

Evaluation Conference “Promoting Young Workers Interests through Social Partnership Channels”

Kiev 13-14 May 2008

The Social Development Agency (SDA), in cooperation with the Pan-European Council of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC/PERC), organized a national conference on “Trade union youth policies” on 13-14 of May in Kiev. This conference closed the two-year “Promoting Young Workers Interests through Social Partnership Channels” TACIS IBPP project financed by the European Commission. The partners of the project are the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FPU) and the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU). The overall aim of the project is to promote the interests of the working youth in the Ukrainian society through a mobilisation of young workers participation in the processes of social partnership and dialogue and through enabling trade union organisations to address specific needs and interests of young workers.



Young union activists who took part in the project endorsed the role of experts on the everyday life of young people in Ukraine and developed a set of recommendations to address to the authorities on the main directions of the national youth policy with reference to their acquired knowledge on the European Social Model. More than 200 trainees were involved in education activities in 11 regions of Ukraine – Kiev, Lviv, Zaporozh'e, Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kirovohrad, Nikolaev, Khmelnytskyi, Lugansk and Chernigov, while topical discussions at national level – on decent work, informal economy and role of the unions – together with 6 conferences at regional level involving social partners, on the issues of decent work for young people, brought together several hundred people.



The conference was aimed at assessing trade union and educational potential developed in the framework of the project and at outlining its further use and application by trade union organizations. More than 60 young trade union activists from the regions covered by the project as well as trade union leaders and representatives of the SDA and ITUC/PERC were involved. During plenary sessions and working groups, the unionists have discussed the impact of the project in the regions, the success and lessons to be drawn from the activities, the challenges that Ukrainian society and trade unions are facing and the strategic role of trade union education in enabling workers'

organizations to meet them. The conference has discussed a document to be addressed to the government of Ukraine. Among the topics discussed during the conference there were, in particular, the issues of the Ukrainian educational system, the reform of the health system, the employment and labour market policies, wages, family and household issues, including housing programmes, as well as the urgency for the young workers to voice their concerns with the decision making authorities, through and with assistance of their unions.

The participants of the conference have also developed recommendations for their unions to ensure follow-up, multiplier effect and sustainability of the project action. These recommendations included:

- the development of a trade union strategy in the field of education, that would address all the level of trade union movement;
- the design and the implementation of cooperation projects, with unions of the European Union;
- the planning of specific targeted trade union actions together with trade union public relations campaigns.

