

Manifesto on European Election 2019

In recent years, the power of EU-sceptic parties has increased and the project of solidarity in Europe is in danger. If we do not act now we might not get another chance. In our region, especially in the Visegrad countries, the voter turnout in European elections is traditionally low. There is a lack of information about the EU and the media do not always draw a positive picture of the EU. People do not know what the EU has brought to its citizens.

During our 11th meeting from 23-25 November 2018 in Bratislava, we, the members of the *central european young trade unionist network (ceytun)* addressed the question: will social Europe be closer or farther away after the European election in 2019?

We focused on how European institutions work and analysed how the European elections can influence the future of social Europe and the daily life of workers. We intensively discussed facts and arguments relevant for trade unions seeking a higher turnout of votes. We could lose:

1. Freedom of movement of people, labour, services and goods
2. Maintaining and promoting human rights, the rights of minorities and peace
3. Support for workers movements
4. The European Pillar of Social Rights
5. An inclusive and fair EU with the aim of gaining upward convergence of social standards and wages in all member states
6. Preserving high standards of customer and consumer protection
7. Access to quality education and exchange programmes for all and everywhere
8. Improving standards of living (infrastructure, social security, youth programmes)
9. Freedom of press and expression and prevention of fake news and disinformation
10. Participation and responsibility of citizens in and for public affairs

From our point of view, these are the most important benefits we have to protect and strengthen. We **ceytun** members, sharing the value of international solidarity, are asking the trade unions in our countries to support and promote the participation of their members and all other people in the European elections.

The upcoming elections are a chance to give Europe a clear social face and bring people closer together. This is the European Union the trade unions want, but it is up to us. Vote because the EU as it is and as we want it to be, is threatened and not self-guaranteed.

ceytun - central european young trade unionist network - is a platform of over fifty young trade unionists. With members from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Austria and Germany, they discuss and act on issues that concern Europe's youth. They want to create long-term relationships in order to advance cooperation among young trade unionists in Europe.