

## **PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

The "UNC-STRENGTHENING UNION NEGOTIATION CULTURE IN EDUCATION" is a project authorized and financed by the European Commission and aims to increase skills and effectiveness in industrial relations and encourage the development of social dialogue in EC countries. The project had the formal launch on 8 December, with the first meeting of the steering committee, and will end in November 2010.

Participate in the following Education and Training Trade Union:

**FLC** (FEDERATION OF KNOWLEDGE WORKERS OF ITALY) which is the organization leading the project, and the following partners:

**PDSZ** (PEDAGOGUSOK DEMOCRATIKUS SZAKSZERZEVETE, HUNGARY)

**FETE UGT** (Federación de Trabajadores de la Enseñanza, Spain)

**ZNP** (Związek Polskiego NAUCZYCIELSTWA, Poland)

**DLF** (Danmarks LAERERFORENING, DANMARK)

**UNSA** Education (France)

**VIZ** (SLOVENIA)

Furthermore, the **ETUCE** (European Trade Union commits FOR EDUCATION) which brings together 110 organizations of education in all countries of the EU / EFTA and EU candidate, participates as a subject expert and guarantor of dissemination of results among all EU trade unions.

The participating countries, represented by a national union, have been identified as representing different national contexts and experiences in relation to issues addressed by the project. Then the differences as a resource to facilitate comparison, mutual understanding and the development of cooperation.

The project aims to strengthen education and training trade unions in participating European culture and practice of social dialogue. Consequently, the unions will not only take action on issues traditionally union competence but also on more general issues such as scheduling and planning of training at regional / territorial, or how the tools necessary to ensure the right to education of our citizens.

This aim will be pursued through collecting data, exchanging information, conducting surveys and joint research, conducting seminars and study visits having as centers of interest governance in educational systems and levels of representation and bargaining of trade unions.

There is also a more general aim: it is to contribute through the project to strengthen the process of collaboration and integration among European countries.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are therefore the trade unions of education and training of European countries indicated that would take over their countries to strengthen the culture and practice of social dialogue. Indirectly, through the activities and work coordination and dissemination of results by the ETUCE, the trade unions of other countries may be interested in the impact of this project.

The historical context of reference, common to all countries participating in the project have been identified in the process of devolution and decentralization, which since the 90s, involving all systems of education and training in Europe.

In Italy this process is achieved through the recognition of powers to the regions the right to study, planning the school network and addresses of colleges. At the same time the school was given the autonomy; leaders acquire the status of school leaders and schools take the start of the bargaining institution, whose shares are between the unit managers and union representatives.

At the same time, as this transformation took place in Italy, in the other European countries the phenomenon of decentralization took the field in the form of allocation of real power to the peripheral institutions in both the delegation of tasks and assignments from the central power to the periphery.

Already the Delors White Paper of 1993 called on European states to "introduce appropriate measures to increase the flexibility of the various segments of teaching and management decentralization of education systems"

In '97 a resolution of the Council of Europe invited to consider in future educational reforms "the role of the state and local and regional authorities responsible for education and sharing of responsibilities and competences between different levels of government and other partners concerned. "

Within this framework we wanted to place the project.

We wanted to see how the phenomenon of decentralization had covered the countries of the European community.

And in particular how this situation had an impact on organizational structures and levels of representation of trade unions.

'Our goal is to collect at the end information and shared and workable proposals for the development of social dialogue in which unions and education and training are protagonists and promoters.

On the organizational level the Steering Committee, composed of representatives of trade unions participating with, has the task of ensuring the timely conduct of the project: preparatory work, define objectives and methods used for each step, prepare documents, reports on activities carried out and coordinate all phases of the project.

The work of the committee will serve Steering meetings and deadlines for further study, discussion, synthesis and proposed that the course will present policy makers and organization of trade unions participating in the project.

## **The project has three phases.**

The first phase of preparation sees the preparation and compilation of a questionnaire on governance models in education systems and patterns of organizational and contractual unions. The questionnaire responses will be processed and arranged.

The next phase of implementation will cover three study visits to Madrid, Copenhagen and Warsaw, where they will be analyzed in-depth and significant aspects and experiences worthy of special attention and stimulating information and suggestions. These visits will include meetings with trade unions and representatives of 'administration at different levels of the host country.

Still in implementation phase there will be a meeting in Rome in October of 2010, which will be attended by approximately 50 representatives of European trade unions participating in the project, representatives of the European Commissions and Institutions.

This will be a presentation on experience turning materials will be organized work groups and in-depth discussions and proposals will be identified to maintain and strengthen cooperation between unions in the post project completion.

There will finally be the final evaluation phase, which will be activated and exchange comments among all partners identified in order to gather useful information to evaluate the results. The material collected will be used to prepare a final document is reporting the experience but also perspective. This document contains information and proposals in fact used by unions in their countries to strengthen the role and capacity for action in relations with all others who have responsibilities in education and training systems

In this context, will be finally decided the way for the publication and dissemination of acts of the most significant experiences of the project and will be called the mode of cooperation between trade unions to promote and verify the actual impacts of the project.