

**TUDCN Workshop on Development Education**

**“Towards a shared Trade Union programme”**

September 12-13, 2013

Centro Studi CISL <http://www.centrostudi.cisl.it/>

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Introductory Note

***Background***

The European Commission will launch shortly a call for proposal under the programme Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR). DEAR aims at informing EU citizens about development issues, mobilising greater public support for action against poverty, providing citizens with tools to engage critically with global development issues and foster new ideas, and changing attitudes. The programme is implemented by civil society actors and local authorities in EU and acceding countries[[1]](#footnote-1).

Following recent studies and evaluation of this programme, the EC is developing a new policy approach, which is due to be adopted by the end of 2014[[2]](#footnote-2).

Already for this next call for proposal (September 2013) the EC has introduced quite significant changes, like: raising the project sizes, increasing the geographical coverage and privileging actual European strategies/responses to global challenges[[3]](#footnote-3).

Development Education is a priority theme for trade unions (very much in line with the more familiar term of ‘international solidarity’). As such it was the subject of a specific seminar of the Trade Union Development cooperation Network – TUDCN in 2012.

Two policy statements have been endorsed, prefiguring a more prominent role of trade union organisations in supporting development education activities[[4]](#footnote-4), which goes hand in hand with the objective of providing more political priority to development education within the trade union movement[[5]](#footnote-5).

As indicated in the statements above, “*the TUDCN commits to further supporting trade union engagement in Development Education and Awareness Raising through facilitating networking, exchange and coordination among the members and advocating for putting DEAR higher on the international trade union agenda*”.

***Challenges for Development Education today for trade unions: gathering the momentum***

Today, more than ever, development issues should be high ranked within the political priorities of trade unions, which are to promote alternative and social justice based development models. This brings about the need to work more on international solidarity, chasing innovative ways and approaches to challenge the global crisis. *“To trade unions,* *development education is a life-long, participatory and open ending learning process that leads to a critical understanding and an active engagement in addressing the challenges of the rapidly changing, interdependent world we live in (…) the involvement of workers in development education is more important than ever to build understanding and active participation in global development processes, such as human and trade union rights, Decent Work, inequalities, social justice and social protection”* (TUDCN statements)*.*

In this sense, the DEAR programme represents an effective opportunity, worthwhile to be explored, as it encourages the development of common understanding of global development and related issues in Europe. The “European dimension” has been recently emphasized (most of all in the areas of advocacy and campaigning actions) as crucial criteria for future DEAR programmes, which should be aimed at both supporting activities which have an impact at EU level (besides the national one), and backing “a sense of co-responsibility of European society for global affairs”[[6]](#footnote-6).

Finally, more than in the past, the EC seems recognising the role and value of social movements in development processes, with the result of being more supportive towards them. This is unfortunately the opposite of what is happening in many countries in Europe. Here not only development budgets keep being progressively decreased by national governments, but also difficulties still persist for trade unions to be directly supported, when it comes to development education.

***What do we want to reach at the end of the seminar?***

Following the commitments and priorities expressed by the TUDCN members around development education, the ultimate objective is to introduce a “joint programme proposal” to the European Commission.

This is a considerable challenge, as it would entail a conceptual and operational effort to build up a ‘common framework’, equally owned by interested programme partners, guiding the specific subsequent planning at national level. In this sense, the possible “joint programme proposal” cannot be based on the simple ‘sum’ of different existing national projects/practices, but on the contrary will need to be conceived on shared features, supporting a solid European dimension.

Therefore, the current workshop is aimed at brainstorming on and finally developing contents, approaches and operational criteria that may constitute the backbone of the programme.

In this sense, the expected outputs of the workshop are:

1. *Programme baseline:*
   1. *Overall and specific objectives* (the priorities of the call for proposals will be: 2015 European Year of Development[[7]](#footnote-7) + EC Communication “Decent Life for All”[[8]](#footnote-8))
   2. *Target groups e.g;* trade union members and workers
2. *Programme Logical Framework :*

o Programme strategy: what do we want to achieve with the target group(s) within the timeframe of the programme

o Intermediate results that have to be reached to reach the objective

o Kind of activities to be developed to reach each of the results with very rough indication of the means at national level and at European level

o Risk analysis: what is likely to influence the programme implementation and how are we going to deal with that

1. *Shared management criteria – how the programme will be operationalized:*

o Management of the programme: role of members in the different countries and role of the TUDCN secretariat

o Steering group/decision making mechanisms

o Own contributions

o Broad agreement on Monitoring and evaluation (how will it be done, who will be responsible for what etc.) Mutual Accountability within the programme

1. *Action plan finalised for the next steps:*

o Finalising the program proposal

o Finalising budget

o Concretising the program architecture/management mechanisms

***Methodological approach***

The workshop will be run in a very interactive fashion, including working groups, brainstorming and discussions. As detailed in the agenda, the first day will be mostly dedicated at sharing the visions, perspectives, and contents of the programme, while the second day we will also concentrate on the overall programme architecture and related management commitments.

We invite you to read the documents referenced in the footnotes in order to have a preliminary understanding of the task we have set ourselves. Any documentation about your Development Education work is most welcome so that our “reality check” becomes tangent and “evidence” based.

1. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/DEAR:_Development_education_and_awareness_raising:_concept> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For reference: see [Commission staff working document](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/images/b/b4/DEAR_SWD_2012_457_STAFF_WORKING_PAPER_EN.pdf) of 2012. It will feed the forthcoming Commission proposal for a renewed DEAR strategy, to be developed in the framework of the Civil Society and Local Authorities Thematic Programme for 2014-2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For more details on the next call for proposal 2013, see power point presentation of the EC: [WG C - DEAR Call for Proposals](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/images/4/48/WG_C-DEAR_Call_for_Proposals_AB_1906.pdf) See also: [Thematic Programme NSA-LA in Development - 2011-2013 Strategy paper](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/documents/nsa-la_strategy_2011-2013_-_en.pdf) (read Objective 2) and Annual Action Plan 2013 [Action Fiche](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/aap/2013/af_aap_2013_dci-nsa.pdf) (Action fiche n. 11 p.69-73) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [Statement on fostering Trade Union Development Education and Awareness Raising](http://www.ituc-csi.org/statement-on-fostering-trade-union) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [Statement on Fostering Development Education within the trade union movement](http://www.ituc-csi.org/statement-on-fostering-development) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. see [Commission staff working document](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/images/b/b4/DEAR_SWD_2012_457_STAFF_WORKING_PAPER_EN.pdf) p.17

   [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [Proposal for a decision of the EP & of the Council on the European Year of Development (2015)](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news/documents/eyd2015-proposal-ep-council.pdf) and [Commission staff working document - European Year of Development 2015](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news/documents/eyd2015-swd_en.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-166_en.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)