



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES)

MEETING OF THE IRTUC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Brussels, 4 November 2009

REPORT

1. EURES

a) EURES GUIDELINES 2010-2013

Marco Ferri, Deputy Head of Unit, Employment and Mobility Services, DG Employment and Social Affairs, European Commission, briefed participants on the state of discussions on his second draft text.

The PPT document is attached to this report (in English only).

During the discussion, numerous questions were raised with respect to the continuity of the EURES cross-border partnerships and recognition and the role of the IRTUCs in the EURES network.

It was confirmed that the Commission's objective is not to put an end to financing and/or support for the EURES cross-border partnerships. Its aim is to conduct a thorough evaluation of their functioning, particularly in terms of results.

In this respect, indicators for cross-border activities will be developed by a working group that will include the social partners.

It was also announced that after adoption of the EURES Guidelines for 2010-2013, the Commission will launch a procedure for revision of the EURES legal basis, and more specifically of the EURES Charter.

b) Internal trade union evaluation

Manfred Klöpfer, Chairman of the IRTUC Coordination Committee, presented the responses to the questionnaire sent out to the IRTUCs.

The questions submitted to the IRTUCs that are members of a EURES cross-border partnership were as follows:

**EURES advisers*

How many EURES advisers are there in your partnership?

How many of them are:

- trade union advisers
- employers' advisers
- labour administration advisers
- other

How many requests do trade union advisers handle every month?

How many of these are from border workers and how many are cross-border?

** EURES partnership*

Does the partnership provide support for cross-border trade union work?

Who participates in the partnership on a permanent basis (trade unions, employers, labour administrations)?

Have any major changes been made to your partnership in recent years?

Did the trade union benefit from these changes or were they detrimental?

What concrete areas of trade union work are organised via EURES?

** EURES financing*

How has the volume of financing evolved in recent years?

What volume of financial resources is available for trade union activities?

Are trade union activities supported by the partnership (coordinator) with regard to EURESCO?

What role does EURESCO play for your work?

How is the ETUC's work evaluated within the framework of EURES?

The responses received from 12 IRTUCs are attached to this report.

It was agreed to develop a roadmap for use in the steering committees of the EURES cross-border partnerships.

2. EUROREGIONS – ROLE OF THE IRTUCs

On a proposal from the IRTUC Steering Committee, this item was postponed until the next meeting of the IRTUC Coordination Committee.

All participants expressed their views on the subject briefly. It was agreed to conduct a survey of the IRTUCs on the state of play in the corresponding cross-border regions, which will serve as a basis for the discussion.

3. COORDINATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING – CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Presentation of the conclusions of the project coordinated by the ETUC and of the Final Conference held in Brussels on 12 May 2009.

One of the main conclusions, as demonstrated during the six seminars held in the regions that volunteered, is that the IRTUCs represent a key resource for going beyond mere information exchange between one trade union and another throughout a border area. They contribute to rooting firmly in place a strict cooperation activity capable of having an impact on existing negotiation practices, combining and merging them as far as possible.

When a company moves from one country to another, it has to find a single trade union, a single strategy of demands, a single delegation that begins the negotiation. This is therefore an ambitious but irreversible strategy. Whatever time is needed to affirm it in concrete terms must be taken.

Within this framework, the project represents a fundamental pillar of our activity.

Over the longer term, this cooperation must result in more effective information swapping, improve inter-union cooperation and promote, select and disseminate best practice and experiences developed at this level while respecting the different systems of collective bargaining.

It was agreed to pursue the project and to review at the next meeting the possibilities of presenting another subsidy application to the European Commission. It will also be seen which IRTUCs may be particularly interested in signing up as partners to a new project coordinated by the ETUC.

It was announced that the brochure incorporating the final report of the project would be published in the nine working languages used at the IRTUC seminars, namely: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Czech, Slovenian and Polish. The brochure will be placed on the ETUC website and a limited number of paper copies will also be available.

4. INTERNAL ORGANISATION

a) New IRTUC

It was announced that the 45th IRTUC has been established in the border regions of Austria and Slovenia, namely the Steiermark-Pordravje/Pomurje IRTUC.

b) ETUC project "Workplace, Europe"

Presentation of the project coordinated for the ETUC by its advisor, Irina De Sancho Alonso.

It was noted that the project, which will be launched shortly, includes a questionnaire and collection of best practice on "trade union actions on mobility and migration" in three areas, namely:

- 1) **information, advice and support**
- 2) **organisation and recruitment**
- 3) **integration**

Obviously, the questionnaire will also be sent to the chairmen of the IRTUCs.

The target group is mobile/migrant workers, including posted workers, who are nationals of an EU Member State and of accession/applicant countries. However, migrant workers from third countries residing in EU territory must not be excluded, considering the ETUC's aspiration – as guaranteed in EU treaties and policies – to treat all workers equally on EU territory.

"Best practice" includes actions and activities put in place by trade unions at every level: company, sector, multi-sector, local, regional, national, international, IRTUC or European trade union federations.

Subsequently, six regional seminars will be organised. A report will be published giving an overview of best practice and presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the seminars. A European conference will also be held in September 2010.

The IRTUCs will be involved in the different phases of the project and will be kept informed of its progress.

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**Please note that the next meeting of the IRTUC Coordination Committee
will be held in Brussels, on 30 March 2010**