

TRADE UNION PARTNERSHIPS WORKING GROUP MEETING

24 OCTOBER 2017
BRUSSELS

REPORT

Paola Simonetti opened the meeting by welcoming participants and introducing them to the agenda items. A round of presentation of participants followed.

TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

The first session of the meeting focussed on the work on organisational capacity. Diego Lopez presented the draft guidelines elaborated by the TUDCN on Trade Union Organisational Capacity (TUOC). These aim to guide trade unions through a three-step self-assessment process, in order to help them establish capacity development strategies.

Following the presentation of the guidelines Alex Nkosi, from ITUC Africa, introduced the initiative on the state of trade unions in Africa. The first step of this initiative was a mapping undertaken in nine African countries on the state of trade unions with respect to issues of strategic importance to them such as membership, governance, organising, financial sustainability, education and training, social dialogue and collective bargaining. This work constitutes a practical implementation of the TUDCN's work on organisational capacity at regional level. Stephen Benedict highlighted the relevance of this initiative to the work of the [Global Organising Academy](#) (GOA) and described how national organising leads from pilot countries of the Academy have carried out the mapping. The different presentations were followed by a plenary discussion.

Conclusions: Participants showed a lot of interest in the TUOC tool and the state of trade unions initiative. After the mapping that was done, the next phase will be the development of action plans in a few pilot countries in Africa for which the TUOC tool will be used. Opportunities for the future application of the tool in other regions will be explored, including the replication of similar initiatives to that of Africa.

TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

In the first session of the afternoon, Diego Lopez presented the trade union development effectiveness principles and the TUDEP (Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile), which is used amongst trade union partners to promote partnerships that are more horizontal. An assessment was made of the use of this tool by trade unions. Until now, four partnerships seminars, focused on the principles and the TUDEP, have been undertaken by the TUDCN (two in Latin America and two in Africa). Six SSOs are currently using the TUDEP with 42 different partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Conclusions: Support was manifested to continue expanding the use of the TUDEP tool. The partnerships seminars on the TUDEP will be extended to the Asia-Pacific region in 2018.

TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS DIRECTORY

Following the discussions on trade union development effectiveness, Diego Lopez presented the Trade Union Development Projects Directory. This database gathers information on trade union development

projects around the world. Following the presentation, the usefulness and challenges of this database were discussed.

Conclusions: Overall, participants were appreciative of the trade union development projects directory, which also received the appreciation of donors, such as the Belgian Government. There is however a need to constantly update this directory in order to maintain its relevance. For this, the TUDCN members and secretariat will renew their efforts. Requests for information on their trade union development projects will therefore be sent to the members twice a year to keep it up to date.

Following the last session, a summary of the conclusions for each of the topics covered was presented and the meeting was closed.



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