

# Manifesto on social justice



In recent years the distribution of profit and wealth has become increasingly unfair. In many European countries not everyone can live in dignity and social justice is deteriorating. Workers across one of the most developed continents are not satisfied with their working conditions, income and overall life situation. The implementation process of the European Pillar of Social Rights is not going well and the actual situation in member states is not changing much. Other than trade unions, there are not many institutions that really care about social justice. It is time to raise more attention to this issue.

During our 12<sup>th</sup> meeting from 5-7 April 2019 in Prague we focused on what social injustice means in practice while taking into account differences among our countries. We discussed common issues, such as an ineffective redistribution of wealth; huge differences among European countries (and its regions) in social standards, wages and quality of living; and unequal opportunities, mainly considering the gender pay gap. Other issues mainly related to young people are nonstandard jobs and unfair access to education. To get another picture of social problems we took part in a visit to a project where socially-excluded people work. We were reminded about the importance of having a functional social security net.

Social justice is achieved if everyone in society, regardless of their nationality, sexual orientation, gender, religion, economic status, origin, age or ethnicity, has equal opportunities. Our perception of social justice is a situation where no one is left behind. The European Union and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are the relevant institutions to ensure equality among societies, as the promotion of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) has shown. Since the EPSR is not yet legally binding we have to make it real. These are our ideas:

- reducing working time without less pay to give employees more independence,
- fighting tax evasion to redistribute wealth,
- providing affordable housing in Europe.

Trade unions, wherever they act, should be more sensitive and point directly at social injustice. We demand more of the following:

- to educate and inform about trade unions, workers' rights and social rights,
- to fight against all forms of discrimination,
- to engage in collective and coordinated actions on decent wages and social justice issues.

Since we, as young trade unionists, are continuously working on these issues we are encouraging our colleagues to join the action.

*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.*