



“Developing Information for Migrant Workers through Transnational Trade Union Cooperation”

Workshop Meeting, 8th – 9th of May, 2014
Bucharest, Romania

Summary Report (Short version)

The third workshop of the project was held in Bucharest, Romania, between 8th and 9th of May 2014. The workshop brought together the representatives of the three partners of the project (LIGA – Hungary, TUC – United Kingdom and Cartel ALFA – Romania) but also trade unions representatives, experts and other actors in the field from five countries (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Malta and The Netherlands). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss about the role of the trade unions in providing information to the migrant workers, to identify barriers in communication, to exchange ideas and to find what good practices can be replicated or developed.

After the official opening of the workshop, **Ms. Luminita Vintila – Expert, Cartel ALFA** made a presentation regarding the policy, the main lines and the projects developed by the Confederation on issues related to the labor market. **Ms. Florina Panainte – Expert, “Solidaritatea” Social Research and Development Center** presented the Country Report for Romania: “The Migration of Romanians in the United Kingdom: Study of the Amplitude, Causes and Solutions of this Phenomenon”. The Study was based on the results of two online researches – one about the Romanians’ Migration Trend in the context of elimination of the restrictions against Romanians on the labor market in UK and another one, regarding the main difficulties encountered by Romanian migrant workers in UK on social networks or e-mail. The first research was based on the answers collected from 465 questionnaires and the second one, on 92 questionnaires. The Study has revealed interesting results like: the migrants’ profile, their reasons for leaving Romania, actions undertaken in order to find a job, the most important barriers they encounter (like discrimination, difficulty in finding jobs, insufficient knowledge of the language, etc). She affirmed that migration could be considered an opportunity for the trade unions on their reorganization process in order to assume new types of services for their members, but this opportunity requires significant investment in developing the necessary structures and establishing sources of income for their support. After Ms. Panainte’s detailed presentation **Ms. Rodica Novac from ADO SAH ROM, Romania**, made a presentation on the Integration of the immigrants in the Romanian society reminding to the

participants that Romania, beyond being a country of emigration is also a country of destination.

In the second part of the day, the workshop started with a short introduction made by **Ms. Melinda Kelemen** about the project's website: www.migrantinfo.eu. The workshop continued with the “Case studies” session in which were presented the operations developed by the trade unions from different countries in order to inform migrant workers on their rights and to organize them in trade unions. The first case study was presented by **Mr. Andreas Prochniak – Expert, FNV Netherlands** who presented some facts & figures about migration in The Netherlands and the activities in which “The Polish Brigade” trade union is involved in order to improve the situation of the migrants. The second case study was presented by **Ms. Relinde Theunynck – Expert, ACV-CSC Belgium**. She presented a short history of migration in Belgium, the activities carried out by ACV-CSC confederation and the services offered to the migrant workers. **Ms. Ruxandra Icobescu from DGB Germany** presented the third case study. She explained that DGB is the only Trade Union Confederation in Germany and contains eight trade unions active in various fields. She detailed some of the most important projects developed in the area of consultancy and support for mobile and detached workers in different languages but also in reducing trafficking and exploitation, providing very interesting details on specific cases. The fourth case study was presented by **Ms. Florentina Constantin from CGIL-INCA, Romania-Italia**. She detailed the activities in which INCA is involved, underlining that the organization provides services to all workers (migrant workers but also Italians who work abroad). The fifth study case was presented by **Mr. Keith Caruana from GWU Malta**. He provided information about Malta's approach regarding the migration and presented the activities undertaken by GWU in order to promote equality among all workers in Malta both local and foreign employees, to struggle against *Precarious work* and to support workers who face difficult situations. The last part of the day was dedicated to the group discussions. The participants were divided into three working groups in order to have separate discussions for 1.5 hours about identifying barriers in the process of informing migrant workers and for exchanging good practices.

The second day of the workshop started with the Reporting Session of discussions in working groups from the previous day and was moderated by **Ms. Melinda Kelemen**. **Ms. Agnieszka Zamonski from TUC**, **Ms. Florentina Constantin from CGIL-INCA** and **Ms. Adrienn Hangonyi from LIGA** were appointed to report each group's discussions. The groups' debates targeted four main topics: 1. Practical and specific problems from the perspective of each organization involved (harmonizing different point of views) - the groups identified common problems faced by both migrants and trade unions in their attempt to support them, / 2. Possible joint recommendations, joint actions of stakeholders (how to cooperate?) - the speakers presented the common perspective regarding a European membership card release or the possibility of the membership transfer among countries as an effective way against losing members. Other recommendations: the necessity of having information centers in the sender countries as well and finding ways for educating people before they leave, the

necessity of connections with different institutions, organizations, NGOs in the countries of destination; the necessity of settling a system which can assure an easier recognition of the skills and qualification of the migrant workers. / 3. Refined specifications of leaflets/broschures for migrant workers leaving Romania / arriving to the destination country - the groups suggested to have such printings for specific sectors like health care and agriculture manufacturing, to include information about basic rights, minimum wage, how to avoid being tricked by some employers and to introduce not only information but also motivations for the migrant workers in order to become union members. It was also mentioned a very efficient way of informing people: the SMS campaign. / 4. Refined specifications of project website for migrant workers (www.migrantinfo.eu) - the groups made the following suggestions: the information to be translated and updated, the website to provide some links to other available resources, to be posted stories or short videos with migrant workers who want to share their life experiences and the problems they had, but also how they have solved them, in other words, positive examples. The messages against discrimination should be included too. And also, the groups' recommendation was that the information included on the online forums to be studied and exploited, emphasizing its utility. **Mr. Marco Cilento - Counselor, ETUC Belgium** presented an overview of migration at European level, the European Union labor market policies and what ETUC is doing at political level regarding migration. He also made the presentation of one project run by ETUC with the support of European Integration Fund, called “ETUC initiative to implement a EUROPEAN NETWORK of assistance for integration of migrant workers and their families”.

At the end of the workshop, the participants were invited to give an individual feedback which gave them the opportunity to express their positive thoughts, to thank for having been invited, to congratulate the way of organizing the event, to appreciate the very useful information they received and the very effective exchange of ideas and good practices and to express their hope that such events will be organized more often in the future. After the closing speech of **Ms. Tanya Warlock (TUC, UK)** in which she assessed the workshop as being extremely useful in terms of information exchanges between countries and thanked to all the involved partners for organization and support, **Ms. Melinda Kelemen** closed the workshop.
