

# CALL

*Church Action on  
Labour and Life*

November 2010

## **Working plan and time table of the CALL working group on 'Precarious Work'**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Dear Colleagues,

In the first assembly of CALL held up in Bruxelles at the end of April this year it was decided to establish a permanent working group on 'Precarious Work'. As the moderator of this working group I would like to invite you to participate in this project.

What is our interest and background? More and more people all over Europe are forced to work under precarious or atypical work conditions. The number of so called working poor is growing. Especially for migrant workers it seems to be normal to work under very bad circumstances. In our discussion at the CALL conference we agreed that this issue is very important, but it also became clear that there is a lack of information and common understanding.

There was a special focus on *new* forms of labour migration in the EU. Cheap labour is hired from Eastern Europe as well from outside Europe and works under poor conditions in Western Europe. Especially in construction enterprises, in farming and domestic work, millions of people are moving from east to west, some only for short time as seasonal workers, some are staying. For the migrants it is a chance to earn the same money in a few months as in one year at home. Seen from a western perspective they are unfair competitors working for dumping wages. The move of skilled workers from east to west (brain drain) is causing problems in the home countries of the new migrants: lack of skilled people, families are split and children grow up without their parents, whole communities lack adequate working age populations.

In an open European labour market, without restriction and regulation, the pressure on labour conditions and the weakening of labour law will have a big impact on all countries. We want to work on this issue from the background of different points of view and interest. The following ideas and questions could be the content of the project:

- Investigation / collect information in national context and share information
- Do we have same definitions of 'decent' or 'good' work, how do we define precarious work? – What are we saying and what do we want to say as Christians?
- We do not want only theoretical discussion but we want to come to action!
- Precarious work is part of a shadow labour market - How it is possible to get in contact with the people (precarious workers)? - How to work practically?
- How to combat criminal work offers? – How to offer legal opportunities (especially for migrant workers and workers without papers)?
- What can the churches do (in cooperation with others)?
- How can we present our ideas and proposals to the European institutions? – Do we have common demands?

In the meeting of the CALL Coordination Team in November 2010 the next steps and the time table of the working group were decided:

#### November 2011

- Identify the members of the permanent working group (letter to those who participated in the CALL conference as well to those who could be interested)

#### December 2010

- Sharing and collecting information about national situations (as a first step, a questionnaire is attached to this letter to get general information and an overview about the situation in some European countries – the answers to the questionnaire should be send back by end of January 2011)

#### February 2011

- Evaluation of the questionnaire
- Preparation of documentation (description and comparison of the situation)

#### March 2011

- Meeting of the permanent working group to share and discuss the collected information (the meeting will take place in Germany from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of march 2011 in the Evangelical Academy, Bad Herrenalb, Germany)
- The aim of the meeting is to come to a common understanding: what is meant by good work – what is precarious work – what could be minimum standards?
- Work out a proposal for a common declaration: church demands for good work

#### April 2011

- finalize the documentation and the proposal for a common declaration

#### May 2010

- CALL assembly in Bucharest 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2011: presentation of the documentation and decision making
- Discussion and planning how to continue

#### Follow up

- In the second year the focus of the working group on precarious work should be more on practical forms of cooperation (how can we support and give legal advice to precarious workers – how can we corporate and build up a network – probably work from a model project funded by European Social Fund)

In the CALL conference 2010 the following representatives of churches and church organisations expressed their interest to become part of the working group:

Zoltan Bóna	(Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary)
Marja Kantanen	(Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland)
Waltraud Kämper	(Kirchlicher Dienst in der Arbeitswelt – Germany)
Agnes Köber	(Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania)
Lenka Novakova	(Czechoslovak Hussite Church)
Davide Rosso	(Commissione Sinodale per la Diaconia)
Klaus-Peter Spohn-Logé	(Kirchlicher Dienst in der Arbeitswelt – Germany)
Jean-Pierre Thevenaz	(Kirche und Arbeitswelt Schweiz – European Contact Group)

Daiva Ziuramskaite

(European Contact Group – Lithuania)

At the ecg Seminar in Vilnius, Lithuania in October 2010 the topic was also discussed and the following organizations / persons want to join the group:

Katholische Betriebsseelsorge Linz, Austria

Taddeusz Sznajderski, Poland

Tony Addy, interdiac, Czech Republic/ecg

Elena Timofticiuc, AIDROM Romania

This letter will be also be sent to the persons who expressed their interest and placed on the CALL website for all other CALL and CEC/CSC members. Those who want to be part of the working group should inform the moderator as soon as possible and confirm their participation. If there are any questions he can be contacted at the following address:

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Mannheim, 24.11.2010

Klaus-Peter Spohn-Logé