



PERC PAN-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL CRE CONSEIL REGIONAL EUROPEEN
BERC ВСЕЕВРОПЕЙСКИЙ РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ СОВЕТ

6th PERC Executive Committee Brussels, 5 March 2012

Agenda Item 4: PERC activity and financial report

4.2. Youth Committee

PERC Youth main activities, period March 2011 – March 2012

SEE Youth Network meeting, 25 March



SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina - The meeting of coordinators of trade union youth sections of South-Eastern Europe was held on 25th of March 2011 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. There were representatives of trade unions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina – Federation and Republic of Srpska, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The meeting was opened by Ismet Bajramović, president of Confederation of Trade Unions of B&H and Enisa Salimović, coordinator of ITUC-PERC Office in Sarajevo as well as by Ana Ljubojević, coordinator of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation regional project for labour relations and social dialogue in SEE, whose foundation financed the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Ivana Prnjat, coordinator of the SEE Youth Network and member of the PERC YC.

‘Basic link of trade union - unity and solidarity - has lost by time’, said Barjamović, and added that it’s encouraging that that link exists among young people. Enisa Salimović presented the activities of PERC in the region with special focus on women and youth.

The aim of the meeting was to exchange experiences from work with youth and develop the agenda and plan of the Youth Network of South-Eastern Europe for the follow-up period. After being informed about conducted activities in the previous period, both at national and regional level, the meeting was led to the direction of strengthening and improving cooperation between DGB Youth and it is planned the third encounter in October in Berlin with the trade union youth from SEE and DGB youth. The agenda of activities for 2011-12 was drafted, based on empowering youth within the unions, recruiting new active members and improving both mutual and multinational cooperation by organizing all forms of gathering (seminars, round tables, etc.) as well

as planning joint activities in occasion of the 7th of October-World Day for Decent Work and the 1st of May- International Labour Day.

PERC project making workshop for Women and Youth, 25-27 May 2011



Upon request of the Youth and Women's committees of the PERC a three-day workshop on building project skills was organised for young trade unionists of several affiliates from NIS and SEE. Particular attention was given to participation of those dealing with project work and with youth / gender activities in the organisations.

Paola Simonetty of the ITUC introduced the participants to the ITUC development and cooperation agenda and its Development and Cooperation Network and to different project opportunities existing within the European Union financial frameworks. They also reflected upon project experiences of their organisations.

Grigor Gradev informed about the role of the project work in the PERC operations and the tendencies of decentralisation of project funding as well as about marginalisation of social partners in civil society consultative frameworks of the two subregions, which often have repercussions on project opportunities, since the funding tends to be diverted to professional low-scale NGOs. One of the reasons for that is that unions often lack the necessary skills to compete with these NGOs in the set up of the calls for proposals that do not reflect correctly the role of social partners in the societies. While the

In group work the participants were able to improve their project writing skills by working on the Logical Framework Approach, concept notes, activities planning and budget of the specific initiatives they might wish to develop. The group decided to continue joint work and to set up a network of practice sharing.

The activity was financially supported by the ILO-ACTRAV.

Sub-regional NIS youth conference on trade union campaigning, 11-12 August



In Baku, Azerbaijan, the PERC and the Azerbaijanis Trade Union Confederation organised two-day conference of trade union youth from the NIS region 11-12 of August. The conference discussed trade union instruments for communication and trade union campaigns.

Daniela Aleksieva, President of the PERC Youth committee, explained its work and priorities - organising and involvement of young people in union movement, youth employment and vocational education and training. She also underlined the role of youth in making trade union campaigns and actions creative and attractive, with special attention on World Day for Decent Work.

Anton Leppik and Anna Salnikova introduced different campaigns run by the ITUC, including [Play Fair](#), which will have a new momentum in the region linked with the European Football Championship in Ukraine, Olympic games and World Football Championship in Russia, [the 7 Horrors of the World campaign](#), [youth campaign](#), and [Decisions for Life campaign](#).

In the course of group work the participants evaluated the existing campaigns and their relevance to the youth of the region, outlined priority actions, for the WDDW, but also for other thematic campaigns. During the conference, representatives of different countries also presented their own positive practices, e.g., united day of action against austerity measures in Russia (solidarity with the EU unions) on 29 September 2010, special internal communication means used by unions in Moldova, youth campaigns in Ukraine, writing skills trade union competition in Georgia, flash-mobs in Bulgaria and Ukraine.

On the occasion of the UN Youth Day of 12 August, the participants were able to debate youth policies and actions together with representatives of the social partners. In that discussion the specific attention was devoted to the concerns of youth, particularly, those coming to the labour market about their skills applicability to the needs of workplaces, about quality of education, housing and family building needs, role of youth in social, political and trade union space in Azerbaijan.

The conference was financially supported by the ILO and the AHIK.

Trade union communication and campaigning for promoting decent work, 20-21 October



PERC South-Eastern European Youth Network in cooperation with International Trade Union Confederation and Youth Network of Confederation of Trade Unions of Montenegro organized a conference Trade union communication and campaigning for promoting decent work, held on 20-21 October 2011, in Podgorica Montenegro.

The Conference gathered twenty-one young trade unionists from South-Eastern Europe and discussed current issues regarding youth in the region and worldwide. The Conference was opened by Vidak Djuranovic, president of Trade union of textile, leather, shoes and chemical industry of Montenegro and welcomed participants on behalf of the Secretary General of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Montenegro. In addition, the representatives of the youth structures, Ivan Djuricic, president of Youth Network of CTUM and Daniela Aleksieva, president of PERC Youth Committee also addressed to the participants. Meeting was chaired by Ivana Prnjat, coordinator of the SEE Youth Network.

During the two-day meeting participants were able to analyze current situation in their countries and to present their views and share opinions among others.

Daniela Aleksieva introduced participants into PERC structure, its activities and priorities, and during her presentation the participants were able to discuss about their way of organizing and communication.

Kristin Blom, ITUC Campaigns Officer was able to share ideas and campaigns launched from the office of ITUC and talked about previous and current campaigns encouraging participants to use them in their youth structures not only on some certain occasions such as World Day for Decent Work but all over the year.

Sessions were interactive, requiring participants to be active and to work in assignments in small working groups. Participants discussed not only the labour market situation of young people in their own countries and the challenges for trade unionists to face the consequences, but they also had an opportunity to create campaigns for better position of youngsters in the respective countries.

At last, the event was an opportunity for building international cooperation among young trade unionists coming from the South-Eastern Europe and to enhance communication; develop specific action plans and exchange ideas for the benefit of younger generation.

The conference had presentations followed by discussion, panel sessions and group work. The first day was addressing the existing challenges the young people are facing in and after education while the second day was devoted to possible actions and good practices.

ETUC/PERC Youth Conference, 10-11 November 2011



In 2011, the PERC discussed with the ETUC a possibility to unite efforts together to organize a joint event for the European youth on education, with particular attention to employability of young people and role of quality education for that. Together with the ETUC Youth Bureau the concept of the conference was prepared, with the ETUC supporting participation of its affiliates through the EU Commission project, while the non-ETUC affiliates of the PERC were supported through the present project.

Day 1.

Patrick Itschert, ETUC Deputy General Secretary, gave presentation on Young people's integration in the labour market and Margarita Bussi, ETUI researcher on **Between Education and Employment: a difficult transition.**

The working groups addressed the following issues:

- Internships
- Mobility
- Obstacles to integration in the labour market
- Obstacles to a quality education

- Combining study /employment
- Vocational education and training

Day 2.

Margarita Bussy made an overview of the social partners role, on a basis of the survey made by the ETUI, that was followed by best practices presented by Andre Borg, CWU-Malta (organising students), Adrian Hermes, DGB-Germany (IG-Metal youth rally), Daniela Aleksieva, KNSB-Bulgaria (youth campaigning), Thibault Weber, CFDT-France.

The working groups concentrated on:

- Organising students
- Organising young workers
- Integration in the labour market: the Trade Unions' role
- Inclusion of disadvantaged young p.: the TU's role
- Facilitating transitions: the TU's role
- Social Partners' role

The PERC Youth conference conducted on occasion of the ETUC youth conference "A quality education for a quality job!" and supported financially by the FES elected a new youth committee for the 2-year term.

Ms. Tugba Balci, HAK-Is, was elected President of the PERC Youth Committee while Mr. Michael Wagner, DGB, Ivana Prnjat, CTUM, and Daniela Aleksieva, KNSB, were elected as Vice-Presidents. The four will be delegated to the ITUC youth committee.

The PERC Youth Committee is composed by: Tugba Balci, HAK-Is, President Michael Wagner, DGB, Vice-President Ivana Prnjat, Vice-President Daniela Aleksieva, Vice-President, Pierre Ledecq, CSC Goda Neveruskaite, LPSK Lasha Bliadze, GTUC Malin Norberg, Lo-Sweden Oksana Abboud, Ukraine.

TURK-SEN - PERC Joint Program Youth Seminar -29 November 2011, Cyprus

Turkish Trade Unions Federation (TÜRK-SEN) from Cyprus and PERC Youth Committee had Young Workers Joint Education Seminar in Girne/ Kyrenia on 29.11.2011. In this training seminar there were 50 participants which all of them from the affiliates of TURK-SEN and from different trade unions such as Turkish Electricity Authority of Cyprus Workers Trade Union, Telecommunications Trade Union etc.

There are four discussants which they were the President of TÜRK-SEN; Arslan Bıçaklı, President of the PERC Youth Committee Ms Tuğba BALCI ,Vice President of the Ms Daniela Aleksieva and Mr. Hasan Sarıca. Young Workers Joint Education Seminar moderate by Mr.Saffet Aşıksoy.

In the seminar agenda there were opening session at 9.00 then there were opening speeches of the President of TÜRK-SEN Arslan Bıçaklı and other official guests. There was a presentation by Daniela Aleksieva, vice president of PERC Youth Committee. In her presentation she explained the issues of ITUC – PERC Policy, Campaigns and Activities for Young Workers and how can we develop these structures in TURK-SEN. She also explained why we need trade union confederation and how they can have relations with international institutions. The pattern of work of ITUC and PERC Youth Committees – aims, priorities, activities were presented as well as the forthcoming events. Special attention was paid to initiatives linked to “A decent future for young workers”.

PERC Youth Committee President Tuğba Balcı showed the participants a row videos about PERC and ITUC. Interactively she focused on the ITUC Youth Campaign on Organising Young People and explains the campaign aims with giving interesting examples such as “Special animated video of JOE”, the campaign posters and the ITUC Youth Blog. She also provided experience from the activities Hak-İş. The exchange concentrated on everyday problems of young people and how they develop their infrastructure for reaching the international level of trade unionism.

Arslan Bıçaklı presented the development and struggle of trade unions in the Turkish community, particularly of TURK-SEN and appealed to the government to respect labour and trade union rights of the workers.

Finally Mr Hasan Sarıca explained the legal frame for labour relations and provided lots of details about Labour Law and young workers rights. He also presented the concept of Civil Society with its organizations and explained why society needs trade unions.

PERC Youth Committee meeting, 14 February



The first meeting of the second PERC Youth Committee took place in Brussels on 14 February. The meeting of the Committee was chaired by its President, Tugba Balci.

Philippe Gousenbourger, ITUC Youth coordinator, informed the Committee about ITUC youth agenda, including prioritizing of the youth employment issues by the ITUC and by the ILO. The ITUC is going to organize its Youth Committee meeting on the occasion of the G20 meeting in Mexico, which will concentrate on youth employment issues. The ILO will be organizing high level meeting on youth employment prior to the International Labour Conference and the ITUC seeks to ensure solid participation of young trade unionists in it. He also invited the PERC youth to apply for small funding for youth organizing projects that is available at the ITUC.

Grigor Gradev, PERC Executive Secretary, presented the policy platform of the PERC as it has been approved by the PERC General Assembly and informed about the challenges European trade union movement is facing with. The austerity measures pushed by the governments include violation of international labour standards, however, the protests organised by union in the countries concerned are not heard or taken into account by the officials and the parliaments. At the same time, spontaneous public actions most often spearheaded by young people can topple the government, radical extremist forces are using union organised protests to bring chaos and violence to the streets, and in some cases populist governments enjoy impressive support of population, even when their actions violate the EU principles. And governments, of the countries that are not experiencing debt crisis, even outside EU, are often using crisis as a pretext to liberalise labour markets and to undermine workers rights and workers organisations.

Present youth in Europe is facing a rising danger of being “a lost generation”, their chances for decent employment are shrinking as the labour market in result of austerity measures and economic hardships. New movements are born by these “lost youngsters”, the movements that does not trust or think to associate with unions, which are considered as a part of institutional order they have no place in. They are built on horizontal democracy principle in opposition to vertical democracy – unions and political society is built upon. Unions need to search for ways to communicate with these movements, and unions can not just witness the new trends. This will be an issue for PERC Youth Committee and for PERC as such.

Five PERC priority areas are: getting out of crisis, trade union rights, fighting inequities, democracy and social dialog and development of unions and its membership base.

The Committee set up four priority areas for its work and installed the respective “facilitators’ groups”:

- a) Quality jobs for young workers (Tugba Balci, Daniela Aleksieva, Lasha Bliadze)
- b) Intergenerational solidarity (to be further explored)
- c) Renewal and relations with new movements (Oksana Abboud, Pierre Ledecq, Michael Wagner).
- d) Communication and visibility of PERC youth work (Lasa Bliadze, Malin Norberg, Goda Nevereskayte, Tugba Balci and Michael Wagner).

The committee introduced several proposals to the PERC working plan: activities on youth employment in Sophia, Istanbul (tbc.), and Kiev, symbolic actions in support of the ETUC protest manifestation of 29 February that could be done together with association of pensioners or elderly people and on the occasion of the ILO Youth Employment conference / G20 meeting (if appropriate), substantiated expert research on representation of young workers interests in collective bargaining processes, traditional Palanga summer school.

The Committee also decided that each PERC youth activity must be accompanied with some creative symbolic action to boost interests towards trade union youth.