



**PSI/EPSU-ILO Regional Roundtable on Labour Migration and Trade Union Rights
24-25 November, Yerevan, Armenia**

ANI HOTEL, YEREVAN

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday 23 November, Arrivals

Tuesday 24 November, Day 1

Registration | 09:30 – 10:00

10:00 – 10:30 | Opening session

Rosa Pavanelli, PSI General Secretary

PSI affiliates Armenia

Sergejus Glovackas, ILO Moscow, Senior Workers' Specialist

Introduction by Participants

Thematic Issue 1:

10:30 – 13:00 | Labour migration in Russia/CIS region and Eastern Europe

Migrant workers contribute to growth and development in their countries of destination, while countries of origin greatly benefit from their remittances and the skills acquired during their migration experience. Yet, the migration process implies complex challenges in terms of governance, migrant workers' protection, migration and development linkages, and international cooperation. This session will look at the situation of labour migration in the region, while hearing from existing policies and activities to improve access to decent work and protections for migrant workers in countries of origin and destination.

Moderated by Sandra Vermuyten, PSI Head of Campaigns

Coffee break from 11:30 to 12:00

Labour migration and skills development, Sergejus Glovackas, ILO Moscow, Senior Workers' Specialist

PSI's work on labour migration, Genevieve Gencianos, PSI Migration Officer

Graduate students of medical universities in Russia and some CIS countries: work and life plans,

Tatiana Chetvernina, Director Institute Social Development Studies, Higher School of Economics, Moscow

Contributions by:

Anatoliy Domnikov, Health Workers Union of the Russian Federation

Slavka Rangelova Zlatanova, Federation of Trade Unions of Health Services. Bulgaria

Sergiu Berliba, Health, Pharmaceutical and Social Care Workers' Independent Trade Union, Moldova

Open discussion

- 1. What is the impact of labour migration in your country/region? How does it impact positively? How does it impact negatively?*
- 2. Are national labour migration policies in your country implemented effectively? What are the challenges?*
- 3. Does your union have a policy on migration?*
- 4. Does your union have activities dealing with migrant workers?*

13:00 – 14:30 | Lunch

Public Services International is a global trade union federation representing 20 million working women and men who deliver vital public services in 150 countries. PSI champions human rights, advocates for social justice and promotes universal access to quality public services. PSI works with the United Nations system and in partnership with labour, civil society and other organisations.

Thematic Issue 2:

14:30 – 16:00 | Organizing and trade union rights in the health sector

Addressing the root causes of why workers migrate is as critical as addressing the impact and challenges of labour migration. This session will look at working conditions of health workers and the various “push” factors that drive migration, including access to trade union rights, collective bargaining and organising of migrant workers.

Moderated by Genevieve Gencianos, PSI Migration Officer

Overview of challenges facing health sector workers and TUR violations, Sandra Vermuyten, Head of Campaigns

Collective bargaining challenges in the health sector in Armenia, Gayane Armaghanova, Chair of Branch Republican Trade Union Organizations of health workers of Armenia

Organizing in the health sector in Georgia, Irakli Amiranashvili, Health, Pharmaceutical and Social Care Workers' Independent Trade Union, Georgia

Organizing in the health sector in Russia, Inter-Regional Trade Union of Medical Workers “Action”, Andrey Konoval

Open Discussion

- 1. What are the main push factors that drive health workers to migrate from your country?*
- 2. What are the main challenges to trade union rights, collective bargaining and organising of workers in your country? How do we address these challenges?*
- 3. If we are to develop a campaign to defend the rights of health workers while addressing migration, what do you think are the elements we should put in this campaign?*

16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee break

Thematic Issue 3:

16:30 - 18:00 | Labour migration and the role of trade unions in central, regional and local governments

Central, regional and local governments play an important role in formulating migration policies and providing public services to migrants. Often, regional and local governments are the ones in direct contact with migrants and have the primary responsibility of providing services for migrants, such as administration services, health, social services, access to employment, housing and others. Because of their direct relationship with migrants, workers and their unions in central, regional and local governments are in the best position to advocate for improved delivery of services, decent working conditions and shaping rights-based employment and migration policies.

EPSU work in central, regional and local government, *Nadja Salson, EPSU Policy Officer*

Employment and Labour Migration Centers - Garik Sahakyan, Ministry of Labour Armenia, Head of Migration Department

Kommunal's work in organizing and representing migrant workers, Anna Spånt Enbuske, Swedish Municipal Workers Union

Others TBC

Open Discussion

What are the challenges that your unions face in organising workers in central, regional and local governments?

How can these challenges be overcome?

Are there existing good practices that you know where unions are winning workers' rights while also improving access by migrants to public services?

18:30 – 21:00 | Joint dinner

Wednesday 25 November, Day 2

09:30 – 10:00 | Recap of Day 1 discussion

Thematic Issue 4:

10:00 – 11:30 | Discussion on the Migration and Refugee Crisis in Europe

Public service workers are at the frontline receiving asylum seekers and refugees and providing them with emergency health, shelter and social services. Together with local authorities and civil society, they are often the first contact for many migrants and refugees. The panel will discuss current challenges and strategies for future action.

Moderated by Rosa Pavanelli, PSI General Secretary

Background and overview of EPSU/PSI Actions, Genevieve Gencianos, PSI Migration Officer and Nadja Salson, EPU Policy Officer

Contributions and open discussion

What is the experience in your union in addressing the issue of migrants and refugees in crisis?

What do you think are the challenges and strategies to improve services for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees?

11:30 – 11:45 | Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:15 | The way forward - proposals for future cooperation

13:15 – 13:30 | Closing remarks

13:30 – 15:00 | Lunch
