

TRADE UNIONS' ROLE IN 21st CENTURY'S EUROPEAN SOCIETIES

MANIFESTO OF CEYTUN



At the 6th CEYTUN conference which was held in Budapest 22-24 April 2016, young trade union members discussed “The role of trade unions in society – Traditions vs. trends”. Participants of the conference highlighted the importance of renewing the current view and developed their own vision about this role. They discussed with trade unions leaders and experts in particularly about equality, future of EU, social dialogue and the future of work, and formulated the following demands.

Social dialogue is a core activity of trade unions but now its values are not deeply known among society. Young people have limited knowledge and thus inadequate representation in social dialogue negotiations, so their concerns cannot be addressed efficiently. CEYTUN members suggest that trade unions start an interactive dialogue with young people, involve youth in the trade union movement and give them more possibilities to influence decision making procedures.

Austerity measures have proved to be unsuccessful and damaging all over Europe. In order to save the European Project, young trade unionists call for a common European policy to create more and better jobs and a united approach towards the refugee crises, which mustn't limit EU citizens' right of free movement. It's the EU's humanitarian responsibility to help stopping conflicts which push people to flee.

Digitalization is not only the future of work, it is present. It cannot and shouldn't be stopped, young people warn about the necessity that trade unions should put this issue high on their agendas and take a proactive approach in formulating the process of change. As a huge number of traditional workplaces will disappear, trade unions should engage in debates about just alternatives, redistribution of wealth, raise issues like basic income, minimum wage and accessibility of social rights for their members and non-members alike.

Young people/trade unionists are determined that no discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability and nationality is acceptable. Trade unions have to go beyond the idea of representing (only/exclusively) the interests of their members and have to take responsibility for labour and social rights of all these vulnerable groups. Equal opportunities and recognition for all should be a principle that trade unions fight for.

CEYTUN - Central European Youth Trade Union Network - is a platform of over fifty young trade unionist from six Central and Eastern European countries. We want to create long-term relationships in order to advance cooperation of young trade unionists in Europe.

With members from Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria and Germany we act and discuss issues which concern Europe's youth.