

ACTIVITY REPORT

SOLIDAR TRAINING ACADEMY

06-07 JULY 2015 | TURIN, ITALY

SOLIDAR Training Academy at the International Training Centre of the ILO



On 6 and 7 July, the second SOLIDAR Training Academy took place at the ILO's Training Centre in Turin, Italy. Participants from SOLIDAR member organisations Auser (Italy), Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO, Germany), La Ligue de l'Enseignement (France), Humanitas (Netherlands), Movimiento por la Paz (MPDL, Spain), Työväen Sivistysliitto/Worker's Educational Association (TSL, Finland) and Volunteering Matters (United Kingdom) met to exchange experiences and best practices and to find new solutions for long-term unemployed people and young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

The facilitator for the two-day event was the skilled trainer Inari Juntumaa from our member TSL Finland. After greeting words from SOLIDAR secretary general Conny Reuter, who underlined the importance of international exchange to find solutions to tackle long-term and youth unemployment and a presentation of SOLIDAR's work areas and methods, the event started off with interactive ice-breaking activities. In a playful manner participants did not just get

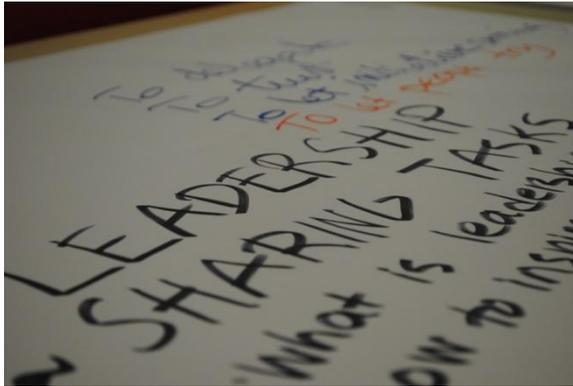
to know each other but also started off by telling about their specific fields of interest and their expertise.

After the interactive introduction, development economist Naima Pages from the Employment and Labour Market department of the ITC ILO presented facts and figures on labour market integration of long-term unemployed and NEETs. This detailed presentation gave participants an insight into current numbers of unemployment in Europe and thereby laid the foundation for the following two days' work in different working groups.

In the afternoon of the first day participants formed working groups to exchange their experience in social work and to present their respective organisations to each another. The groups worked out proposals for new ways to tackle unemployment in Europe and presented their outcome afterwards. The working groups came to the conclusion that social work is not only important for the people in need of social services but also an important pillar of society, as it brings together people from different generations and backgrounds. Young volunteers profit from the experience and get a profound insight into the field of social work as a prospective job perspective for their future. The term 'inclusion' played an important role in the outcome of the working groups as all the services provided by the organisations bring people together and help those in need of social services to be an equal, respected part of society.

The same day, SOLIDAR organised the first [Social Progress Lab Symposium](#) at the ILO Training Centre. Participants of the Training Academy received input from Social Progress Lab participant Dr. Lorenza Antonucci (University of West Scotland) who presented the

latest facts about austerity policies in the EU. Participants engaged in a vivid discussion.



SOLIDAR Secretary General Conny Reuter closed the first day by reminding that austerity measures already had their laboratory in the 1970's in Chile under Pinochet's dictatorship and countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa paid a high price for austerity in 70's and 80's and so it is not new. These punitive actions are very dangerous as we see right now in Greece – institutions (IMF, European Central Bank and the European Commission) punish a whole country for not following their rules. That is the reason why SOLIDAR will show alternatives to punitive austerity measures – in the framework of the Social Progress Lab.

On the second day, participants of the SOLIDAR training academy worked in 5 different working groups to brainstorm on new project management approaches for NGOs, covering the following topics: funding, methods, goals, project partners and leadership. SOLIDAR members Auser and Humanitas presented their image videos to show best practices on how to present an organisation to a broad public. Based on this work participants worked out project plans for possible future projects that could be realised by their own organisations within the scope of a second working group round.

The SOLIDAR Training Academy was concluded by Conny Reuter who underlined the positive energy and the important learning processes during the two days in Turin. The Training Academy showed once more the importance of volunteering work and of solidarity in society.

You can find pictures [here](#).