



Trade Union Development Cooperation Network

Working Group on EU Development Policies and Advocacy meeting
CSC, rue de Trèves 31, Brussels, 26-27 April 2016

Meeting report

Session on EU development policies

Joan Lanfranco presented the work that TUDCN has done with respect to EU policies, stressing the importance of the 2030 Agenda, the EU Policy Forum on Development and 2015 European Year on Development. He presents the upcoming challenges in this policy area, namely the revision of the EU Consensus on Development, to be adapted to the 2030 Agenda, the changing international landscape, policy coherence and synergies with the EU Global Strategy (that will come out in June). Other priorities include the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy itself, 2030 Agenda implementation, Post-Cotonou ACP-EU negotiations, mid-term MFF review and preparing for next MFF, as well as TUDCN increased monitoring of EU IFIs (EIB, EBRD).

Comments were raised mainly with respect to the importance of pushing for social dialogue in the definition of development policies in the EU and at country level, as well as the role of the ETUC in this.

Conclusions

- A trade union position paper will be drafted to highlight key messages to be taken on board by the EU Institutions in their revision of strategies processes mentioned above;
- ETUC/TUDCN secretariats will engage with the European Commission/EU External Action Service, at the appropriate level, in order to push for the support to social dialogue in development.

Session on SDGs/Agenda 2030

Joan Lanfranco presented the 2030 Agenda and its main features, as well as the UNECE survey on SDGs planning, implementation and follow-up. Moreover, he presented the TUDCN mapping survey that was sent out previously, on 2030 Agenda implementation and trade union involvement in EU member states. Each participant presented the situation in their country. In most countries a clear monitoring framework is still to be put in place. Different priority SDGs were mentioned, all coinciding on SDG8 and goals related to the Decent Work Agenda.

Another session was devoted at exploring next steps and priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation and follow-up at EU level. Joan Lanfranco introduced the different steps that have to be taken to put forward the trade union monitoring of 2030 Agenda and the role of monitoring



at national, regional and global levels. Two breakout groups discussed the steps to define and put in place a Trade Union Watch.

Feedback from the breakout groups pointed out the need to specify which goals would the tool cover, and what target groups would aim at. Upcoming TUDCN research on ODA could also be complementary to SDG monitoring efforts. As a general line, attendees stressed the need to focus on the Decent Work Agenda elements within 2030 Agenda. They also stressed the need to have a comprehensive TUDCN toolkit on SDG monitoring and follow-up. It was also suggested to develop own trade union indicators, and to focus on EU countries volunteering in the 2016 High-Level Political Forum. Common synergies with the ILO were also suggested.

The TUDCN Secretariat will come up with a more concrete proposal, including a revised name. A Trade Union watch will need to be built on a standardised methodology to grant coherence across the countries and produce results. This implies the choice of the priorities. It was agreed that SDG8 would be a good starting point, and then eventually add other goals.

Conclusions

- National organisations should keep monitoring national governments progresses/initiatives in order to foster Agenda 2030 in their development policies. The TUDCN/ETUC secretariats will provide with a survey tool that can be periodically updated and consulted by TUDCN members;
- The TUDCN secretariat together with the ETUC secretariat will propose a draft structure for the trade union watch, to be discussed more in details during the next meeting of this working group (foreseen in autumn 2016);
- An overall TUDCN WG EU work plan will be drafted, establishing a timetable to respond to the challenges mentioned in the two sessions above, and it will be circulated to the whole group members.

Session on EU Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)

Diego López presented the background of previous DEAR applications by TUDCN, namely the TUDCN 2015 General Meeting endorsement of this work path, the TUDCN 2016 brochure on trade unions as DEAR actors, and the increased involvement of TUDCN in the DEAR community through the EC DEAR stakeholder group.

Diego López presents the main aspects of the 2016 EU call for proposals for projects on Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR), its priorities and expected results. He presented the TUDCN draft project scheme, with focus on SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, all related to decent work. The main themes to develop would be labour migration, industrial transformation and green jobs, and gender equality. The specific objective of the project is to engage workers,



employers, national governments and the EU in the full implementation of Decent Work in the framework of 2030 Agenda. Activities at national level would include awareness raising and campaigns: e.g. seminars and conferences; awareness raising materials; training: e.g. training of workers' representatives to engage employers; advocacy: e.g. research; monitoring and promotion of development policies on DW; policy statements; governmental negotiations on development policies; building alliances.

Activities at European level would include awareness raising and campaigns: e.g. Pan-European campaigns and mobilisation, seminars and conferences, research, annual report on decent work promotion in the development policies of EU and Member States. With respect to migration, the ETUC's UnionMigraNet would provide coherence and coordination.

Issues were raised in relation to priority goals, possibility to include other themes, implementation at national level, coordination mechanisms at EU level, adequacy of the topic (decent work).

Two breakout groups brainstormed about the contents and lines of work of the trade union programme proposal. It was suggested to simplify the focus themes, to reference EU and ILO documents, to stress differences with other stakeholders in terms of outreach and issues covered, to clarify what engagement of employers means. It was also suggested to focus on trade unionists/shop-stewards, the need to link the project to supply chains, the need to specify what a change in behaviour would entail.

Paola Simonetti introduced the draft concept note prepared for the call for proposal. Attendees stressed/suggested:

- More young people should be involved in the project
- The importance to have a common communication plan (with innovative communication and outreach tools)
- Ensure gender equality in project activities, both in participants and trainers
- The need to involve national union coordination bodies, so they include development awareness in their work plans
- Training of trainers would be an efficient to arrive to more workers
- Internal magazines and newsletters could be used for dissemination of activities
- National organisations need to be involved and informed about SDGs
- Activities could be organised with workers' representatives from the South
- National governments and institutions should be targeted, including through campaigns
- Organise events at EU level
- Plan research on related topics



Paola Simonetti outlined the Guidelines for drafting National Action Plans. It is expected that organisations can work together at national level, particularly when lobbying national governments. Coordination should be established and guaranteed at national and European level.

A plenary discussion followed, on budget and practical issues.

Conclusions

- An 'ad hoc group' will be established to draft the DEAR concept note;
- Interested organisations will need to send their National Action Plans by 9 May 2016.

TUDCN WG EU matters

The TUDCN EU WG endorsed the proposal of the TUDCN Secretariat to nominate Mads Bugge Madsen (LO/FTF Denmark) as trade union representative for the EU region at the EU Policy Forum on Development.

This meeting report and all meeting documents are available here: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/TUDCN-EU-WG-2016-docs>