

Workstream 4

TRADE UNIONS AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

➤ **Background:**

- Development Education (DE) and Awareness Raising (AR) in “developed” countries are integral part of the overall strategy of development cooperation. According to significant commitments at International and European level, DE and AR are crucial elements to reach public awareness, interest and involvement of civil society towards development issues. Namely, the *European Development Education Consensus* (2008) frames the aim of DE and AR in “enabling every person in Europe to...be aware of and to understand global development concerns and the local and personal relevance of those concerns, and to enact their rights and responsibilities”. Indeed, this might happen on several levels (local/regional, national, European/international) and in various fields (formal, informal and non-formal education; also through public awareness raising, campaigning and advocacy).
- On the light of these considerations, Trade Union Organizations (TUs) constitute crucial actors when addressing DE and AR. Thanks to their experience in outreaching and mobilizing members, coupled with their know-how in providing cooperation and support at global level, TUs stand among the most valuable organizations to carry out DE/AR actions. Particularly, in the present context characterized by economic and social interdependence, it seems vital to link conditions of “local workers” in the North for example, to the potential global development of the conditions of workers in the South. Therefore, TUs must take this challenge, and should aim at improving their capacity in providing an answer to those needs.

➤ **Objectives:**

- Improving the quality of Trade Unions in Development Education actions
- Increasing the political role of TUs in DE/AR as well as increasing their support form international donors impact and contribution to sustainable development

➤ **Activities:**

According to the objectives of this work stream, the activities will be aimed at:

- Carrying out mapping exercise on the members that are active in development education
- Exchanging experiences/initiatives in development education (i.e. different activities/target groups; fund raising methodology etc...) : sharing lessons learned
- Developing policy orientation in order to contribute to the Mid-Term review of the EU on the Development Education Program in 2010
- Eventually building up a project proposal with ITUC for next EU call for proposal in 2010, on demand of members

➤ **Methodology:**

- **Working language:** English/French
- **Working group participants*:** TUC; CLC; ACV-CSC
**to be confirmed by 17th of APRIL*
- **Working tools:**
 - Online work divided in two sections 1) discussions 2) library containing reference documentation
 - Facilitator: Paola Simonetti paola.simonetti@ituc-csi.org.

➤ **Work Timeline** (please refer to the Work Plan Agenda):

- ***April-May 2009***
Expected Outcomes: finalizing subscription to WS and setting the context/objectives
- ***June 2009-September 2009***
Expected Outcomes: mapping exercise
- ***October-December 2009,***
Expected Outcomes: Exchanging experiences/initiatives in development education; sharing lessons learned
- ***January-October 2010***
Expected Outcomes: Developing policy orientation; Building up project proposal with ITUC