International Labour Organization

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Workers' representatives: filling a gap in labour rights protection or trade unions' competition?

Annual Meeting of the Network of Central and Eastern Labour Law Experts CEELex

9 – 10 May 2023, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Summary

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Network of Central and Eastern Labour Law Experts focuses on *the role of* workers' representatives and their effects on the quality of industrial relations.
Members of the CEELex Network will present findings of their research on the following topics:

- Participation of elected workers' representatives in workplace cooperation, including information and consultation, grievance handling, just transition, OSH committees;
- Role of workers' representatives in collective bargaining, including legal conditions, election, mandate, outcomes, right to strike;
- Relationship between workers' representatives and trade union(s) and workers' representatives and works' councils including mandate, coordination, challenges and opportunities;
- Impact of recent changes in law and practice concerning elected workers' representatives on the national industrial relation system; and
- Potential for elected workers' representatives to become a collective voice on digital platforms.

Agenda

9 May 2023 Workers' representatives: filling a gap in labour rights protection or trade unions competition?

Morning Session
9:00 – 12-00

Welcome remarks and introduction to the objectives of the workshop

Ada Huibregtse, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO

Keynote speakers

Cristina Mihes, Unit Head, Labour Law and Reform, ILO

Lejo Sibbel, Senior Specialist of ILS and Labour Law, ILO Budapest

Bernd Waas, Chair of Labour Law and Civil Law, Goethe Universität Frankfurt, Member of ILO CEACR

Workers' representatives: Updates from Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Greece, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Afternoon Session

13:30 – 16:30

Research findings and reflections

North Macedonia

Aleksandar Ristovski, Associate Professor of Labour Law, Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus", Ss. Cyril and Methodius University

Montenegro

Vesna Simović, Associate Professor of Labour Law, University of Montenegro

Lithuania

Dr Daiva Petrylaitė, Professor of Labour Law, Law Faculty, Vilnius University

Moldova

Valeriu Berlinschi, Principal Consultant in the Human Rights and Cooperation, Civil Society Department of the State Chancellery of the Republic of *Moldova*

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mehmed Hadžić, Associate Professor of Labour and Social Security Law, University of Sarajevo

Facilitators: Cristina Mihes and Valerie Van Goethem, ILO

▶ 10 May 2023 Workers' representatives and future research

Morning Session

9:00 – 12:00

Research findings and reflections

Slovenia

Valentina Franca, Associate Professor of Labour and Social Security Law, University of Ljubljana

Romania

Raluca Dimitriu, Professor of Labour Law, Faculty of Law, University of Economic Studies

Bulgaria

Plamenka Markova, Associate Professor of Private International Law, retired, State and Law Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Slovakia

Martin Bulla, Assistant Professor, Trnava university, Faculty of Law *Monika Martišková,* Senior researcher, Central European Labour Studies Institute

Greece

Athina Malagardi, ILO National Project Coordinator

Hungary

Attila Kun, Professor of Labour Law, Hungary, Budapest (KRE ÁJK & NKE ÁNTK)

Facilitators: Cristina Mihes and Valerie Van Goethem, ILO

Afternoon session

13:30 – 16:00

Conclusions, future research and update of the CEELex database

Ada Huibregtse and Cristina Mihes, ILO