

industriAll European Trade Union SEE Region Steering Group Meeting

Sofia, 25-26 March 2013

Conclusions

The second meeting of the SEE Region Steering Group (hereafter SG) was organized and hosted by Metalicy in Sofia, Bulgaria on 25-26 March 2013. The major purpose of this first meeting was the preparation of the Annual General Meeting of the SEE Region of industriAll Europe.

Summary of the responses to the questionnaire

As agreed in the last Meeting in Bucharest (November 2012), a questionnaire had been developed and sent out to the affiliated trade unions in the SEE. SMH-IS (Croatia) is working on the summary of the replies. As the process was slightly delayed and responses were still sent in until shortly before the meeting, SMH-IS prepared an overview of the responses in form of a table. Unfortunately to date only 26 of 45 trade unions in the region have replied to the questionnaire. No responses were received from the Albanian trade unions.

Furthermore, the members of the SG discussed that some clarifications/specifications are needed with respect of certain questions/concepts in the different languages (e.g. representativeness of trade unions). Therefore, the SG agreed to have the resulting overview being distributed to the affiliated organizations in order to ask for clarifications. The deadline for final submissions shall be 30 April 2013. SMH-IS will develop the summary report until 15 May 2013 so that it will be ready in time for the General SEE Region Meeting that will take place from 17-19 June in Bucharest.

Agenda of General SEE Meeting

What concerns the agenda of the General SEE Meeting the following structure was proposed by industriAll Europe:

1. Presentation of industriAll European Trade Union activities
2. Summary report of the SEE region and discussion
3. The Future of the regional work

The members of the SG agreed that some time could be allocated to the up-date information about specific country situations/developments.

Practical details on the organization of the General SEE Meeting

The General SEE Region Meeting shall start on Monday, 17 June at 13:00 (arrival of participants shall be Monday morning) and will finish on Tuesday, 18 June at 12:30 at the latest. The meeting will be combined with the first meeting of the industriAll Europe project on industrial policy. This meeting

will start on Tuesday, 18 June, at 14:30 at the latest and will finish on Wednesday at 12:30 at the latest (departure of the participants in the afternoon). As agreed in Bucharest (Nov 2012) we will expect 50-55 participants in total. It was agreed that PETROM will cover for the costs for the General SEE Meeting (1 night accommodation of participants, meals, meeting facilities, technical equipment and the interpretation into 2 languages). The FES who is supporting the industriAll Europe Industrial Policy Project will finance the costs of 1 night accommodation of participants and the interpretation into 2 languages.

Project on Industrial Policy in SEE

More information about the project activities can be found in the attached presentation. The members of the SG critically discussed the scope of industrial policy that will be addressed in the project. As the various countries have different needs and priorities with respect to industrial policy. The involvement of the countries in defining the scope is necessary. This is, however, also the aim of the first project meeting on 18-19 June 2013 where the trade union representatives will develop jointly the indicators for the questionnaire that will serve the in-depth analysis of the lacks, challenges of industrial policy and the perspectives for growth.

Project Workshop of industriAll Europe / ITC-ILO project

The second project activity that will target the SEE region will take place within the scope of the industriAll Europe / ITC-ILO project on Strengthening Social Dialogue on national and European level in New Member States and Candidate Countries. One regional workshop will take place in Zagreb on 1-2 July 2013. Prior to the SG meeting industriAll and ITC-ILO had a brainstorming on the items to be addressed in the workshop:

1. Discussion of TU structures, presentation by TU leader from CEE on experiences after accessing the EU/ What does it need to build a strong TU?
2. Analysis of TU membership: Number of TU members, companies, how to enlarge membership/cover new companies → expert to develop questionnaire and make quality analysis
3. Presentation of Baltic Organizing Academy (BOA), approach and activities
4. Overview of Social Dialogue in Southeast Europe

The members of the SG agreed that the identified priorities are indeed important subjects for the trade unions in the region and shall be pursued.

Functioning of the Steering Group for SEE

industriAll Europe emphasized the fact that the steering group for SEE shall operate in a self-sufficient way. Therefore it is necessary to find a meeting modus that makes it possible for the members to participate (in logistical and financial terms). The FES will not cover for the costs of industriAll structural meetings.

Use and publicity of the industriAll SEE website

Moreover, the SG discussed that the website of the region www.industrial-see.ro that was realized by PETROM shall be made more prominent and it should be used by the affiliates of industriAll Europe in SEE for the exchange of information and the overview about the developments and trade union activities in SEE. Unions shall be encouraged to send the respective information to PETROM (host of the website).