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LDF organises successful international seminar

Vilnius (Lithuania), 9-10 November 2018

Within the options suggested by EZA, the organisers had chosen the angle of “The European pillar of social rights” and asked the question to speakers and participants: will this lead “Towards a more equal and social Europe?”

LDF, member of Eurofedop since a long time, has been witness to the economic growth of the country of Lithuania, but at the same time, noticed that this economic growth is not visible at social level.

Apart from the participating trade unions from Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany, Spain, Bulgaria, Albania, a large delegation from the organising trade union took part in the debates.



As far as the invited speakers were concerned, local experts had been chosen, such as Marius Vaščega, collaborator to the European Commission representation office in Lithuania, Prof. Dr. (HP).Boguslavas Gruževskis, Director of the Labour Market Institute of Lithuania and Tomas Tomilinas, Member of the Lithuanian Parliament.

They gave the international participants the opportunity to gain some insight into the social-economic situation of Lithuania. On the basis of the texts existing with regard to the European

social pillar, they spoke each from their own field of expertise about one or more items of the 20 social principles which had been developed by the European Commission.

As international experts, the floor was given to Dr. Tadas Leončikas, research manager at the Social Policies Unit of Eurofound (Ireland), Daiva Kvederaité, member of the European Economic and Social Committee and Dr. Christina Herrmann, Nell-Breuning-Haus (Germany).



Bert Van Caelenberg had been asked, in follow-up to the seminar organised by Eurofedop on the European Pillar of Social Rights in Ghent, Belgium, in 2017, to give more information on the relation between the Pillar and the European Social Charter. Thanks to the know-how of the staff of Eurofedop, he succeeded in explaining in an understandable language the contents of substantially juridical texts. And concluded with the words of the HIVA professor who was a speaker in Ghent: "The Pillar is not a new initiative. It is built on

what exists already in the social acquis".

According to Katrin Stancheva, EZA project coordinator, PODKREPA, Bulgaria, the relation between the Pillar and the European Social Charter should be included in the project conclusions.

The whole event was skilfully managed by Janina Švedienė, secretary general of LDF, as well as the president, Jelena Soms and the vice-president, Daiva Kvederaitė.

Jozef Mozolewski, KKNSZZ "Solidarnosc" Poland, moreover vice-president of EZA, headed the debate on the seminar conclusions and evaluation, which will be available within a limited period of time on the LDF website.

The speech and slides of Eurofedop at this seminar can be obtained on request by e-mail.