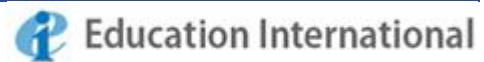




# ETUCE Newsletter

March 2014 Issue 2



## El mission to Ukraine

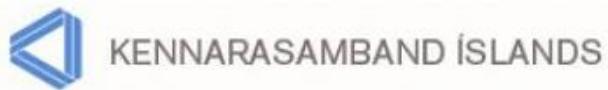
On 4-5 March during a visit of EI/ETUCE representative Kounka Damianova to Kiev, the Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine (STESU) made an urgent request that Education International send an international delegation to Kiev. The union is of the view that the democratic change in their country, which it fully supports, can only be achieved with the assistance of the international community. In the weeks prior to the ousting of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, protesters occupied the STESU offices (part of the offices of the labour confederation (FPU), located at Maidan Square in Kiev. The building was gutted by fire after becoming a target of Mr. Yanukovych's police forces. The STESU, representing some 2,000,000 members in all parts of the country, is no longer able to function. Immediately following Kounka Damianova's visit EI established a solidarity fund to help the Ukrainian education unions. On 11 March an urgent appeal was sent to all member organisations to help assist STESU re-locate its offices and re-establish communication with its regional and local branches (Annex 2). The purpose of the assistance requested is not only to demonstrate international solidarity, but also to enable the organisation to forge unity among its members, which include half a million ethnic Russians, and help prevent the Eastern part of Ukraine from being annexed by Russia. Such a scenario would further destabilize the political situation in Eastern Europe and be a direct threat to peace in the region and, perhaps, globally.



Read the full mission report[>>>](#)

## Iceland: Strike over better conditions for teachers

Following on the failure of negotiations on a new collective agreement for secondary school teachers, EI's national affiliate, the Kennarasamband Íslands (KI), called on its members, upper secondary teachers employed by the state, to go on strike on 17 March.



KI organises upper secondary schools, including vocational education teachers, employed by the state at the national level, as well as early childhood and primary school teachers covered by separate collective agreements and employed at a different level.

The previous agreement for secondary school teachers expired on 31 January 2014 and, after 30 bargaining meetings which started on 22 November 2013 without reaching an agreement, the strike was called for and started on the morning of 17 March.

This strike aims to improve secondary teachers' salaries. According to KI, teachers now earn an average of 17 per cent less than other groups of university educated workers in the state public sector.

KI underlined that the collective agreement is not only about improving teachers' wages, but also enhancing education and school environments for the good of society. In order for generations who will inherit the country to receive the education they are entitled to, teachers must have fair and just wages and safe working environments, the unions added.

Read more on EI's website[>>](#)

## Advisory Panel meeting: It is necessary to support the Ukrainian teachers in needs

On 17 March 2014, the Advisory Panel members met in Brussels, representing education experts of teacher's trade unions from 9 countries. The current situation in Ukraine was discussed. Martin Rømer, European director reported about the special EI/ETUCE delegation in Ukraine of 12-13 March, which discussed with the political and education authorities in the country about the situation of the teachers in general and about the teacher's trade unions in Ukraine in the light if the conflict in Crimea.



The Advisory Panel also discussed about the High-level proposal of Social Partners to the European Commission on strengthening the role of social partners in education and training policy. The OECD PIAAC results and the activities of the new European Commission's Thematic Working Groups were presented.

The Public consultation on the investment provisions of a future EU-US trade deal, known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) was reported to the members. The Advisory Panel approved the joint ETUC-ETUCE position on the public consultation on European Area of Skills and Qualifications.

Concerning the ongoing United for Quality Education campaign, the members agreed that it is necessary to improve quality teaching by national actions. Social dialogue should be ensured in the process.

The next Advisory Panel meeting will take place in Brussels in October 2014.

### **European teachers and students raise concerns with US-EU trade partnership**

Negotiators from the European Union and the United States met in Brussels on 10-14 March to continue the controversial talks on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). At the TTIP chief negotiators' briefing on 12 March, the US chief negotiator stated that the US aims to include education into the scope of the agreement. ETUCE together with the European Students' Union sent out a press release expressing concerns about the potential impact of a proposed EU-US free trade deal. The press release is available [here](#).



ETUCE will continue to monitor talks and lobby the European Commission, the European Parliament and member states of the EU to formally exclude both private and public education services from the scope of TTIP.

### **Campaign on managing stress and psychosocial risks at work**

An EU-wide campaign on 'Managing stress and psychosocial risks at work' is going to be launched on 7 April 2014 by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA). The campaign focuses on stress and psychosocial risks at the workplace and seeks to provide support and guidance for workers and employers to recognise and tackle effectively work-related stress. ETUCE will engage in the campaign as a campaign partner.



This 2014-2015 campaign is part of EU OSHA's campaign series *Healthy Workplaces*. It takes up the issue of stress as the second most frequently reported work-related health problem in Europe which is believed to be the cause of more than half of all lost working days.

The campaign's key aim is to help employers' and workers' representatives, managers and workers to identify and manage stress and psychosocial risks in the workplace. It further seeks to send out the signal that effective management of stress and psychosocial risks is possible.

ETUCE will engage in the campaign as a partner building on the knowledge gathered in a number of projects on work-related stress in the education sector. ETUCE's engagement with the issue of stress and psychosocial risks at work has led to a number of publications including a policy paper on work-related stress, an Action Plan, and an Implementation Guide for the European Framework Agreement on work-related stress. All publications can be found on the [ETUCE teachers' health and safety website](#). All materials concerning the on-going EU OSHA campaign, among those the campaign guide and leaflet, can be downloaded from the campaign website: <http://www.healthy-workplaces.eu/>.

## ICT Project Results Published



The results of the ETUCE project Teacher Unions Preventing Early School Leaving through the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Education were disseminated last week. ETUCE member organisations will receive brochures and CD-ROMs to disseminate the project results among their members and affiliates.

The CD-ROMs include the case study reports in five languages, the project dissemination postcards in 26

languages, the workshop and closing conference reports in English and French as well as the speakers' presentations from these events and the final project brochure (including a poster). Most important, the brochure contains the Draft Practical Guidelines on How to Prevent ESL through ICT in Education. The brochure and poster are available in 10 languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Danish, Greek, Slovak, Portuguese and Russian. Member organisations and stakeholders in education are invited to use these materials and disseminate them amongst their affiliates.

In the ICT&ESL project, four countries were visited by an ETUCE advisory group for case studies. The aim was to gather experiences on how to use ICT in education to prevent early school leaving. Teachers, students, school management and educational staff were interviewed in schools and teacher training institutions in Denmark, The Netherlands, Portugal, and Azerbaijan. The results were gathered and analysed in a research report. During a workshop and a final conference, practical guidelines on how to prevent ESL through ICT in education were developed and discussed. The guidelines will be presented to the ETUCE committee on 14 -15 April for approval.

To find out more about the project and its results, please visit: <http://www.elfe-eu.net/>

## New film from the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe has just made a new film explaining its work, promoting and defending human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The film is available in the following six languages:

English <http://bit.ly/1mj7UkH>

French <http://bit.ly/1mj83Vn>

German <http://bit.ly/1ITetHA>

Russian <http://bit.ly/1mj8dMI>

Italian <http://bit.ly/1nDxnXE>

Spanish <http://bit.ly/1mj8y1H>

