



EPSU General Circular N°1(2013)

- To members of the of the Standing Committee Health and social Services (**HSS**)
- To members of the Standing Committee Local and Regional Government (**LRG**)
- For information to all trade unions organising in the Health and Social Services Sector (**UNIONS HSS + OTHER UNIONS HSS**) and in the Local and Regional Government Sector (**UNIONS LRG**)

REF: CFP/CJ/MM/It

Contact person: Mathias Maucher and Christine Jakob
Brussels, 11 January 2013

Social Dialogue in the field of Social Services Setting out the way forward – Towards defining an EPSU position?

Joint HSS/LRG Working Group

Brussels, 13 March 2013

Venue: ETF, Galerie AGORA, Rue du Marché aux Herbes 105 – 1000 Brussels

Dear Colleagues

We would like to invite you to participate in the Joint HSS/LRG Social Services Working Group meeting, which will bring together EPSU affiliates from the health and social services and local and regional government sector to exchange experience on **social dialogue in the field of social services**, in order to setting out the way forward towards defining an EPSU position.

INFORMATION ON BACKGROUND INFO, CONCEPT AND OBJECTIVES

*The meeting is a **follow-up activity** to the Working Group on Social Services on 24 October 2012 and to a meeting of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Local and Regional Government on 12 September 2012 where the results of the PESSIS project were presented and discussed. **You'll find further information on this project @ <http://www.epsu.org/a/9070>.***

*We will look into **structures, practices, and experiences, including good and bad examples**, of EPSU affiliates from both the local and regional government sector and the health and social services sector **with collective bargaining and collective agreements in the field of social services** (in particular: elderly care, child care, services for persons with disability, sheltered workshops)*

in different Member States of the EU. Participants will also revisit selected country reports elaborated under the PESSIS project.

We will assess your experiences and the project outcomes in view of possible steps to cover (in a mid-term perspective) the sector of social services by structures of EU-level sectoral social dialogue, at least those services provided by either local and regional authorities or by organizations of the social economy/not-for profit organizations. We will aim at identifying issues that could be addressed at an EU-level social dialogue provided appropriate structures are in place and this will be supported by EPSU affiliates. We will also discuss the possibility of elaborating an EPSU position on this issue, to be further discussed in the Standing Committees HSS and LRG and to be presented to the Executive Committee of 16 and 17 April 2013.

*Please find below a **draft programme** that can still be adapted. Speakers are currently being approached by the EPSU Secretariat and all need to be confirmed. In addition to the documents related to the PESSIS project uploaded to page <http://www.epsu.org/a/9070>, the minutes of the Working Group on Social Services of 24 October 2012 and other **relevant documents will be uploaded to page <http://www.epsu.org/a/9089> during January and February 2013.***

PRACTICAL DETAILS AND REIMBURSEMENT MODALITIES

*Colleagues representing EPSU affiliates in the sectors HSS and LRG are invited to participate in the meeting. **We expect participating unions to cover all travel and subsistence costs of their representatives.** Committee members from countries under 100% on the '5 band' index are referred to the 'rules governing financial assistance for travel and accommodation costs'.*

Please read **carefully** the documents enclosed for modalities of reimbursement for the Working Group and the EPSU Standing Committees, where different financial rules apply.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation has been requested for English, French, German (active) and Spanish or Italian (passive).

OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS –

13/3 – Social Services (joint HSS / LRG event) to be held at ETF

14/3 – HSS to be held at ETF

14/3 – LRG to be held at ITUH

The draft agenda for those two meetings will be sent out as soon as possible.

So please organise your travel arrangements accordingly.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION

Please complete the participation form and return it by **Monday 4 March 2013** at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

Carola Fischbach-Pyttel
EPSU General Secretary

List of Enclosures to be found at: <http://www.epsu.org/a/9089>

- Draft Agenda
- Practical Details and Reimbursement Modalities
- Participation Form
- List of Hotels in Brussels