Strengthening links between European and national social dialogue

Presentation by ICF International

Porto Roundtable meeting

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Strengthening links between national and European Social Dialogue

- Information flow and priority setting should be bottom up, as well as top down

- New start for social dialogue statement of 27 June 2016 emphasises importance of capacity building at national level

  ‘There is a direct correlation between the effectiveness of national social dialogue and effectiveness at European level’ (European Commission, 2010)

- Certain key European social dialogue instruments can only be implemented with strong national social partner action

- Must take account of diversity of IR structures
Ensuring a good communication within the ESSDE taking account the complexity and specificity of the sector

- **Dealing with the diversity of the education sector**
  - Education levels: Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary, Vocational Education and Training, Higher Education and Research
  - Different professions
  - Specificity and multiplicity of education employers

- **Variety of industrial relations structures at national level**

- **Factors influencing the effectiveness of links between the national and European level:**
  - Awareness of ESSDE work topics
  - Buy-in and commitment
  - Capacity
Awareness of ESSDE

- Awareness appears to be relatively high among ETUCE affiliates and is considered to be stable or improving.

Source: ETUCE report: Promoting the potentials of the ESSDE by addressing new challenges and exploring experience and knowledge.
ETUCE survey shows that affiliates consider dialogue to be very useful or useful; with usefulness increasing or stable in last 2 years.
ETUCE report shows that 75% of ETUCE affiliates have a person in charge of following European affairs (often this is shared with other tasks, e.g. international)

No information about employers’ organisations

General experience is that capacity tends to be limited in many countries, further affected by the economic crisis

Those with capacity influence dialogue most significantly

Depends on buy-in and importance attached to the dialogue (reasons for memberships/supporting ESSDE), as well as organisational structures
FURTHER RESOURCES

Links to further resources

- Resources for capacity building

  http://resourcecentre.etuc.org/ESF-for-Capacity-Building-of-Social-Partners-126.html
  
DISCUSSION FOR THE ROUNDTABLE

Improving links between the European and national level

- How high is level of awareness of ESSDE in Portugal?
  - How are outcomes communicated?
  - How regular is this communication?
  - How well is it received?

- Level of participation
  - Do all relevant organisations regularly participate in ESSDE meetings/working groups/other European events?
  - If not all/or always participating, why is this the case?

- Organisation/capacity
  - Are there dedicated officers dealing with EU issues?
  - Is knowledge centralised (easily lost is one individuals leaves)?
  - Are there regular meetings at national level to communicate information?
  - Are there strategies for feeding national concerns to the EU level?
Thank you!

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