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YOUTH CAMP RSS SOLIDARNOST WORKSHOP ON TRADE UNION REFORMS: ORGANISING OF YOUTH IN UNIONS

29.1. - 1.2.2016

The Regional Trade Union Council "Solidarnost" in the framework of the project "On the way to the EU", organized a Youth Camp, with a workshop on "The Structure of young people in the unions in the Regional Trade Union Council" Solidarnost" and generally in the Western Balkans, and the situation of young people in trade unions and society which was held in hotel Millennium in Ohrid from 29.1. to 1.2.2016.

The workshop was opened by the President of the Federation of Trade Unions of Macedonia (CCM), PhD Zhivko Mitrevski, and besides the representatives of the Youth Section of the Federation of Trade Unions of Macedonia (SMSSM), representatives from the Youth Sections from the following TUs were present: Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Macedonia (KSS), Federation of independent trade unions of Serbia (SSSS), Nezavisnost Serbia, the Federation of Free Trade unions of Montenegro (USCG), the Federation of



Caption 1. Participants on the Youth Camp

Independent Trade Unions of Slovenia (ZSSS), the Federation of Trade Unions of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SSBiH), the Federation of Trade Unions of Republika Srpska (SSRS) and Federation of Trade Unions of Kosovo (BSPK).

The topic of the first day of the workshop was: Young people, as guarantors of the future of the Unions. Speaker was Goran Lukic, an associate in ZSSS who presented the youth structure in Slovenia and the successful campaigns conducted in the Western Balkan countries.

The President of the Youth Section of the Federation of Trade Unions of Macedonia (SMSSM), M.Sc. Lidija Naskovska, had a presentation on "The situation of young people in trade unions and on the labor market in the Republic of Macedonia", in which she highlighted the work of the Youth Section, campaigns, consultations and amendments to the laws in the period from October 2015 until the end of January 2016.



Caption 2. The President Mitrevski on the Camp

As the most important activities that were highlighted were the following: launching of the campaign in the fight against undeclared work, training for affiliation of new members in multinational companies, the significance of the latest amendments to the OHS Law in terms of raising the role of the union representative and the Criminal Law, in the part of imprisonment for an employer who does not pay salaries, allowances and contributions or eventually he/she demands a return or dismiss the worker who submitted a file for a committed crime of the employer.

The representative of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Slovenia (ZSSS), Mladi Plus Sanja Leban Trojar presented the campaign "Social Networking", and examples of good practice.

The second day of the workshop was dedicated to: "Youth unemployment and vocational training". Speaker was Zelimir Stanic, an activist from ZSSS, Mladi Plus, and member of the Youth Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

Zelimir Stanic presented the structure of young people in the ETUC and the position of young people in trade unions and in society in general, giving examples of good practice and organizing, presenting the case of the Union DESK, the Union from Hungary and cases from other countries in the Southeast Europe.

Despite the fruitful discussion during the workshop and the reached conclusions, it was also noted that the continuous meetings of the Youth Sections, part of RSS Solidarnost is of a significant importance.

CONFERENCE ON LOCAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCILS

28.1.2016



Caption 1. The President of MPS, Tihomir Klimoski as a Chairman on the Conference

The President of the Federation of Trade Unions of Macedonia, PhD Zhivko Mitrevski attended a conference dedicated on the local economic and social councils, hosted by USAID Project, Youth Employability Skills (YES Network).

The Chairman on the Conference was the President of the Macedonian Police Union (MPS), Tihomir Klimoski, who is also a Chairman of the Local Economic and Social Council of the city of Skopje.

On the conference several issues were discussed regarding the achievements and challenges in the functioning of LESC, and their importance as a driving force in the development of effective economic and social policies, creation of new jobs, as well as improving of the local economies and the role of the support to the local employment policies. Also the participants discussed the future steps that should be taken in order to ensure long term sustainability.

The US Ambassador to Macedonia, His Excellency Mr. Jess Bailey and the Minister of Labor and Social Policy Frosina Tashevska- Remenski had their opening speeches.



Caption 2. The President of CCM, PhD Mitrevski

Using the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) as a model, USAID together the Federation of Trade Unions of Macedonia and the social partners helped in the establishment of LESC in Stip, Strumica, Bitola, Gostivar, Tetovo and Skopje and USAID also gave a supports to the already established economic and social council in Prilep.

Also, LESC was established in Resen. LESC in Veles and Sveti Nikole were established with a support of EU/ILO. Although the establishment of these LESC was supported by the international community, the municipalities shall be responsible for their maintenance.

Despite the President of CCM, the conferences was also attended by representatives from NESC and LESC, municipal authorities and the social partners.

7TH CONGRESS OF THE UNION OF STKC

27.1.2016

On 27.1.2016 the 7th Congress of the Trade Union of the Workers in Textile, Leather and Shoe making Industry was held with the motto "It is time to achieve realization of decent work together." On the Congress the Statute and the Action Program of STKC in the period 2015-2020 was adopted.

The congress elected a new president of STKC, Ljupco Radovski – from Teteks JSC Tetovo who has been a long-time union activist in this union. The union in the coming period shall continue its democratic principle of action, respect of the basic principles of creating methods and activities to build fair society, defending the constitutional and legal position of the social-economic interests of workers, their families and all trade unions in our country.



Caption 1. Working Presidency

STKC in the next five years shall focus its program goals and objectives on promotion and protection of the economic and social rights and interests of its membership and shall seek to exercise their rights guaranteed by the Constitution, laws, collective agreements and other regulations. Besides the implementation of these commitments STKC shall strive to implement the development strategy aimed towards the realization of micro and macro level. It shall mean creation of preconditions for further social affirmation of STKC and strengthening its real position as an important social partner in the society by participating in the design and creation of the global social relations.



Caption 3. Newly elected President of STKC

In this regard, STKC in the forthcoming period shall focus its activity on realization of workers' rights, consistently carrying out its constitutional, legal and statutory position as independent workers' organization promoting trade union organizing and action.

The activities of STKC shall be directed towards economic and social development; social dialogue and collective bargaining; protection of workers' rights; international cooperation and building of a modern, mobile and more numerous union in which workers shall have full trust. The right to a decent work is one of the fundamental rights of every employee.

SEMINAR ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND REPRESENTATION OF TEMPORARY WORKERS IN EUROPE

27.1.2016

Within the framework of the project "Collective bargaining and representation of temporary workers in Europe, Development and reinforcement of industrial relations systems in response to changes in the European labor market", the Federation of Trade Unions of Macedonia on 27.01.2016, held a seminar on which the results of a survey conducted in 28 EU countries plus additional 5 countries (Macedonia Spain, Portugal, Italy and Germany) were presented.



Caption 1. The President of CCM, PhD Zivko Mitrevski on the opening of the seminar



Caption 2. The Project Coordinator, Mrs. Vilma Rinolfi

The seminar was opened by the President of the Federation of Trade Unions of Macedonia (CCM), PhD Zhivko Mitrevski, who in his speech stressed the importance of the conducted research and the preparation of a complete analysis and study dedicated to this subject.

This seminar, despite the branch unions that were part of the focus group, was attended by representatives from the Center for Economic and Social Studies, Italy (CESOS) Mrs. Vilma Rinolfi, a project coordinator and Ms. Flavia Pese, project manager and senior researcher in the project.



Caption 3. M.Sc. Lidija Naskovska, senior researcher in the project

The Project Coordinator, Mrs. Vilma Rinolfi from CESOS briefly presented the project, gave an overview of the objectives and activities of the project and emphasized the current stage of the project.

After her speech, M.Sc. Lidija Naskovska, Adviser to the President on projects and EU integration and a senior researcher in this project, gave an overview of the problems and guidelines outlined by the focus group in Macedonia

which held its meeting on 24 June 2015, which highlighted three main problems and possible solutions thereof facing temporary workers:

1. Problems arising from the period of engagement
2. Lack of a special collective agreement for temporary workers
3. Other problems of temporary workers, users of certain social benefits, such as: Social welfare and Social Security.

Among other things, she stated that: "The general reasons why Macedonian temporary workers do not agree to have a temporary work are the following:

- The possibility of losing the status of socially endangered person
- Loss of social welfare and
- the complex procedure for regaining the status of socially endangered person

Based on this analysis and the recommendations of the focus group a report on "Collective bargaining and representation of temporary workers in Europe, Development and reinforcement of industrial relations systems in response to changes in the European labor market", was prepared that was presented by the economic expert, Ljubica Dekovska on this seminar.



Caption 4. The Economic expert, Ljubica Dekovska presenting the Report

The economic expert in her presentation highlighted the results of the quantitative and qualitative analysis of data on temporary employment in the EU 28 plus 5 additional countries involved in the project Macedonia, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Germany, which were obtained from the database of Eurostat and from the conducted field research, as well as through direct communications and data exchange with representatives of trade unions and representatives of employers' organizations in these countries.

The presentation comprised the ways of representation of the temporary employees and opportunities for collective bargaining in order to improve their employment rights.

At the end the economic expert presented the conclusions and recommendations that shall stimulate discussion on finding practical solutions that can contribute to solving the problems of the temporary employees.

WORKING VISIT OF THE REGIONAL TRADE UNION OFFICE IN RADOVISH



24.1.2016

The President of the Federation of Trade Unions of Macedonia, PhD Zhivko Mitrevski on 24.01.2016 had a working meeting with the Secretary General of the Regional TU Office in Radovish Zorka Andonovska.

On the meeting the issues regarding the situation with new registrations, functioning of the social dialogue at the local level and certain bankruptcy procedures were discussed, and was found that there are opportunities for beginning of new registrations activities, especially in the small and medium enterprises.

At the same time they discussed the possibilities for improving the functioning of the social dialogue and the relationship with employers' organizations at the local level in order the social dialogue to be exercised.

Caption 1. The President Mitrevski with the Secretary General of RTUO Radovish, Zorka Andonova

OPENING OF THE FIRST BIOGAS PLANT

22.1.2016

The President of the Federation of Trade Unions, PhD Zhivko Mitrevski attended the opening of the first biogas plant in the Agricultural Combine Pelagonija JSC Bitola, in the village Novaci.

The opening of the plant was attended by representatives from the diplomatic corps and the US Ambassador in Macedonia, His Excellency Mr. Jess Bailey, as well as representatives of the business sector in Macedonia.



Caption 1. The President Mitrevski on the opening of the first biogas plant



Caption 2. The interior of the plant

It is important to be noted that all employees in this plant are trade union members. This plant has a capacity of 3 megawatts of electricity per hour and modern farm designed for 2,000 cows. The total investment is about 20 million Euros. Most of the money is provided by the company itself. In this plant the manure from the farm shall be recycled into a bio-gas.

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