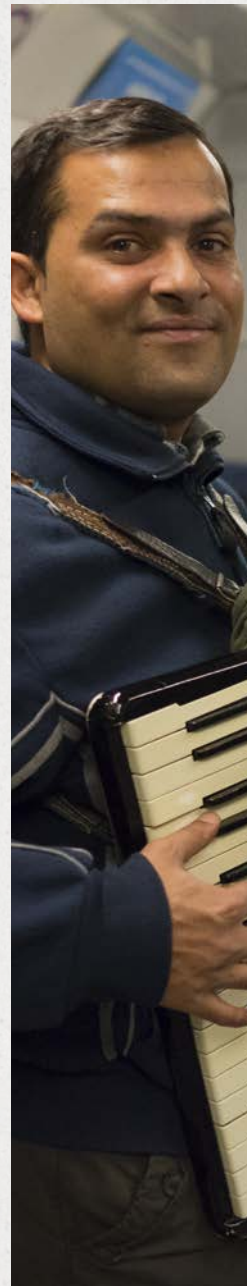




UNION MIGRANTNET

www.unionmigrantnet.eu



FOREWORD

The UnionMigrantNet network is now online. We have travelled a long way to get here, all together, since December 2013.

The Second European Trade Union Conference of Trade Union Contact Points for Migrants is the final act of the project A4I-ETUC Assistance for Integration. I cannot forget the infectious enthusiasm of hundreds of women and men I met during these exciting 18 months. Women and men who pursued their integration paths within the trade union movement and also found in the trade union movement an opportunity to help other migrants to integrate.

While the final curtain falls on the A4I-ETUC project, their enthusiasm spurs us all to set new ambitious goals for ourselves. UnionMigrantNet gives the trade union movement renewed momentum in supporting migrants, advocating their rights and fighting against all forms of discrimination, exploitation and social exclusion. It is no accident that the theme chosen for the closing event is 'Changing the Migration Narrative for a More Inclusive Society'.

Today Europe is at a crossroad of its migration policy and not only. Willy-nilly, European society will be a cradle of different identities. Twenty million migrants live on the EU territory, without counting naturalised migrants and second generations. This makes our society more complex, but we have the means to cope with such complexity. The EU cannot delude itself that it can select flows, secure its borders and return unwanted immigrants. No shortcuts are admissible especially when, throughout Europe, several creeping forms of discrimination and exploitation are affecting our people and in particular those with a migration background.

A genuine migration policy is much more than this. It is made up of clear and accessible rights. It is made up of legal frameworks which encourage lawful residence and equal treatment at work. It is made up of clear paths for integration toward full citizenship. It is made up of dedicated shelters for vulnerable people such as children and women, the latter often affected by lower schooling, less-paid jobs and lower incomes. It is made up of shelters to protect the victims of exploitation and human trafficking. Only by adopting this policy can Europe stay true to its fundamental laws and remain an example for the rest of the world.

Changing the narrative means helping European citizens to become more aware of what migration means for our society and our economy. Today migrants are mitigating the population decline. They make our economy more sustainable through their work and thanks to the taxes that they pay in our countries. Few people know that what migrants pay into our social security systems exceeds what they get back in terms of services and assistance.

Many try to pit workers against one another. Against the mounting intolerance, we must send a clear message that labour mobility is not a threat for anybody as long as all workers are treated on an equal footing. The trade union movement puts equal treatment for all workers at the core of its demands. Without equal treatment, the EU societies cannot cultivate the ambition to build a cohesive and multi-ethnic society.

We cannot condone the disgraceful inaction of the EU and national governments in the face of the humanitarian emergency on the other side of the Mediterranean Sea. As we advocate more generous European international protection schemes, we must feel the responsibility to prepare our communities to welcome soaring numbers of asylum and protection-seekers. Our commitment starts from the lessons we have learned over the past months: an enhanced information system is key to enable migrants to access a larger set of integration measures. This will be a priority for the ETUC in the months to come. This is how we will show concrete solidarity to those who are offered international protection in Europe.

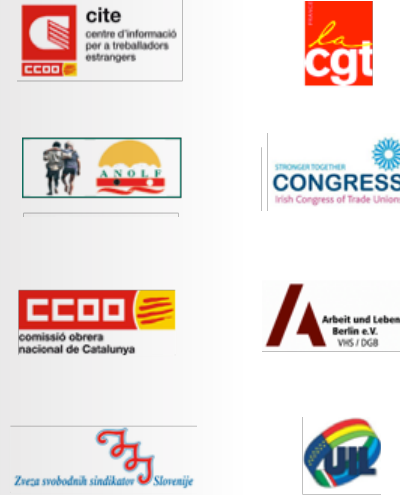
My thanks go to all those who worked hard for the best success of this project. I also wish to thank the European Commission, DG Home Affairs, which made all this possible by providing material and policy support.



With the financial support of the European Commission

Luca Visentini

The **UnionMigrantNet network** is the main output of the project “**ETUC A4I – ETUC Initiative to Implement a European Network of Assistance for Integration of Migrant Workers and their Families**”. The project, co-financed by the European Integration Fund of DG Home Affairs started in December 2013 and will end in July 2015.



A selected group of organisations volunteered to run a pilot action for eight months to define and test the network's operational tools. With the A4I-ETUC bulletin, the ETUC secretariat kept all its members informed of the progress in the network-building process.

First European Conference of trade union contact points for migrants



A4I-ETUC Network-Building Conference

The setting up of UnionMigrantNet has involved all the ETUC affiliates since December 2013. During the First European Conference of Trade Union Services for Migrants, about 150 trade union representatives set the objective to connect trade union services for migrants within a single

European network. The network-building exercise continued in Turin, in April 2014. During a three-day workshop, 70 participants from 16 countries defined the mission of the network, agreed on a Charter of Values of the network, and designed the main features of the web portal.

During the pilot action, staff from the contact points involved in the pilot action attended three training courses.

- 1st Training Session:** 17-19 June at the Communications Workers' Union Conference Centre in Dublin.
- 2nd Training Session:** 17-19 September at the Comisiones Obreras building in Barcelona.
- 3rd Training Session:** 5-7 November at the Centro Studi CISL in Florence.

Fifteen participants received a course attendance certificate issued by the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, attesting to the training received in Network Building, EU Migration Law and Intercultural Communication.



The training package, edited by the ITC-ILO, is now at the disposal of trade union training centres.



Over the following weeks, UnionMigrantNet was chosen as the name of the network through a public poll open to all ETUC members.

Organisations involved in the management and training team



The training and management team was led by Marco Cilento, Evelin Toth, Francesco Lauria and Valerica Dumitrescu.

Since February 2015, the UnionMigrantNet portal has been open to all ETUC members wishing to join the network. The network is now in the start-up phase. It will be officially presented during the Second Conference of Trade Union Services for Migrants which will be held in Brussels on 15 and 16 June 2015.



ABOUT THE UNIONMIGRANTNET NETWORK

UnionMigrantNet is a network of contact points for migrants established, managed and supported by trade unions. The aims of the network are to:

- Strengthen trade union activities aimed at protecting the individual and collective rights of migrants;
- Increase the visibility and accessibility of services and facilities supporting the integration of migrants;
- Encourage trade union membership among the migrant population.

UnionMigrantNet is geared to the integration and inclusion of migrants in their host societies, to be pursued according to the UnionMigrantNet Charter of Values (see box).

The main goal of the network is to support fair labour mobility. The services provided by UnionMigrantNet contact points are aimed at promoting the collective and individual interests and rights of mobile workers. The network's contact points support each other by sharing information in the following areas:

1. Rights and working conditions of migrants in the destination country
2. Access to the labour market and referral to job-matching services
3. Family reunification and rights of migrants' family members
4. Recognition of diplomas and qualifications
5. Return processes, taking into account second/third generation of migrants
6. Pre-departure information
7. Taxation and social security, portability of rights/benefits/permits
8. Social and cultural information about the host country
9. TU rights and membership
10. Facilitating personal contacts and contacts with other communities in the host country
11. Supporting victims of human trafficking and exploitation at work

CHARTER OF VALUES OF THE UNIONMIGRANTNET NETWORK

PREAMBLE

All integration policies must be aimed at ensuring unity and social cohesion and removing the risks, uncertainties or misplaced reactions that all forms of change imply. Integration is a two-way process. It means that migrants should be helped to integrate in the host communities while citizens must be supported in understanding the change they are experiencing. Integration is a relevant component of a migration policy aimed at stabilising the presence of migrants on the territory of a Member State and at avoiding any kind of dumping or discrimination.

It is essential that a rights-based approach be mainstreamed into all dimensions of migration policy. The principle of equal treatment is fundamental in order to pursue paths of non-discrimination and integration, avoid social dumping and support regularisation processes. It must be mainstreamed throughout the EU acquis pertaining to labour migration and it must be fully guaranteed at different levels (European; national; sectoral; company), as well as in all legal frameworks, in any kind of collective bargaining agreement and in the access to public services and social protection benefits.

The Network wants to make a major contribution to taking real steps to improve the capacity of migrants to integrate.

AS TO OPERATIVE ASPECTS, ALL THE CONTACT POINTS BELONGING TO THE A4I - ETUC NETWORK WILL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

A.1. UnionMigrantNet is a Network that provides assistance to migrant workers, other categories of migrants and their families with the aim of encouraging their integration through active participation in representative trade unions.

A.2. UnionMigrantNet guarantees integration assistance in the world of work and in host communities at large.

A.3. All migrants and their families deserve integration assistance irrespective of their legal status.

A.4. UnionMigrantNet supports integration paths at the economic, social and cultural level. Trade union activism, from simple membership to active participation in the life of the organisation, represents a real step towards deeper inclusion of migrants in the host communities.

A.5. UnionMigrantNet supports workers wishing to move within the EU. Its members share their skills and facilities in order to improve their capacity to ensure individual protection for mobile workers.

A.6. UnionMigrantNet is committed to promoting equality, fairness and non-discrimination. The Network also promotes the respect of human rights and dignity.

The following international standards will be a reference for the members of the Network:

- United Nations Convention on the Protection of the rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990)

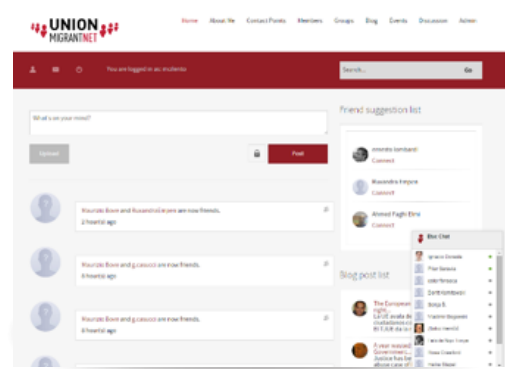
- ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration – non-binding principles and guide lines for a rights-based approach to labour migration.

A.7. UnionMigrantNet will provide access and initial assistance. This will be free and open to all. However, some services may be subject to trade union membership or minimal fees according to the specific rules applicable to all the other customers/users of each contact point.

A.8. UnionMigrantNet will advocate the effective implementation of the Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy in the EU.

WWW.UNIONMIGRANTNET.EU

The UnionMigrantNet Operator Area, with restricted access, facilitates information sharing and gathering. While people-to-people services are and remain the core activity of the UnionMigrantNet contact points, new technologies can be used to strengthen cooperation among contact points and to increase the visibility and accessibility of the contact points for the migrant population.

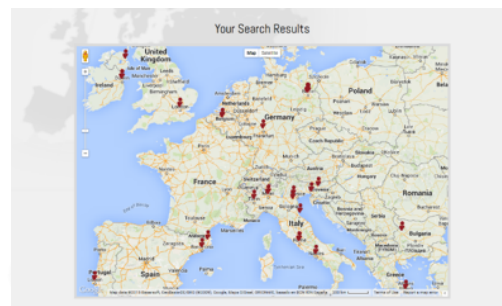


The web portal, based on Web 2.0 technologies, offers a set of instruments that contact points can activate, according to their needs, in order to improve their capacity to connect to other contact points, share and collect information and get in touch with the migrant population.

◀ Home page of the operators' area of the UnionMigrantNet contact points

The portal was opened for registration on March 2015. At the end of May, UnionMigrantNet had 33 contact points open to all migrants in 12 Countries. There are also 65 trade union-to-trade union contact points.

localisation on small scale of trade union contact points ▶



A search wizard in 7 languages helps migrants to get in touch with a contact point according to predefined search criteria.



WHY JOIN THE NETWORK?

Networking is always a challenge for contact points whose field of action is invariably in their specific territory, and whose operational standards lie in people-to-people contact.

By joining the network, members will immediately benefit from:

- Easier and more structured cooperation with contact points in other countries;
- Increased visibility through a web-based communication platform;
- Use of innovative and personalised instruments within the web portal of the network;
- Access to training for staff members with courses tailored to their needs;
- New opportunities for funding at EU level.

By joining the network, members can also promote trade union positions directly at EU level. The network can make the trade union movement stronger. It may be consulted on the most important political and legislative initiatives at EU level. It will help the ETUC political and consultative bodies to rely on supplementary sources of information on the actual problems that both trade unions and migrants face in their daily life.

UNIONMIGRANTNET RESOURCES

The Network itself operates through the structures and resources made available by its members and ETUC.

The start-up phase has been financed by the partners of the A4I-ETUC project and co-financed by the European Integration Fund of the European Commission's DG for Home Affairs.

In the future, the project will continue to operate using resources made available by the network members and by the ETUC. These resources will be incorporated into other funds made available at European and national level in order to pursue the

following priorities:

- Offer continuous training to the staff of the contact points;
- Improve the operational platform, mainly through the reinforcement of the web portal;
- Build legal support to the contact points on EU legislation.

NEXT STEPS: CONSOLIDATION OF THE NETWORK AND SECOND CONFERENCE OF TRADE UNION SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS

This is the moment to extend and consolidate the network. The start-up stage of the UnionMigrantNet network needs the support of all ETUC affiliates. The ETUC Secretariat therefore invites all ETUC affiliated organisations to:

- Disseminate information concerning the existence of UnionMigrantNet, and
- Encourage their structures offering assistance to migrants to join the network.

In order to prevent abuses, registration in the UnionMigrantNet portal is subject to selection criteria which are monitored and controlled by the ETUC Secretariat. Access to the network is restricted to trade unions directly or indirectly affiliated to ETUC, organisations and associations of migrants promoted by trade unions directly or indirectly affiliated to ETUC and organisations (such as NGOs) sponsored by trade unions directly or indirectly affiliated to ETUC.

The ETUC Secretariat has established a help-desk to assist those wishing to join the network.

Applications must be submitted to mcilento@etuc.org.

For more information, call +3222240521.



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