



International
Labour
Organization

“Public Service Trade Union Action Planning Meeting on Social Protection for Migrant Workers”

A Collaboration between
Public Services International and the ILO-EU Decent Work Across Borders Project
Hotel Sylter Hof, Berlin, Germany
28-30 November 2013

1. Background

Social security systems are invaluable mechanisms to provide income security, reduce poverty and inequality and promote social inclusion and dignity. The territoriality nature of social security systems, designed within national boundaries and the various requirements associated with entitlements, e.g. nationality and minimum qualifying period of contributions, create particular hurdles for migrant workers seeking to avail of their rights. Weak coordination between national systems poses a challenge, as workers move across borders and enter into different national systems. Migrant workers can end up supporting the welfare system for permanent residents and citizens, while experiencing loss of wages and denial of entitled accrued benefits upon returning to their country of origin. Moreover, the increasingly dynamic nature of the global labour markets and the shift toward temporary modes of migration require that national social protection systems take steps to ensure that migrant workers are not stripped of their right to social protection.

Set against this backdrop, Public Services International (PSI), in collaboration with the International Labour Organization Decent Work Across Borders Project (ILO DWAB): *a Pilot Project for Migrant Health Professionals and Skilled Workers*, funded by the European Union, is organising a “**Public Service Trade Union Action Planning Meeting on Social Protection for Migrant Workers,**” **28-30 November 2013, Berlin, Germany.** The meeting will build upon the background study being prepared by PSI, with funding from ILO DWAB, on the “Roles and Responsibilities of Trade Unions in Promoting Access and Portability of Social Protection Entitlements for Migrant Workers.” The findings and draft recommendations of the study will be presented and examined in the meeting. The PSI Consultant leading the background study is Dr. Nicola Piper, based at the University of Sydney, Australia.

2. Objectives of the Meeting

1. Strengthen solidarity between public service trade unions in origin and destination countries in promoting migrant workers’ rights and access to quality public services for all;
2. Build a common understanding among public service trade unions of the existing policy frameworks, realities and challenges in ensuring access to social protection for migrant health and social care workers; and
3. Formulate a three-year action plan to be undertaken by public service trade unions in Asia and Europe to ensure access to social protection for migrant health and social care workers.

3. Agenda and Programme (See below)

Public Service Trade Union Action Planning Meeting on Social Protection for Migrant Workers
Hotel Sylter Hof *Berlin* Superior, Berlin, Germany
28-30 November 2013

AGENDA AND PROGRAMME

Day 1	28 th November, Thursday	
9:00 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 - 10:30	1. Opening Session Welcome and objectives of the meeting	Chair and Welcome: Ms. Annie Geron, PSI Vice-President/PSLINK General Secretary
	Welcome from the ILO Decent Work Across Borders Project (ILO DWAB)	Ms. Catherine Vaillancourt-Laflamme, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO DWAB Project
	Welcome from the host union, Ver.di	Mr. Herbert Beck, Executive Board Member of Ver.di Legislative Council
	Participants Introductions and Expectations Sharing	
10:30 – 11:15	2. Overview presentation: Extending Social Protection to Migrant Workers and the ILO Framework Presentation followed by discussion	Presentation by Mr. Frank Hoffer, Senior Specialist on Social Protection, ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities (ILO ACTRAV) Chair: Ms. Annie Geron
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:30	3. Presentation of the PSI Background Paper: "Roles and Responsibilities of Trade Unions in Promoting Access and Portability of Social Protection Entitlements for Migrant Workers" Presentation followed by discussion	Presentation by Dr. Nicola Piper, PSI Consultant, University of Sydney Chair: Ms. Genevieve Gencianos, PSI Migration Programme Coordinator
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	Workshop Groups Question: What are the challenges in securing access by migrant health and social care workers to social protection?	
15:00 - 15:15	Coffee Break	
15:15 – 16:15	4. Report-backs from Workshop Groups Plenary discussion	Chair: Ms. Catherine Vaillancourt-Laflamme, ILO DWAB Project
16:15 – 17:30	5. Presentation and overview of the ILO Decent Work Across Borders Project Migrant Workers Voice Project Presentation followed by discussion	Presentation by Ms. Catherine Vaillancourt-Laflamme, ILO DWAB Project Chair: Ms. Esperanza Ocampo, PGEA
17:30	End of Day 1	
19:00	Dinner Reception at Restaurant Faustus near the Hotel Sylter Hof, www.faustusrestaurant.de	Restaurant address: Wittenberg Platz 2, 10789 Berlin

Day 2	29th November, Friday	
9:00 – 11:00	6. Panel: “Migrant Workers’ Voices and Trade Union Actions” (Session includes 15-min Coffee Break)	Chair: Ms. Genevieve Gencianos, PSI Migration Programme Coordinator
	Testimonies from Migrant Health and Social Care Workers:	Ver.di, Germany (tbc) Ms. Mera Jean Gocotano, FOA, Denmark
	Trade Union Actions: Case study: International Recruitment of Health Workers from the Philippines to Finland	Presentation by Ms. Sari Koivuniemi, Tehy, Finland
	Case study: International Recruitment of Health Workers from the Philippines to Germany	Presentation by Mr. Herbert Beck, Ver.di
	Trade union engagement from the Philippines as a country of origin of migrant health workers	Presentation by Ms. Annie Geron, PSLINK/PSI
11:00 – 12:30	7. Workshop Groups Question: What strategies and actions can public service trade unions take to secure social protection for migrant workers?	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	8. Report-backs from Workshop Groups Plenary discussion	Chair: Ms. Seeta Sharma, ILO DWAB Project
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee Break	
15:00 – 16:15	9. Presentation of Trade Union Statement and Action Plan	Chair: Ms. Annie Geron, PSI/PSLINK
16:15 – 17:00	10. Closing Session	
	Closing Remarks from ILO DWAB Project	Ms. Catherine Vaillancourt-Laflamme, ILO DWAB Project
	Closing Remarks from PSI and Ver.di	Ms. Isolde Kunkel-Weber, PSI Senior Vice-President/Ver.di Executive Board Member
17:00	Close of Meeting	

Day 3	30th November, Saturday	
9:00 – 12:00	Workshop to pilot and validate the draft Migration Information Kits for migrant workers coming from the Philippines and India to work in Finland, Denmark, Norway and Germany	Facilitator: Jillian Roque, PSLINK (Consultant Writer)