***Trade Unions as actors of***

***Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)***

TUDCN General Meeting, Florence, 27-29 April 2015

1. Reasons why Trade Unions (TUs) are important DEAR actors: what’s its added value?

* TUs are already actors of development and DEAR! There is a long history of TUs working on development cooperation, and most particularly on DEAR.
* TUDCN operates at EU and global level (f*or DEAR programme purposes*)
* Development education and awareness raising is also about decent work, though is quite often unnoticed next to other issues like health, climate, food, debt and trade. Decent work is a cross-cutting issue.
* Awareness raising on development issues at the workplace, giving TUs a role not replicated by NGOs.
* ITUC/ETUC can reach out to millions of affiliated working people through internal communication channels, including awareness raising of people not directly acquainted with development. They can exponentially act as multipliers of DEAR issues and campaigns.
* Teachers’ unions in several European countries can reach all levels of education and include DEAR as a subject in many curricula and educational programmes. This is a less rigid process compared to traditional curricula setting by ministries and responsible education authorities.
* TUs can influence other societal sectors. Moreover the TU movement is actively mobilised on a wide social agenda: human rights, equality and non-discrimination, corporate social responsibility, sustainable development, migration, etc.
* Momentum of decent work issues worldwide + global economic and financial crisis also hits hard developing countries. Moreover, the changing nature of development cooperation means shrinking ODA and new donors.
* Steady activism and campaigns (demonstrations, solidarity, etc.). Deepening the relationship between the global north and the global south.

1. Topics that TU take on in DEAR (extracted from TUDCN 2012 Seminar report on Development Education)
   * Decent Work
   * Human and trade union rights
   * ILO core labour standards
   * Global competition and the ‘race to the bottom’
   * International Framework Agreements - Global Supply Chains
   * Social partnership
   * Social protection
   * Informal economy
   * Gender issues (including salary gap)
   * Sustainable development + climate change
   * Migration
   * Democracy and the role of the trade unions and civil society in peace and democracy building
   * Fair trade and CSR
   * Organising
2. Goals TUs vis-à-vis DEAR

* Increase recognition of TUs as actors of DEAR.
* Use it as a promotional tool at local, regional, national, EU and global level.
* Promote decent work as a key global issue when it comes to DEAR.
* That TUs are consulted at decision-making level (national and EU) on DEAR issues.
* Explain that there’s more than NGOs when it comes to DEAR (though NGOs can be a partner in some TU DEAR projects).
* Facilitate the participation of TUs in EU, global and national DEAR programmes (e.g. EU CSO-LA thematic programme).
* Promote the share of best practices in DEAR for TUs.