EWPC Conference 2015: Variations on a Theme: Understanding information, consultation and negotiation at the workplace across Europe

European Workers’ Participation Competence Centre (EWPC) of the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

26-27 February 2015

Venue: International Trade Union House 5, Boulevard du Roi Albert II / 1210 Brussels / Belgium

As part of the EWPC Conference series aiming to better understand the multi-level dynamics of transnational workers’ participation, the 2015 EWPC Conference will examine the actual practice of information and consultation of employees and their representatives at the local/workplace level across Europe. Since one of the aims of European Works Councils is to serve as a bridge between the activities and roles of local employee representatives across borders, the conference aims to better understand the similarities and differences in the practice and outcomes of information, consultation, and negotiation processes.

DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday, 26 February 2015

12:00  Registration and lunch

13:00  Opening and welcome
  •  Aline Hoffmann, EWPC

13:15  Setting the stage:
  The facts: The spread of information and consultation bodies across Europe
  •  Presentation by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

14:00  Variations on a theme: information and consultation at the workplace
  Panel discussion with input from trade unionists and researchers

15:15  Coffee Break
15:45 Four Parallel Working Groups:
Taking a closer look through the eyes of local employee representatives at the everyday practice of information, consultation and negotiation in different countries.

1) UK, Germany, Ireland, Austria, Italy
2) Sweden, Netherlands, Finland, and Belgium
3) Poland, Italy, Hungary, Denmark, Belgium
4) Czech Republic, Germany, France, and Belgium

17:15 Plenary Session: panel discussion of conclusions of working groups

18:00 End of the first day
19:30 Dinner

Friday, 27 February 2015

09:00 Opening of the second day of the conference
09:05 Aims and impact of the 2002 EU Framework Directive on information and consultation
Mark Hall, University of Warwick
10:00 Coffee Break

10:30 Four Parallel Working Groups

1) Problems of compliance or lack of interest?
2) Deepening the comparison of day-to-day practice
3) Information and consultation in EU legislation: how does it work in real life?
4) Responding to the Social Partner Consultation

12:00 Lunch

13:30 Plenary Session: panel discussion of conclusions of working groups

14:30 Coffee Break

14:45 Panel discussion: The way forward?
Input by trade union representatives, policy experts, employee representatives, Member of European Parliament

16:15 Closing remarks: Aline Hoffmann, EWPCC

16:30 End of the conference

The ETUI is financially supported by the European Union.