is needed".

Save the date: on 2 October, **Zita Gurmai** will be hosting under the umbrella of the S&D, a documentary '**Threshold of the Desert**' followed by a debate on women's economic empowerment in the Arab world together with representatives from the UN, OECD, World Bank and Ann Lindh Foundation.

Right2Water has **stopped collecting signatures** for the first successful European Citizens' Initiative "Water is a human right!".

Read the **2012 Annual Report** of the **UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees**.

Agenda

24-26 September: Social Justice in Middle East and North Africa, Brussels

24-26 September: Global Network Steering Group, Brussels

16 October: SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards, European Parliament

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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