



# European Social partners joint work on capacity building

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## “Participation in the European social dialogue ... what are the social partner’s needs?”

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### Integrated Programme 2008-2010: 3 Projects

|     |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                         |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I   | Joint project “participation in the European social dialogue: what are social partners’ needs?”– Phase 2                                         |                                                                                         |
| II  | Joint study on restructuring in EU Member States – final phase                                                                                   |                                                                                         |
| III | <b>Resource Centres</b>                                                                                                                          |                                                                                         |
|     | a) Employers’ Resource Centre <b>Website</b><br><i>Managed by BUSINESSEUROPE on behalf of all employers</i>                                      | a) Trade unions’ Resource Centre <b>Website</b><br><i>Managed by ETUC</i>               |
|     | b) <b>Mentoring Programme</b> for employer representatives<br><i>Managed by BUSINESSEUROPE on behalf of all employers</i>                        | b) <b>Mentoring Programme</b> for trade union representatives<br><i>Managed by ETUC</i> |
|     | c) <b>Seminars</b> on the EU social dialogue for EU12 + 2<br><i>Managed by BUSINESSEUROPE on behalf of all employers</i>                         | c) <b>Activities</b> on the EU social dialogue for EU12<br><i>Managed by ETUC</i>       |
|     | d) <b>Translation Fund</b> – 23 languages<br><i>Managed by BUSINESSEUROPE and ETUC on behalf of all EU Social Partners</i>                       |                                                                                         |
|     | e) <b>European Social Fund</b> capacity building<br><i>Managed by BUSINESSEUROPE and ETUC on behalf of all EU Social Partners</i>                |                                                                                         |
|     | f) <b>Mini study</b> on national social dialogue good practices<br><i>Managed by BUSINESSEUROPE and ETUC on behalf of all EU Social Partners</i> |                                                                                         |

## Integrated Programme 2008-2010

### Background:

- Joint Work Programmes of the EU Social Partners (2003 – 2005/ 2006 – 2008/ 2009 – 2010)
- Follow up phase to previous Integrated Programmes
- Understand key challenges facing Social Partners and improve functioning of EU social dialogue

### Objectives:

- Fostering the development of strong and autonomous Social Partners in new Member States and candidate countries, capable of representing effectively their members' views in the EU social dialogue;
- Better understanding the economic and social challenges faced by Social Partners in Europe;
- Further enhancing the existing resource centres so that they are relevant for the EU27 and candidate countries

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## Joint Project - "Social partners' participation in the European social dialogue: what are social partners' needs?"

### Geographical scope (12 countries)

- Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey

### Target

- National social partners affiliated to the cross-industry EU social partners organisations

### General objective

- To help social partners in these countries to identify what they need to do at national level to strengthen their capacity to better represent the views of their members in the European social dialogue

**Joint Project - “Social partners’ participation in the European social dialogue: what are social partners’ needs?”**

### **Joint national seminars**

#### **Methodology**

- Maximise bipartite discussion, agreement and action planning
- Interactive working groups and plenary sessions
- Input from EU social partners and experts

**Joint Project - “Social partners’ participation in the European social dialogue: what are social partners’ needs?”**

### **Joint national seminars: Two Phases**

#### **Phase one**

- Generation of ideas for improving the influence on the EU social dialogue;
- Identify the constraints (organisational & individual) to effective participation in the EU social dialogue
- Agreement on priorities and areas for action – individually and together.

**1/2 year(s)  
later →**

#### **Phase two**

- A formal review of outcomes against agreed priorities and areas for action;
- Identification of new problems and way to resolve them
- Priorities for action going forward.

**Final EU Conference**

## Other ongoing activities relevant to EU SD capacity building

- **ESF capacity building project**
  - **Objective:** exchange of information and practices on capacity building activities financed through the new ESF programming round (2007-2013)
  - **Target:** national social partners from EU27
  - **Activities:** survey and 1 joint event (c. December 2009)
  - **Output:** joint report
  
- **Mini cases on social dialogue**
  
- **Translation fund for EU social dialogue texts**
  
- **Resource Centres**

## Some concluding remarks

- **The active commitment of national social partners in this project has led to positive results**
  - ✓ Fostering bipartite social dialogue at national level;
  - ✓ Helping to develop stronger synergies between various levels (national vs European and *vice versa*);
  - ✓ Improving knowledge at national level of EU social dialogue results, process and priorities
  - ✓ Enhancing the understanding at EU level of national systems
  
- **...but there is still room for improvement: the process needs to go on!**
  
- **EU SPs will continue to assist members**
  
- **National SPs hold the key for better joint results**