



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

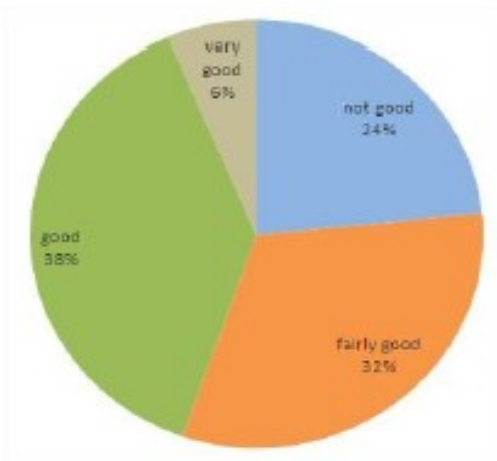
- **Dealing with the diversity of the education sector**
 - Education levels: Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary, Vocational Education and Training, Higher Education and Research
 - Different professions
 - Specificity and multiplicity of education employers

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

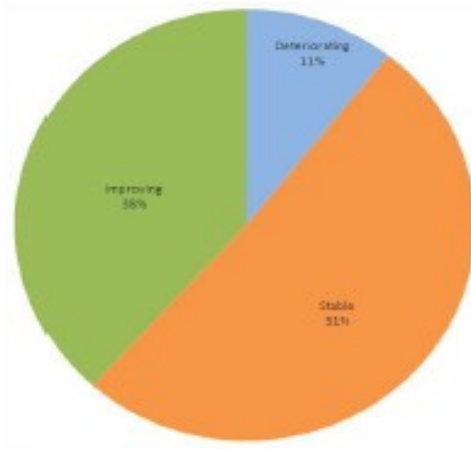
- **Factors influencing the effectiveness of links between the national and European level:**
 - Awareness of ESSDE work topics
 - Buy-in and commitment
 - Capacity

Awareness of ESSDE

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



Graph 19 - How would you assess the knowledge of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue within your trade union? (affiliates' survey)

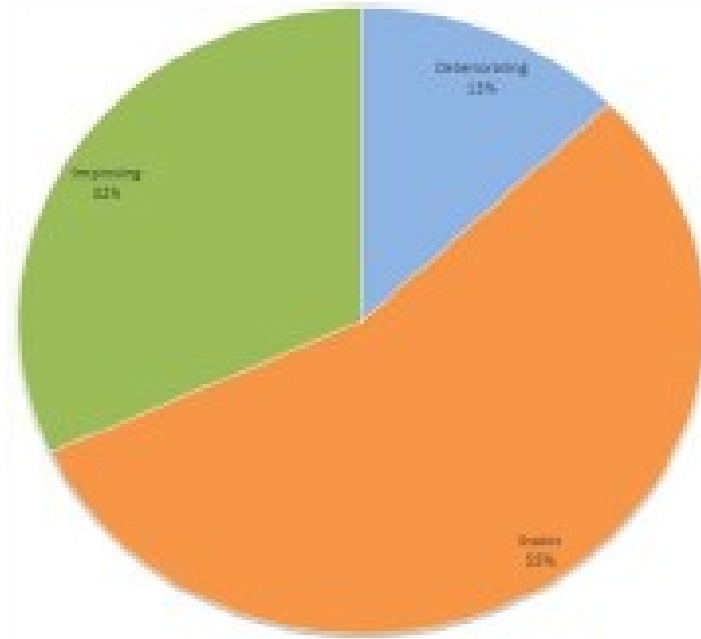
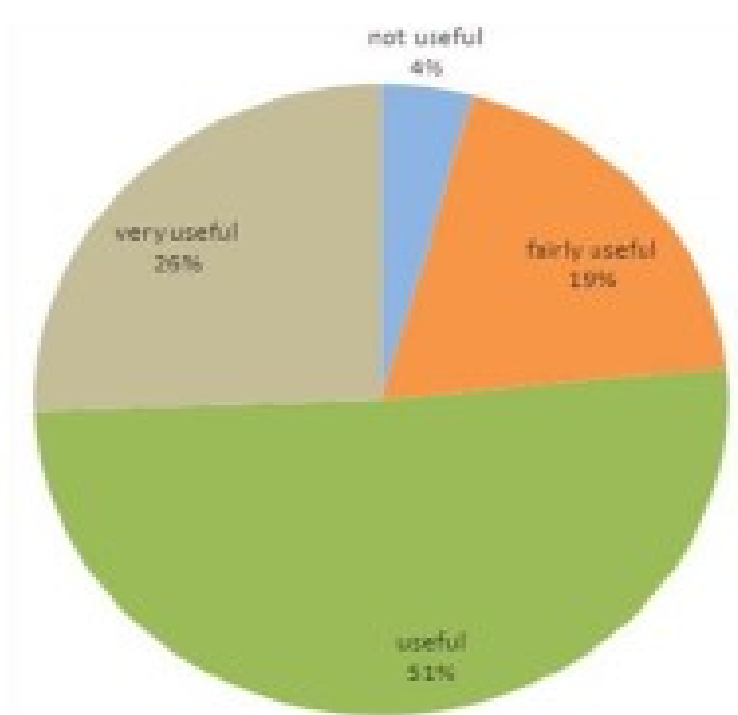


Graph 20 - In the last 2 years, this level of knowledge of the European social dialogue can be considered as... (affiliates' survey)

Source: ETUCE report: Promoting the potentials of the ESSDE by addressing new challenges and exploring experience and knowledge

Buy in: how useful is ESSDE considered to be?

- ETUCE survey shows that affiliates consider dialogue to be very useful or useful; with usefulness increasing or stable in last 2 years



Capacity in national social partner organisations

- **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**

Links to further resources

- **Resources for capacity building**

<http://resourcecentre.etuc.org/ESF-for-Capacity-Building-of-Social-Partners-126.html>

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=329&langId=en>

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 if one individual 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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