

European Federation of Public Service Unions



Euromed conference *Public services
meeting migrants*, 16,03.2010, Bari, Italy
European perspective on migration

Migration in EU

- ✓ EU shared competence (unanimity in Council);
- ✓ free movement (QMV)- changes with Lisbon treaty
- ✓ Mid-90s, call for legal migration, end 0-migration policy
- ✓ Raft of proposals/ contradictions national, EU, fundamental human rights/anti-discrimination, & research evidence (incl. funded by the EU)
- ✓ Council: law and order, security/control, criminalisation of undocumented migrants = deaths, exploitation
- ✓ Utilitarian approach: by 2050 “need” for 60 Million migrant workers, competition for skilled workers (blue card permit)

Migration in the EU

- ✓ About 18.5 Million non-EU nationals registered or 3.6% of total population
- ✓ Net migration in the EU : 1.5 or 2 Million (Eurostat)
- ✓ Half are < 29, more men than women except South, Fr and Be
- ✓ Increased labour migration, esp Spain, UK and Ireland
- ✓ But bulk of permanent migration remains family reunion
- ✓ Effects of the crisis
- ✓ underrepresentation of migrants in the public sector and of native born children of immigrants = redress the situation should be a priority (monitoring; targets, specific training) www.epsu.org

- Congress resolution on migration, June 2009 (moved by Meds)
- ✓ Rights-based approach (ETUC policy early 2000/PSI);
- ✓ Critical of EU migration and refugee policy, immigration pact, returns/detention directive,
- ✓ trade unions' duty to defend and organise migrants
- ✓ public services, administrations as employer and service provider
- ✓ capacity building of frontline service workers in contact with migrants; code of conduct
- ✓ No detention of undocumented migrants
- ✓ Cooperation with ETUC, PSI and NGOs
- Athens workshop, nov. 2009, focus on local, regional and national government administrations
- LRD research on trade union actions for migrant workers and staff dealing directly with migrants

- 38 responses from 22 countries all in EEA
- Almost half take specific action to recruit migrant workers such as Cyprus, Italy, Spain
- Recruitment, advice services, specific training, publication, campaign on migration/ anti-discrimination, some examples on fairer migration policy, material in other languages e.g. FP-CGIL
- 14 unions have anti-racist policy in their statutes e.g. ban for discriminatory ideas of far-right membership
- Collective bargaining: mainly on equality /anti discrimination, little on quality of public services for migrants
- 10 unions have specific staff for migrant rights; important role of the national centres

Members dealing with migrants as part of their work

- 24 unions have members dealing with migrants
 - migration sces, detention centres, reception centres...
 - Others providing social services used by migrants
- 21 unions say there are problems
 - Lack of language support (including lack of interpreters)
 - Complexity and constantly changing regulations
 - Political imperatives and media pressure
 - Heavy workload – too much overtime & unsocial hours
 - Stress, risks of infection (TB)
 - Posts undergraded
 - Facing aggression and threats

Union response

- Union demands
 - more staff and to take control of workload
 - Improved training for staff (including courses on regulations)
 - improved working conditions including Better pay
- 7 unions reported that members faced ethical dilemmas
 - Refusal to aid expulsions or put children in centres
 - Law seems to be unfair
 - Some migrants excluded from the provision of services
 - Migration legislation enforced by union members used to break up union organisation among migrant workers (“dawn raids”)
- Union responses
 - Ad hoc support; Supporting individual migrants;
 - links with NGOs and churches
 - More general political campaigns (opposition to “dawn raids”)
 - An ethical policy document for members
 - Support for strike undocumented migrants

The logo for the European Public Service Union (EPSU) is located in the top left corner. It features a stylized red and white graphic of a hand or a flame-like shape. To the right of this graphic, the acronym 'EPSU' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below 'EPSU', the full name 'EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE UNION' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, with 'EUROPEAN' on the first line, 'PUBLIC SERVICE' on the second, and 'UNION' on the third.

Recommendations to EPSU

- Move from EU hierarchy of workers' rights to one based on human rights, equal treatment
- Make sure ETUC policy takes account of experiences of those dealing with migrants
- Encourage cross-border activities; Collect union good practice
- Highlight gender dimension
- Emphasise impact of the economic crisis on migrant workers
- Combat restriction on access to public services based on identification
- migrant rights and employment on the social dialogue agenda: public sector as role model
- Develop a code of practice on migration issues for all EPSU affiliates
- Exchange information on the experiences of migrant workers

- Move debate from law and order to fundamental rights, social and employment policy: EU charter of fundamental rights, equal treatment principle at work; access to public services; ratification of UN convention on migrants and their families; new Directive migrants' rights
- European /International trade union membership card/representation of migrants in trade unions
- social dialogue, e.g hospitals code of conduct on ethical recruitment and retention/public sector as role model , employment and social integration
- Ease migration, invest in public services
- regularisation: CoE legal status 30 days after entry