

PERC Newsletter, May/June/July 2010

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PERC activities

The 3-rd meeting of the PERC Youth Committee Moscow, 20-th July



The third meeting of the PERC Youth Committee took place in Moscow, on the invitation of the FNPR, on 20 July. The meeting was opened by the PERC President Mikhail Shmakov. It preceded the big forum of Russian trade union youth run by the FNPR in Chkalovsk and several members of the Committee participated in that event also. The Youth committee members reported about different activities they participated as YC members and defined priorities for the next year cycle of actions. In particular, it was decided to develop and to introduce to the PERC working plan the activities on vocational and education training, how the skills and knowledge of youth people coming to the labour markets match the needs of the market and what union are doing to get the skills gap shorten.

Please find more information and documents of the meeting on <http://perc.ituc-csi.org/>

7th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Equality between women and men, Baku, 24 and 25 May



A common ETUC and PERC Women’s Committee delegation participated in the the 7th Council of Europe Conference of Minister responsible for Equality between women and men, which was held on 24-25 May 2010 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The PERC delegation was leaded by the co-chair of the PERC Women ‘Committee, Yanka Takeva from CITUB Bulgaria. The main theme of the Conference was: Gender equality: bridging the gap between *de jure* and *de facto* equality” There were two sub-themes: positive action and gender mainstreaming to achieve de facto gender equality and combating gender stereotypes: the role of education and the media.

The Conference adopted a resolution and action plan and recommended to governments and all groups concerned to implement the strategies for achieving gender equality in particular the following fields: legislation, balanced participation of women and men in political and public life, reconciliation of family and private life and working life, combating multiple discrimination against vulnerable groups of women and girls and combating stereotyped gender roles mainly in media and education (<http://www.coe.int/t/DGHL/STANDARDS/ETTING/EQUALITY/>)

After the Conference the PERC and ETUC delegation visited the local women’s structure in AHIK and its leadership having the possibility to get acquainted with the gender activities in the union.

/PERC/

Workshop on HTUR, Tirana, 5 and 6 May



In Tirana, Albania, 15 trade union representatives of ITUC affiliates from Albania and Kosovo took part in a workshop organised by the PERC and the ITUC Human and trade union rights (HTUR) department. During those two days, main discussions focused on the participation of the affiliates from the two countries to the PERC HTUR network of HTUR focal persons and the development of a HTUR action plan for the promotion and the defence of trade unions rights.

/HTUR/PERC/

Workshop on project making, CISL Education Center, Florence, 15 and 16 July



The PERC organised a workshop for officers of the affiliates on project making, particularly, on the EU projects, in CISL educational centre in Florence.

This workshop continued the work launched in cooperation with the ITUC Development Cooperation Network in November last year. Paola Simonetti of the ITUC TUDCN introduced the logical framework approach and the logic of the EU concept note application as well as budgeting of the project applications. The participants were reminded about different EU programs, evaluated selected concept notes in accordance with the EuropeAid assessment grid, and drafted their own project proposals that could be further developed into application to existing EU funding opportunities.

/PERC/

Human and trade union rights network of the NIS region, Kishinev, 8 and 9 July



The PERC and the ITUC HTUR department organised two-day meeting of the human and trade union rights network of the NIS region. The meeting took place in Kishinev, Moldova, 8 and 9 July. The participants of the meeting assessed the situation with trade union rights in their countries and the region as a whole, particularly underlining the trend of “growing pressure on union rights” in the last 10 years.

The participants discussed the joint actions to address the situation, in terms of using international mechanisms to protect union rights, but also undertaking solidarity campaigning and common activities. The network drafted a plan of actions, which shall be incorporated in the PERC HTUR network plan.

/PERC/

Regional workshop on health care system reforms, Tirana, 17 and 18 June



The aim of the Workshop was to outline the key challenges resulting from on-going health system reforms in SEE countries, functioning of the actual systems, and to exchange opinions and considerations about possible trade union approaches and strategic opportunities for future development.

The Workshop was held with financial support of the FGTB Belgium, and the support of the Hungarian Branch Trade Union of Health – SZEF.

The main conclusion of the Workshop were: it is necessary to develop cooperation between the SEE trade unions on all important issues regarding the health system reforms and social legislation; to continue to participate in the national and regional events in order to get prepared for the active role of trade unions in the process of reforms; it is important to develop trade union approaches and strategic opportunities on how to reconcile interest of health employees and users.

ITUC/PERC SEE Office Sarajevo

The 6th North East Europe trade union Youth Summer School, Palanga, 27 June-1 July



On 27 June – 1 July in Palanga, Lithuania, the 6th North East Europe trade union youth summer school took place. In the school 50 young representatives from Baltic States, Russia, Sweden, Poland, Belarus and other countries discussed the topics related to the trade union rights and TUR violations.

Nadine Thevenet, the Research and Campaign Officer of the ITUC HTUR department had a day session and led the working group on TUR's. The recommendations were drawn to organize trade union youth forum on trade union rights, use social nets, to develop national trade union rights networks.

The Summer School was traditionally supported by FES and LO/TCO of Sweden.

/PERC Vilnius Office

News from the organizations

Informal Economy project national evaluation seminar, Tsaghkadsor , Armenia on 4-6 June 2010



The Informal Economy project national evaluation seminar took place in Tsaghkadsor Armenia on 4-6 June 2010. The unions of commerce, of agriculture, of construction, of public services and HAMK leadership as well took part in the evaluation.

According to the survey done by State Statistic Department there are about one million employed in Armenia, out of them 501 thousand are employed in formal sector and 499 thousand in informal sector. Out of 499 thousand informal workers 297 thousand are in agriculture sector. Armenian specific is that 33 percent of employed in industry also work informally. This is the highest percentage in the region. In the construction sector more than half of employed are informal workers.

The project implementation in Armenia had an important contribution in raising awareness among TU activists and in many branches the organizing of informal workers work has become a priority. The project was coordinated with ILO Labor migration and anti-trafficking programs which led to more effective use of resources.

/HAMK Info/

All Russia Youth Forum “Chkalovsk 2010”, Nizhniy Novgorod, 21 and 24 July




On 21-24th of July FNPR (Russia) held the All Russia Youth Forum “Chkalovsk 2010”. Over 300 young trade union activists gathered at camping site in the Nizhniy Novgorod region to discuss contemporary trade union movement and its future in Russia.

The event was attended by FNPR leadership, including FNPR and ITUC-PERC President, Mikhail Shmakov. The Forum also could boast guests from other European countries, Ukraine, Latvia, Bulgaria and Hungary being among

	<p>them. The Forum schedule was rather intense and offered the following activities: group work, panel discussions, master classes and team building exercises. Despite extremely hot weather, young trade unionists were very enthusiastic throughout the Forum.</p>
	<p><i>Upcoming events:</i></p>
<p><i>ETUC Youth Conference</i></p>	<p>26-28 August, Madrid</p>
<p><i>PERC HTUR Network meeting</i></p>	<p>9-10 September, Bucharest</p>
<p><i>PERC Summer School</i></p>	<p>15-17 September, Vienne</p>
	<p><i>You may be interested</i></p>
<p><i>WB expects increased privatization after temporary decline</i></p>	<p>A brief analysis produced by the World Bank's private sector development unit shows that the value of privatization transactions in developing countries fell by 70 per cent between 2007 and 2008.</p> <p>However the pro-privatization unit of the Bank notes with evident relief: "Concerns that the crisis would produce a wave of nationalizations appear to have been unfounded." It states that most government takeovers of collapsing banks and other firms were in industrialized countries and of a temporary nature.</p> <p>Furthermore, on the basis of preliminary data for 2009 the Bank believes that an upswing in privatization has already taken place: "The crisis itself has created pressures for privatization as increased government spending and declining revenues have led to growing budget</p>

	<p>deficits."</p> <p>In total value terms, 85 per cent of privatization transactions in 2008 were in the infrastructure and "competitive" sectors. Between 2007 and 2008, transport privatization fell by nearly half and water and sewerage by more than half.</p> <p>The sharpest declines in the value of privatization were in the financial sector, where there was a 98 per cent decline, and in the energy sector. Apparently only the extractive component, where the Bank did not register a single privatization in 2008, is included in the latter. The Bank did record several electricity and gas privatization transactions classified as infrastructures, and also notes an increase in telecom privatization.</p> <p>The World Bank's four-age analysis of "Privatization Trends" is available at: http://rru.worldbank.org/documents/publicpolicyjournal/322Kikeri_Perault.pdf</p> <p>Peter Bakvis ITUC/Global Unions - Washington Office</p>
<p><i>Turin International Summer School - 20/09 - 1/10/2010, Torino, Italy</i></p>	<p><u>Turin International Summer School - 20/09 - 1/10/2010, Torino, Italy</u></p> <p>Organised by the University Institute of European Studies, ETF, UNICRI, ITC-ILO and the Faculty of Law of the University of Turin.</p> <p>The 2010 edition is on Migration - Challenges and Opportunities for Europe providing participants with specific knowledge on economic, legal & social aspects related to immigration flows within the EU system.</p> <p>Application deadline: 26/06/10</p> <p>More info on http://summerschool.iuse.it/</p>

<p>ITUC/HTUR</p> 	
<p>ITUC Annual Survey of violations of trade union rights</p>	<p>On the 9th of June, the ITUC Annual Survey of violation of trade union rights was launched in Geneva during the ILC on the 9th of June. An online version can be found on the ITUC's website: http://survey.ituc-csi.org/ in the four official ITUC languages. Please note that you will find additional information on trade union rights in law online. Communication tools including a short video, posters and leaflets have also been produced. The video can be found at: http://www.ituc-csi.org/ituc-annual-survey-video.html .</p> <p>The ITUC HTUR Department takes this opportunity to thank all of you who participated in this Edition by sending information and to ask you not to forget to send us information on trade union rights violations throughout the year for the 2011 Edition.</p>
<p>ILO - Reporting obligations under the ILO supervisory mechanisms</p>	<p>Comments to the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) (submission of observations to the Experts under Article 22 of the ILO Constitution) on ratified conventions (only) on which each country as to report on in 2010 have to be provided by the latest the end of August to the ILO's International Labour Standards Department (normes@ilo.org). Please send a copy to the ITUC. This can be done whether directly or through their regional or international bodies (ITUC in this case).</p> <p>On the basis of elements so provided, the Committee of Experts drafts its annual Report, which it examines in November and then publishes in March. This report serves in particular as a basis for discussion in the Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS) at the International Labour Conference in June.</p>

	<p>The HTUR department would like to stress the importance for national trade unions to submit their comments to the ILO by the deadline. It strongly believes that the good functioning of the CEACR and of the ILO monitoring system depends on our contribution.</p>
<p>2nd PERC HTUR Network Meeting</p>	<p>Beginning of September, the second meeting of the PERC HTUR Network (set up in Bratislava in September 2009) will be held. During this meeting, the ITUC HTUR department along with the PERC Secretariat will present the HTUR activities carried out throughout the year within the region (as well as worldwide). Furthermore, participants will discuss major human trade union rights issues to be tackled and will draw the future PERC HTUR Action plan. Invitations will be sent to members of the PERC HTUR Network in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Within the HTUR department, Nadine Thevenet is in charge of liaising with PERC on HTUR issues (email: nadine.thevenet@ituc-csi.org / tel (direct): +32 (0)2 224 03 10).</p>
<p>IFC loan update</p>	<p>The following proposed loans were posted to the IFC website since the last update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Archimedes Global Ltd. (finance/healthcare) - Southern Europe 2. Chisinau City (utilities) - Moldova 3. Ust Kamenogorsk Poultry Farm - Kazakhstan 4. Cacanska Banka (finance) - Serbia 5. Akbank (finance) - Turkey <p>For more information, please search the project number provided here in the IFC projects database (www.ifc.org/projects) or contact Global Unions' Washington Office.</p> <p>Best regards, Francesca Ricciardone ITUC/Global Unions - Washington Office 888 16th Street NW, suite 400 Washington, DC 20006 Phone: 202-974-8121 Fax: 202-974-8122 E-mail: fricciardone@globalunions-us.org</p>

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