



Trade Union Development Projects (UD)

Purpose of brief:

- To inform EB-148 of activities in PSI trade union development project work during 2015.

Relates to:

- ✓ POA Section on Trade Union Development.

Background: Following the adoption of the policy on union development projects at EB-146 and the consolidation of a dedicated working group in Head Office, PSI has continued to see improvements in general implementation of project work, improved relations with the solidarity support organisations (SSOs) and strong results from project work linked to strategic priorities.

Discussion

With changes in assigned responsibilities at the Head Office, young workers activities are now incorporated into the projects unit. This reflects the fact that much work in PSI on young workers is possible through projects and provides for better coordination between projects and young workers activities. A PSI Young Workers Intervention Strategy is currently under development.

Unfortunately, due to the changes in government policy in Finland, where a right-wing government imposed major cuts to development assistance in the areas of human rights and civil society support, there was a decline in funding and the premature closure of two projects. The overall effect on PSI project budgets is possibly around -10% to -15% of funding. However, KNS (the Nordic Confederation of Municipal Unions) and Finnish affiliates have offered to assist in partially mitigating these cuts – the picture of the overall effect will be clearer by the middle of 2016.

New opportunities for collaboration have become available in Sweden with the changes to the Union To Union partner organisation (formerly LO-TCO Biståndsnämnd), and PSI expects that a pilot project related to climate change in Africa will be launched during 2016.

In 2015 UD implemented a significantly expanded programme of cooperation with FES. This gave crucial support to PSI's work in the areas of tax justice and trade. The programme of support has increased in 2016 and will continue through to the end of 2017.

New cooperation was also agreed with UK affiliate UNISON during 2015. In addition to ongoing support to the PSI Ebola Virus Disease Trade Union Intervention Strategy, which allows PSI to have a full-time coordinator, UNISON began two new projects with PSI: 1) young workers, South Africa, and 2) health and social services sector organising, Interamerica.

UD implemented a second annual review meeting in December 2015 with all project coordinators. A similar meeting is planned for 2016 along with a separate project finance officers training. PSI UD is moving towards a programme of continuous skills development and training for project coordinators.

Budget implications: None

Next steps: Continued implementation of the projects and overall policy.

It is recommended that EB-148:

1. **NOTE this report.**

YES / NO