



# PERC PAN-EUROPEAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

## PERC Newsletter, February 2009

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### **8-th ILO European Regional Meeting, Lisbon, 9-13 February**

**The impact of global financial crisis on the world of work high on the agenda of the meeting**



The 8-th European Regional Meeting of the ILO took place in Lisbon on 9-13 February amid growing concerns over the impact of the global financial crisis on the world of work in Europe and Central Asia. The meeting held every four years brought together representatives of governments, workers and employers from 51 European and Central Asian ILO members' states. The discussion was based on a special report prepared by the ILO on policy responses to the economic crisis. The report takes a look at the stimulus package introduced in the region and proposes an integrated approach, which places Decent Work at the center of recovery efforts.

Throughout the five-day meeting there were seven panel discussion on a range of work-related themes, including the economic context and the employment situation in the region, labor market policies and flexicurity, wage policy, social dialogue, policies to reconcile work and family, social protection and fundamental rights at work. The main conclusions of the Eight European Regional meeting concentrated on : meeting the challenges to decent work, sustainable enterprises and social cohesion; impact of the crisis on employment and labor markets; labor markets and the challenges ahead; economic context and employment situation; fundamental rights at work and international labor standards; labor market policies to reconcile flexibility and security; social dialogue; social protection and quality of working life; further development of Decent Work Country Programs; regional activities; proposals for future work by the ILO.

Please find more information and background materials on  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/lisbon2009/>  
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The fist working meeting of the newly elected PERC Women's Committee took place on 25 February. A special attention on the agenda of the meeting was paid to the

### **Meeting of the PERC Women's Committee, 25**

## February , Brussels



### ***SEE TU Forum Policy discussion meeting on the global economic crises, Podgorica, 27 February 2009***



action plan and the preparation of representation of PERC Women's Committee in the next Executive Committee of the PERC which will take place on 16 March

The main objectives as specified in the proposal for the PERC Women's Committee working plan are as follows: guaranteeing women's presence in decision-making bodies in numbers at least proportional to the number of women members; to guarantee gender mainstreaming in all international trade union organisations' policies; combating pay inequality between men and women that exists in all countries; to pursue a balance between work and private life; elimination of gender violence. For this year PERC Women's Committee took the decision to concentrate its actions especially on decent life and decent work for women in the conditions of the world financial, economic and social crisis. The Committee proposed a series of concrete activities to achieve this goal. The prepared documents will be proposed for adoption at the PERC Executive Committee on 16 March.

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The SEE Trade Union Forum, with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the LO – TCO Sweden, held an extraordinary meeting on 27 of February 2009, in Podgorica, Montenegro. Some 20 trade union leaders and experts from the countries of South Eastern Europe, representatives of the PERC, FES Regional office in Belgrade and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Montenegro discussed the impact of the global economic crises in the SEE region and wider context and the Trade Union responses in the SEE countries. The aims of the meeting was to outline the key challenges resulting from the pressures of the current crisis on the economies and societies in the South Eastern Europe countries, their specific dimensions but also the more general drivers of the events in the European and global contexts.

Ana Knezevic, President of UATUC and Vice president of the PERC and ITUC gave a presentation on the Global Unions High-Level discussions with the IMF and the WB on the global economic and financial crises, held on 12 – 16 of January 2009, in Washington. She informed the participants about the meeting with the WB representatives on the WB projects which focused particularly on the position and rights of women in a number of countries over the world. She also outlined the key issues that were discussed during the meeting with the IMF and WB representatives devoted to the financial and economic crises.

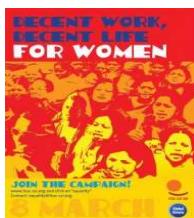
Grigor Gradev, the Executive Secretary of the PERC presented the ETUC and ITUC responses on the Global economic crises pointing out the preparation of the ITUC and the ETUC for the next Summit of the G20, that will be held on 4 of April 2009, in London and the work done during and after the last G20 summit, held in November 2008, in Washington. A press conference with the participation of Ms. Ana Knezevic, chairperson of the SEE TU Forum, Mr. Veselin Vujanovic, general secretary of CTUM and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Montenegro was organized. Around 20 journalists



## ***Impact of the crisis in the Baltic Region, Policy discussion meeting, 6 February, Brussels***



## ***Planning meeting within the framework of the “Decisions for Life” project***



appeared and there was a good coverage of the event in the electronic and printing media. The SEE TU Forum came with a series of recommendations on development of tripartite and bipartite social dialogue, role of trade unions in the SEE region, EU integration process of Western Balkans. The SEE Trade Union Forum agreed to organize the next ordinary meeting on 7-8 of April 2009, in Zagreb, Croatia. The General Secretary of the PERC, brother John Monks and president of PERC, brother Mikhael Shmakov, will be invited to the meeting, as well as, Prof. Vladimir Gligorov, economist, from the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies  
More information on conclusions and recommendations on <http://perc.ituc-csi.org>  
/ ITUC-PERC SEE Office Sarajevo/

Following the urgent request of our Baltic colleagues, the ITUC/PERC and ETUC have organized a policy discussion meeting on the developments in the region of the three Baltic countries facing the heavy impact of the financial and economic crisis. The meeting was meant to exchange opinions and ideas on the current state of affairs, the prospects for the future and the option for efficient trade union responses in the Baltic context and beyond.  
The policy discussion meeting concentrated on the impact of the crisis in the Baltic region; challenges and opportunities for the trade unions. The representatives of trade unions in the Baltic region exchanged opinions and considerations about possible trade union approaches and strategic opportunities, particular instruments and ideas to safeguard the rights and interests of working people through the crisis and to lay the foundations for substantial changes in the way the economies and societies are run. John Monks, the General Secretary of the PERC and ETUC mentioned the seriousness of the situation globally and asked the Baltic unions to keep both PERC and ETUC closely informed about the evolution of the situation in the region.  
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On 26-27 January 2009 the Union Federation of Ukraine (FPU) hosted the planning meeting within the framework of the “Decisions for Life” project. The meeting was aimed at presenting the project “Decisions for Life”, its aims and tasks. Among the participants of the meeting were representatives of 3 National Unions Centers – FPU, KSPU and VOST, representatives of the ITUC, the ILO, the Wage Indicator Foundation. “Decisions for Life” focuses on 12 countries of Europe, Asia, Latin America. At the CIS countries the project covers Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. The Project partners are: ITUC, UNI, Amsterdam University, and Wage Indicator Foundation. The duration of the project is 2, 5 years. The project aims are: to raise awareness among young female workers concerning future employment opportunities and career possibilities, family building and the work-family balance; promoting equal opportunities at the labor market; providing information on possibilities and rights for working women.  
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**"Workshop" Building the capacities of woman in trade unions", Serbia, Belgrade, 11-12 January 2009**



**Trade unions and migration in Europe, 16-17 February, Brussels**



**Training course for trade union educators and trainers, Turin, 16-27 February**

To strengthen position of women in Serbian trade unions in a line with the PERC general program was a topic for a PERC national Workshop, 11 -12 January in Belgrade, supported by the ITUC-PERC SEE Office Sarajevo.

Workshop was jointly organized by Ms. Dobrila Ilicic, sub-regional PERC WC member and Ms. Mira Dimitrijevic, president of the SSS Women's section. Twenty two members of the women's sections from SSS and UGS Nezavisnost actively participated on the event. Enisa Salimovic presented the gender dimension in the PERC general program as adopted in Rome; outcome of the Turin Conference; results of the elections for the PERC Women's Committee members; Program and priorities of the PERC WC. The results of the ILO Project on informal economy and particularly on position of women in informal economy in Serbia were presented and discussed. The participants welcomed the recent evolution of the legislative and institutional framework which reflects a strong commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for women and men in Serbia.

As a conclusion, the participants underlined the importance of awareness-raising campaigns in the fight against any kind of discrimination in the trade unions, on labor market and society in general.

/ ITUC-PERC SEE Office Sarajevo/

The PERC together with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung organized a round table on migration in Europe with participation of trade unions in Estonia, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Finland, France, representatives from the GUFs and experts from the London school of economics, Centre for Economic and Social Studies ( Albania), National Centre of Assistance and Informing of NGOs of Moldova. The aim of the round table was to map out the nature and forms of the migration phenomenon in Europe, not only in the EU or "old" member states, factors for dynamics and patterns of migration flows, trade union role and activities in the current situation and future challenges. The purpose was to identify the priority areas which would provide better orientation and guide trade union activities in the area of migration as well as bring together achievements and patterns of cooperation already in operation and the possibilities to build on them in the future. The main items discussed: trade union policies towards migration; ETUC policy on migration ( Catelene Passchier, Confederal Secretary ETUC); PERC aspects of European migration ( Grigor Gradev, Executive Secretary PERC); the operation of trade union policies, achievements, problems and prospects for the future.  
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International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, in cooperation with the PERC and ETUI, organized 2 week course for trade union educators and trainers from New Independent States on Trade union training in labor education methodology for development of labor education systems. The course took place in Turin, ITC, from 16 to



**PERC-FNV Project  
“CEE/NIS: Promoting rights  
of and representing workers  
engaged in informal labour  
relations  
BSPSH and KSSH – ITUC/PERC FNV  
Second Working Group meeting on  
informal economy, Centre for Training  
and Qualification, Tirana, 18 February  
2009**



**2-nd meeting of the PERC  
transitional Youth  
Committee, Cyprus, 28  
February**

27 of February. During the course participants from PERC affiliates and partners from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Azerbaijan and Armenia, got information on the existing trade union education systems of national centers of some of the EU countries, on the EuroTrainer network of the European Trade Union Institute, on different practices of evaluation and planning of educational programs and courses, on Project Cycle Management and on different elements of the ILO and PERC work.  
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The Working group for the implementation of the national programme in the framework of the PERC-FNV Project “CEE/NIS: Promoting rights of and representing workers engaged in informal labour relations” was organised as a follow up of the first ITUC/PERC – BSPSH and KSSH Working group meeting on informal economy, held in March 2008, in Tirana and of the CEE regional thematic workshop on informal economy held on 25-26 of June in Brussels, that the representatives of the KSSH and BSPSH from Albania have attended and where the recommendations on the future work in this field, national analyses on informal economy and action plans were discussed and formulated. The meeting gathered nine participants, members of the Working group from the Textile, Agriculture, Construction and Wood Trade Unions, TU experts and representative of the Women structure. Jasmin Redzepovic, ITUC/PERC SEE Office Team coordinator participated on the meeting, too. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the preparation of the national study – survey/mapping paper on informal economy and to define main orientation of the action plans on informal economy for the period in 2009 and 2010.

The KSSH and BSPSH leadership consider the work in the field of protecting workers rights and interest in the informal economy in Albania as one of the main priorities, which is high on the agenda of the ILO Decent work country program in which the Trade Unions participate.

The KSSH and BSPSH working group members reported on the activities over the last year on reducing the informal and undeclared work. More information on this activity on <http://perc.ituc-csi.org>  
/ITUC-PERC SEE Office /

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the PERC <transitional> Youth Committee took place on 28 February, in Cyprus, on an occasion of the ETUC Youth Conference. The meeting noted information of the PERC about political developments in Pan-European region, the process of building different PERC structures, task groups and activities, as well as about challenges trade union organizations of PERC region has been experiencing this year.

The main topic of the meeting was to discuss the preparation of the PERC Youth Conference later this year. The Conference will finalize the process of building of the Youth Committee, which will act as permanent



PERC structure, and will define the main directions of the youth work of the PERC. Experience related to the building of PERC Women's Committee was considered as positive pattern for the Youth Committee operations. The <transitional> committee will ensure careful and inclusive preparation and implementation of the conference, in cooperation with PERC secretariat.

All the PERC affiliates will be invited to send their delegates to the Conference, which will elect the Youth Committee and its Bureau / Presidium and a President. Besides this, the Conference will concentrate of the three thematic blocks, which will constitute the main directions of the Youth Committee work: youth organizing and representation, role of European Youth in international trade union movement actions and precarisation of youth work and effects of on youth employment – particularly in the conditions of the global financial crisis.

The Conference will take place in Brussels and the nomination procedure for the delegations and office-bearers shall be announced soon by the PERC General Secretary  
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### ***News from affiliates***

#### ***Georgia: GTUC action for social protection for all and for efficient social dialog***



On 3 February, at 15.00 Georgian Trade Unions Confederation held the action in front of the building of the Georgian Parliament. All branches of GTUC took part in the action. The action was held in the background of rhythm of the knocking on the ironed pan's with yell "Hungry, Hungry".

The unionists demanded: to set up unemployment rate; to raise compensation to dismissed people; to rise compensation for maternity leave; accessibility to health for everybody / insurance for everybody; to encourage collective bargaining on industrial level.

Also was protested the Article 37. D p. of the Labor Code regulating the issues of termination of labor contracts.

Irakli Petriashvili made a speech concerning the economical crisis, as he declared the number of unemployment increased to 300.000 and in the budget there is an increase of the fees of State Administration and salaries. The President of GTUC demanded that instead of the use those fees for the state structures that amount would be appropriate to be used for the unemployed citizens. The action was in the news of the leading media and was held for 2 hours in front of the Parliament of Georgia.

PERC/GTUC/

## ***Upcoming events:***

### ***PERC Executive Committee***

***New tender for projects on social dialogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina, supported by IPA***

***TUAC meeting on “Gender, Development and Decent Work”, 27 April, Paris***

***Leadership in Democracy program, Ruskin College***



*Editor in chief:  
John Monks,  
PERC Secretary General*

*PERC team*

**16 March PERC Executive Committee meeting, Brussels**

### ***You may be interested***

The project should assist in defining the social dialogue on national and sub national level, but main priority is the economic and social council on national level.

Please find more info on the address below:  
[http://www.europa.ba/download.php?id=83&doc\\_id=1](http://www.europa.ba/download.php?id=83&doc_id=1)

The meeting on ‘Gender, Development and Decent Work’ is being organized within the framework of the OECD Labor/Management Program and will take place on Monday 27th April from 9.30 until 18.00 at the OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André-Pascal, Paris 16. The aim of this event is to examine how to support the employment and empowerment of poor women in the context of global production systems in which work is increasingly feminized, informalised and precarious. The discussions will also address the implications of the financial crisis.

You can confirm the name of your representative by sending an email to [drew@tuac.org](mailto:drew@tuac.org).

The Webb Institute will be running a Leadership in Democracy programme for Nationals of CIS states (outside of the EU) from 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009.

The closing date for applications will be 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.

In case you wish to apply, please contact Ms Walsh at (+44)1865 759655; <http://vle.webbatruskin.org/>; e-mail: [twalsh@ruskin.ac.uk](mailto:twalsh@ruskin.ac.uk)