

IEGULDĪJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ!

International conference

“Trade union role in promotion of sustainable growth and quality job creation”

Concept note

Conference objectives: to facilitate better understanding of modern trade union role in promotion of sustainable economic development and trade union abilities to respond to the current labour market and labour force needs. The conference will address three significant current labour market issues where trade unions can have an important influence – creation of quality jobs, promotion of youth employment and dealing with challenges of migration and free movement of workers. Furthermore participants are invited to discuss the current impact of the European trade union movement and capacity building of trade union organisations that is a key issue in realisation of trade union role and functions.

Background

One of the strategic objectives of EU2020 is reaching 75% employment of the working-age population (20-64 years). Improving quality of jobs and creation of new quality jobs is essential to reach this objective. Meanwhile Europe needs to face and to tackle three challenges hampering productive and full employment – aging of society, youth unemployment (more than 5.5 million young people in the EU-28) and vast migration of workers within (free movement of workers) and from outside the EU. Facilitation of youth employment to react to the aging of society and prevent lost generation and reasonable management of workforce migration flows are key elements in response to the mentioned challenges. Trade unions are invited to discuss and reaffirm their role in creation of quality jobs, facilitation of youth employment, to define trade union activities and role in mobility of workers and migration.

Capacity plays a crucial role in fulfilment of trade union role and functions. However trade union movement faces decline of trade union membership resulting in limited fiscal resources and abilities to provide adequate services as well as uneven and diverse practices and efficiency of social dialogue across the EU member states and regions (e.g. Eastern Europe and Central Europe). Therefore trade unions will discuss modern trade union movement influence and capacity in the EU in tripartite and bipartite social dialogue, as well as opportunities to strengthen trade union capacity.

Sessions and themes

The conference is divided into 4 main panels:

1. Quality jobs and trade union role in facilitation of quality jobs creation;
2. Trade union role in promotion of youth employment;
3. Trade union activities within labour force mobility;
4. Trade union influence and capacity in the EU.

The first panel will involve EUROFOUND, trade union experts and employers' representatives in discussion on such issues as quality jobs, factors and conditions of quality employment, current situation of reaching of EU2020 employment objective and trade union role in the process of creation of quality jobs.

The second panel will deal with ETUC expert presentation on the situation of youth employment across the EU, impact of the European social partners' agreement on the Framework of Actions on Youth Employment and trade union activities to facilitate and support youth employment.

Additionally Latvian and Austrian trade union representatives will exchange their good practice examples in the youth employment activities.

The third panel will include ETUC expert presentation on challenges of labour mobility and migration (including migration from third countries), international and national trade union partnership projects in protection of incoming and outgoing migrant workers' rights and integration, experts from Latvia will address challenges of free mobility of workers and introduce Latvian situation of labour force migration. Finally Swedish trade union representative will share a good practice example on the relevant issue.

The last panel will invite ETUC political management representative to give an oversight of trade union influence in the EU and its regions. Latvian and foreign trade union representatives will share their experience of facing capacity challenges in their home countries, good practice on strengthening trade union capacity, improving quality of services and increasing trade union influence in decision making at national and the EU level.

Outcomes of the conference

The conference will end with the intervention of the head of Latvian Trade Union Confederation and ETUC political management representative presenting 3-4 main recommendation points on strengthening trade union role in the sustainable development that will be forwarded to ETUC, EC institutions.

Delegates

150 delegates from the EU member states trade union organisations and the Latvian government representatives.