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ILO European Regional Meeting calls for coordinated response to economic crisis

The ILO European and Central Asian member States meet every four years to forge policies and set priorities for the area.

The 8th European Regional Meeting of the International Labour Organization that took place in Lisbon from February 9 to February 13 concluded with calls for a coordi-



ILO Director-General Juan Somavia

nated effort to maintain employment and restore economic growth amid “the most serious economic crisis to hit Europe for 60 years”.

“We are seeing a dramatic deterioration in output and employment levels across the region”, said ILO Director-General Juan Somavia. “The social and political repercussions of a deep and prolonged recession are daunting. Our priority attention must turn to halting the slide into a full-blown social recession.”

The marks of the financial and economic crisis on working women and men are visible across the 51-state region, according to an updated assessment of the impact of and pol-

icy responses to the crisis prepared on the eve of the meeting.

The new assessment says that the crisis has brought a reversal in the promising declining trend in unemployment observed in South-Eastern European (non-EU) countries and member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) after 2000.

A recent ILO study on Global Employment Trends also shows that if growth slows more rapidly in 2009 and recovery efforts are delayed until 2010 the region of South Eastern (non-EU) Europe and CIS countries could see the unemployment rate rise from 8.8 per cent in 2008 to 9.8 per cent in 2009, while in the European Union and other developed economies the unemployment rate could face an increase of 1.5 percentage points, from 6.4 per cent in 2008 to 7.9 per cent in 2009.

Representatives of governments, workers and employers from European and Central Asian member States of the ILO called for protection for the most vulnerable members of the population so that they do not become separated from the labour market or become working poor and stressed “the urgent need for effective social dialogue and collective bargaining due to the gravity of the crisis”.

ILO Constituents also pledged to “remain extremely vigilant of the risks of a resurgence of political reactions to rising unemployment and social exclusion in the form of race and religious hatred, discrimination against immigrants or ethnic minorities, victimization of union representatives and protectionist economic policies that would aggravate the crisis”.



The conclusions of the meeting also stressed that fundamental principles and rights at work should be safeguarded, international labour standards promoted, skills development and training increased and institutions for social dialogue fully utilized. They also stated that fundamental principles and rights at work are “an important defence against the risk that recession may lead to an increase in worker exploitation”. ■



Prime Minister of Portugal Jose Socrates speaks at the opening



This year the ILO will mark its 90th anniversary. As one of the oldest institutions in the UN system, this anniversary is a milestone of global importance but also deep national significance. The ILO was built from the ashes of World War I and is based

on the method of dialogue to confront crises. We are the “Real Economy Institution” of the UN system representing not only governments, but also workers and employers. ILO Director-General Juan Somavia underlined that at a time of profound global economic

turbulence, the social justice message and mandate of the ILO is as relevant today as it was at its founding.

This year constitutes an important milestone in the countdown to the ILO’s Centenary in 2019. The 90th Anniversary will therefore be marked by a range of coordinated national and regional events. Most of these events will take place during the week of 21-28 April, 28 April being the date of the signing of the original ILO constitution at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919.

The overall theme for the high level national events organized under the 90th Anniversary will be “*Social Dialogue for Decent Work and a Fair Globalization*”.

We will inform you about events that will take place in our region to mark this anniversary. ■



Interviews with ILO European Regional Meeting

Gulnara DILIMBETOVA, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Kazakhstan:

Kazakhstan sets the task of creating a stable labour market. Moreover, we hope to coordinate these efforts with Russia and other countries to help avoid negative impacts on markets of Kazakhstan, Russia and other countries. The current forum repeatedly stressed that in the time of the crisis migration problems become even bigger and these issues will become most pressing within years.

I believe that it is always possible to find mutually acceptable solutions that will help to promote economic development and ensure social stability in neighboring countries.

The measures that we are taking in many respects are similar to approaches proposed by other countries as well as to ILO's recommendations. Kazakhstan adopted an anti-crisis programme aimed at providing employment opportunities, creating new jobs, skills development and training. Only by increasing public sector works we plan to create extra 50,000 new jobs. We also consider an opportunity of increasing the number of social enterprises, where the government partially covers expenditures for employment of disabled persons, low-experienced youth and other vulnerable members of the population.

Vakhab MAMMADOV, head of the employment and demographic policy department, Labour and Social Protection Ministry of Azerbaijan:

Azerbaijan is integrated into the world economy and feels the impact of processes that occur in the world community. But the situation in our country is marked by certain specific features. We've managed to a certain degree ease the impact of the financial crisis, mainly by means of the Reserve Fund created through oil revenues. It is enough to say that over 80 percent of new jobs created over the past four years (around 750,000) are not jobs in the oil sector, but jobs created through oil money. This concerns large-scale infrastructure projects – road network development, urban and rural housing construction. Moreover, we invested much into the development of processing industries, tourism and agriculture.

We observe a serious decline in emigration, including labour one. We take serious efforts to attract labour migrants back home, by creating conditions for starting one's own business. Another specific feature that makes our country different from many others is that the Azerbaijani government has introduced an obligatory monitoring of all investment projects from the point of view

of employment promotion and creation of new jobs. All this, of course, yields results.

Already in October 2008 we launched a regular monitoring of small, medium and large businesses to study possible manifestations of the crisis, before possible negative impacts were felt on the labour market. Our surveys prove that Azerbaijan faces no serious unemployment problems. Of course, we have certain areas of risk. For instance, there are difficulties with youth employment. To this effect, personnel training and placement are important.

Alexander SAFONOV, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development of Russia:



The meeting in Lisbon and discussion of different governments' approaches to protect the labour market in the wake of the crisis became a follow-up of ILO's constant efforts to promote the Decent Work Agenda. Modern economy needs high production volumes, worker's competence and readiness to improve skills. Businesses, in turn, have to ensure decent wages and decent working conditions. Undoubtedly, our country is solidarized with these principles that are reflected in the labour market programme for 2008-2010 adopted by the Russian government last August.

What has the government done and what does it continue to do to protect the labour market? This is a step-by-step increase in the minimum wage that will approach a minimum subsistence level in 2009. These are also amendments to the Labour Code that empower regions to set their own minimum monthly wage exceeding the federal rate. These are extra multi-billion resources injected into raising by 30 percent public sector workers' average wages in 2009.

The crisis will not make us renounce any of the above-mentioned plans. We also have not changed our plans for a pension system reform. We set a serious task of increasing workers' pensions to at least 40 percent of their wages in compliance with the ILO Convention.

As of January 1, 2009 we doubled the maximum unemployment benefit from 2,400 roubles to 4,900 roubles. Most serious measures had been taken to develop internal migration. The government will for the first time provide donations for a three-month flat rent to workers who find jobs in other regions. Thus, many of the ILO's recommendations discussed in Lisbon have already being implemented in Russia.

Fedor PROKOPOV, Executive Vice-President, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs:



When it is necessary to optimize production, employers have always - and not only in the time of the crisis - to solve the dilemma, whether to reduce working hours or to take more radical measures and lay off redundant personnel handing it over to state unemployment services. To tell the truth, this system should help to raise competitiveness of people who involuntarily lost their jobs. However, concrete solutions are always a compromise and the choice between two approaches. As a rule, these solutions are taken in negotiations between employers and trade unions as well as with participation of governmental representatives, for instance labour inspections. This very approach meets ILO's requirements and safeguards decent work principles.

I should say that I do not agree when amid the crisis businesses are accused of attempts to resolve economic problems at the expense of employees. During the growth period companies invested much into the workforce, selection and professional development of personnel. They made sufficient investments. Therefore, to lose experienced personnel today in order to search and train new one after the crisis, when there will be not enough funds, would mean to slow down the pace.

I believe that no employer will deliberately take steps to foment the conflict with trade unions as this can not only worsen the company's image, but also bring about strike-related losses.

At the same time I cannot agree with some trade unions that categorically oppose the lay-offs. The personnel rotation policy, either in the good times or in the wake of the crisis, is absolutely necessary. We have the youth that graduates and enters the labour market. If artificial barriers are imposed to stop the personnel rotation process and to ban the layoffs, this on the one hand would result in the conservation of workplaces, while any opportunities for the entry of new labour force would be practically reduced to zero. On the other hand, employees in this situation have no stimulus to maintain high proficiency, to be competitive, to train and improve their skills. Finally, this will worsen economic rates of the company.

Thus, I will reiterate that concrete solutions should always be a compromise.

participants

Mikhail SHMAKOV, chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FITUR) :



The 8th European Regional Meeting of the ILO is special as it takes place in the wake of the crisis that swept over all countries, including Europe. Undoubtedly, Russia's labour market situation is similar to that in other countries – many people lose jobs, companies close down, businesses experience serious shocks. Therefore the rec-

ommendations that are being drafted at the forum are relevant for Russia. I believe that representatives of the government in our national delegation will find certain recipes and anti-crisis approaches that can be applied in our country.

If to speak about Russia, I can say that at present the government takes serious measures to support the labour market. Moreover, already last autumn FITUR called for toughening the state control over strict implementation of the labour legislation. The relevant agreement with the prosecutor's office was signed.

Businesses believe that under the crisis conditions employers' hands have to be un-

commended, layoff procedures to be simplified and personnel to be transferred to a shorter working day. We are against this. We believe that our national legislation should be fully effective despite the impacts of the crisis. There should not be any relaxation in the law requirements as proposed by employers in Russia.

At the Lisbon meeting I heard my counterparts from Portugal, Poland and France say that businesses in their countries also take such attempts. Workers are unanimous in their opinion: instead of laying all the blame on the crisis, we need to share emerging risks and losses. ■



April 28 - World Day for Safety and Health at Work: *Health and life at work: a fundamental human right*

In 2009, the theme for celebration of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28 is ***Health and life at work: a fundamental human right***.

There is nothing more important than life. There is nothing more evident and compelling for a human being that the right to life. If life at work is threatened, there are no grounds for productive employment and socio-economic development. The right of workers to the protection of their health and life at work are not only labour rights but fundamental human rights. ILO standards' rights apply to all workers, and all workplaces.

The crisis that emerged as the ILO approached its 90th anniversary clearly revealed the validity of the mandate and strategy of the ILO. In its Preamble, the ILO Constitution makes reference to the conviction that universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice.

It also makes particular reference to the protection of the worker against sickness, disease and injury arising out of his employment.

The right to productive work in conditions of human dignity, and the protection of women and men health and safety at work is more compelling in times of crises. ■

(extracts from the OSH Day Report)

OSH initiatives in Armenia



Over the past three years the ILO Subregional Office has been actively supporting the initiatives to promote occupational safety and health projects in Armenia. The ILO combines these efforts with small business development projects such as Women in Self-Employment Project and with programs on HIV/AIDS and the world of work.

Over the past two years the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Armenia hosted several workshops, where ILO experts presented a systematic approach in OSH management at the national level and at enterprises (ILO Convention No 187 on Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention and ILO Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (ILO-OSH 2001).

In early 2008 Armenia prepared a national profile on occupational safety and health as a result of strenuous efforts of the working group comprising government's officials, trade unionists and employers. This work became a first step towards the implementation of a systematic approach to OSH management at the national level. At present,

the Republic's Labour and Social Issues Ministry discusses the development of a national programme for occupational safety and health.

First Deputy Labour and Social Issues Minister Araik Petrosyan attaches great importance to this programme. He noted that the ministry's key tasks in the foreseeable future are to upgrade the national legislation, promote social partnership, develop state labour market strategies and strengthen the labour inspection.

The lack of normative documents, modern informative and training materials on occupational safety and health is a big problem for most CIS member-states. Armenia is not an exception. At present, the OSH information centre is being created under the ILO Subregional Office's support at the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. This centre will provide consultations and OSH-related information to all enterprises and organize training courses. We hope that joint efforts of tripartite partners and the ILO will help to change the OSH situation in Armenia for the better. ■





March 8 - International Women's Day



Work and family: the way to care is to share!

In 2009, the theme for the celebration is "Work and family: The way to care is to share!" based on overwhelming evidence that a level playing field at work, for women and men, can only be achieved by an equitable sharing of unpaid work in the home and family.

Even as more women than ever work for pay, their share of family responsibilities has not diminished. In many instances, men's low participation in family responsibilities has remained resilient.

Policies and measures by governments and social partners to help workers reconcile work and family can make a difference. In the light of Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention No. 156, achieving gender equality requires policies to better enable men and women with family responsibilities to prepare for, enter, advance and remain in employment.

(See full version of the publication at: http://www.ilo.org/gender/Events/lang--en/WCMS_101670/index.htm)

Global Employment Trends for Women

The ILO marked International Women's Day 2009 with the launch on March 5, of a new report assessing the impact of the global financial crisis on women in the world of work.

The economic crisis is expected to increase the number of unemployed women by up to 22 million in 2009, the ILO said in its annual *Global Employment Trends for Women* report.

At the same time, the ILO also said that

the global economic crisis would place new hurdles in the path toward sustainable and socially equitable growth making decent work for women increasingly more difficult, and called for "creative solutions" to address the gender gap.

The report indicates that of the 3 billion people employed around the world in 2008, 1.2 billion were women (40.4 per cent).

The report says that the gender impact of the economic crisis in terms of unemployment rates is expected to be more detrimental for females than for males in most regions of the world and most clearly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It adds that the only regions where unemployment rates are expected to be less detrimental for women are East Asia, the developed economies and the non-EU South Eastern Europe and CIS which had narrower gender gaps in terms of job opportunities prior to the current economic crisis.

The ILO projects that the global unemployment rate could reach between 6.3 per cent and 7.1 per cent, with a corresponding female unemployment rate ranging from 6.5 to 7.4 per cent (compared to 6.1 per cent to 7.0 per cent for men). This would result in an increase of between 24 million and 52 million people unemployed worldwide, of which from 10 million to 22 million would be women. ■

ILO experts visit Belarus to monitor trade union rights observance

On January 19-22, a group of ILO experts led by Executive Director of the ILO for Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, Kari Tapiola, and the secretary-general of the International Trade Union Confederation, Guy Ryder, visited Belarus to take part in a seminar aimed at improving the observance of Belarus' independent trade union rights and the implementation by the Belarussian government of ILO's recommendations.

Ahead of the seminar international experts held consultations with governmental officials and trade unionists.

In 2003 the ILO Governing Body began an inquiry into the violation of trade union rights in Belarus in connection with independent trade unions' claim. As a result Belarus has been five times included into a special paragraph of the International Labour Conference report as a country violating trade union rights.

The seminar that brought together ILO experts and employers was aimed at speeding up the search for consensus, said Kari Tapiola. "Decisions, of course, should be taken in due time by Belarus' government, trade unions and employers," he said.

Kari Tapiola stressed that ILO experts would continue to monitor the situation in Belarus to report at the next session of the ILO Governing Body in Geneva in March.

The powers of the Belarussian Labour and Social Protection Ministry's council for upgrading the labour legislation will be expanded to fulfill the ILO recommendations.

During the visit Mr. Tapiola was accompanied by Karen Curtis, deputy director of the ILO Standards Department, and Oksana Wolfson, legal officer of the same department. ■

Source: *BelaPAN* news agency



February 20 - World Day of Social Justice

The first World Day of Social Justice, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly last November, was observed on February 20, 2009.

The observance of World Day of Social Justice will contribute to the efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.

The UN House in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, hosted a conference devoted to the World Day for Social Justice chaired by Kyrgyz Vice-Premier Uktomkhan Abdullayeva and UNDP Kyrgyzstan Resident Representative Neal Walker.

This event was organized by the UNDP and ILO to establish a dialogue on topical aspects of social justice between Kyrgyzstan's authorities and civil society. The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization was presented at the conference. ■

Tripartite Regional Conference in Tbilisi addresses trafficking in human beings

On February 19-20, ILO together with the Georgian government, international and national stakeholders organized a regional conference in Tbilisi.

The conference is a regional component of the EU-funded ILO-OSCE-ICMPD Project "Development of a comprehensive anti-trafficking response in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia". It was co-organized by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODHIR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The three countries of the Caucasus cannot and should not be seen in isolation of a larger regional picture. Migratory flows, demographic and economic pressures, labour market reforms - all this exerts an influence on pull and push factors of migration as well as corresponding risks and vulnerabilities to trafficking and forced labour.

Likewise, it is imperative that the three countries, albeit all three are predominantly



Roger Plant, Head of ILO Special Action Programme and Zsolt Dudas, ILO Project Chief Technical Advisor for South Caucasus

source/origin countries in their own right, attempt to pool their efforts to address trafficking in human beings and forced labour within a larger regional context.

Alongside participants from the region representatives of the destination countries were invited to the conference, namely from Ukraine, Greece, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Austria, Germany and Latvia. Participating states were represented by governmental officials as well as trade unions and employers' organizations.

Participants discussed further strengthening of the network of workers' and employers' organizations in combating trafficking and forced labour in the Caucasus and in destination countries as well as the ways to forge cooperation between law enforcement authorities in the three countries of the Caucasus and in the countries of destination.

The conference developed recommendations for harmonized approaches to combating trafficking in human beings in the Caucasus and the countries of destination and encouraged better cooperation between the actors.

"All the actors should join forces, as no individual government or organization can defeat trafficking and forced labour alone," said Alexandre Kvitashvili, Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs.

"We can all derive from the recommendations of this conference concrete steps for our respective organizations to address in a more coherent way trafficking and forced labour in the Caucasus and the destination countries," said Roger Plant, Head of ILO's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour. ■

Appointments



New Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Kyrgyzstan

On January 10, Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev signed a decree to appoint Nazgul Tashpayeva as Labor and Social Development Minister. She replaced Uktomkhan Abdullayeva, who was appointed as

Vice-Premier of the Republic.

Nazgul Tashpayeva was born in Bishkek on August 11, 1973. She graduated from the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute.

In 1998-2003 she worked as a doctor in the Kyrgyz Research Centre for Human Reproduction and chaired the department of medical and social assistance.

In 2003-2006 she served as an expert of the secretariat of the National Council on Family, Women and Gender Development under the presidential administration.

In 2006-2007 Tashpayeva acted as an expert of the economic and social assessment unit of the strategic development and assessment department under the presiden-

tial administration.

From March 2007 till July 2007 she headed the social development and information department under the Kyrgyz government.

From July 2007 till January 2009 she chaired the social development unit under the Republic's government. ■

Source: *Kabar news agency*



New Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Kazakhstan

On March 4, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev appointed Gulshara Abdykalikova as the Republic's Labour and Social Protection Minister. She replaced Berdybek Saparbayev, who became the governor of the East Kazakhstan Region.

Gulshara Abdykalikova was born in the Kyzylorda region, on May 15, 1965. In 1987 she graduated from the economics department of the Dzhambul Technological Institute of Light and Food Industry. She holds the bachelor's degree in economics.

In 1987-1994 she worked as senior inspector and later as the head of the Kzy-



lorda region's department for social protection of the population.

In 1994-1995 she was an advisor to the Kazakh Supreme Council's social welfare committee.

In 1995-2005 she served as deputy head and head

of the pension department, as deputy director and director of the social welfare department as well as Vice-Minister of Health and Social Protection.

In 2005-2006 Abdykalikova chaired the board of directors of the State Annuity and Life Insurance Company.

Since October 2006 she was the Republic's Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Protection.

Since October 2007 to January 2008 she served as executive secretary of the Labour and Social Protection Ministry.

Since January 30, 2008 she was the president's adviser and chaired the national commission for women's affairs, family and demographic policy. ■

Source: www.akorda.kz



HIV/AIDS and World of Work: Chronicle of Events

HIV/AIDS workplace prevention included in Russia's national priority project

As a follow up to ILO efforts in piloting HIV/AIDS workplace education interventions and advocacy for HIV/AIDS in the world of work in the Russian Federation, the country's consumer rights control body Rospotrebnadzor included the HIV/AIDS at Workplace Programme into the National Priority Project on Health for 2009.

Early this year the Russian Health Care Foundation, a non-governmental organization, won a tender announced by Rospotrebnadzor to implement the HIV/AIDS at Workplace component.

The ILO Moscow Office will provide expert and methodological support in the preparation and implementation of this project. The informational and educational materials developed within the framework of the ILO HIV/AIDS pilot projects in Russian regions will be adapted and used for HIV awareness-raising campaigns at workplaces at five township-forming enterprises in Russia's five regions – Irkutsk, Novosibirsk, Ulyanovsk, Chelyabinsk regions and the Altai krai (Territory). ■

Altai Krai continues to raise HIV/AIDS awareness

In February-March the Altai krai AIDS prevention and treatment centre conducted trainings on HIV prevention for teachers of educational and vocational institutions of Barnaul. Using interactive training tools teachers studied the epidemiological situation with HIV-infection in the territory, risk factors and HIV-vulnerability, prevention

measures and promotion of safe behavior. The form and methods of the training set an example for teachers on how to raise awareness on HIV prevention among students and their parents. Every trainee received a DVD with films and video clips as well as booklets and brochures on HIV prevention. Over 100 teachers underwent the training.

Moreover, on February 26-27 experts of the Altai krai AIDS prevention and treatment centre organized another HIV/AIDS training for psychologists and social workers of the Altai krai drug abuse clinic to increase the efficiency of psychological support for patients at high risk for HIV-infection.

The Altai krai centre also established effective cooperation with mass media. In March it organized a seminar for journalists on the urgency of problems related to HIV-infection and their coverage in mass media. During the seminar they discussed HIV/AIDS-related stigmatization, proper coverage of the problem in mass media as well as the choice of topics on HIV. ■

Kazakhstan's trade unions join World AIDS Campaign

HIV/AIDS prevention is one of the priorities for Kazakhstan's trade unions. Trade unions try to protect the rights of HIV-infected workers through regional and branch-level collective bargaining agreements that stipulate provision of information to employees, mainly to the youth, at workplace. Trade unionists are confident that such information campaigns can turn the tide in the epidemic.

The Federation of Trade Unions of Kazakhstan demonstrated its commitment to the fight against the epidemic during the campaign devoted to the World AIDS Day. Trade unionists held around 360 nationwide actions on

HIV/AIDS prevention in theatres, big trade centres, schools, higher education institutions and student hostels. During these campaigns informational booklets and brochures as well as contraceptives were handed out.

Enterprises established "HIV/AIDS awareness corners" (there were 63 such corners in Astana alone) and organized workshops, roundtable meetings and trainings with participation of medical staff and specialists of regional HIV/AIDS centres.

The healthcare workers union together with HIV/AIDS prevention centre organized AIDS audio promo on Kazakhstan's Radio for Adults and a video promo on the Era television channel. They also gave interviews to the country's radio stations and newspapers. HIV/AIDS prevention banners and billboards were displayed in the Republic's big cities.

Student unions also joined the World AIDS Day. For instance, on December 2, the Karaganda State Technical University organized a campaign at the Youth Palace inviting a specialist of the Karaganda AIDS prevention centre. Students also participated in the training Spider Web, saw a documentary on the spread of HIV/AIDS among drug abusers in Temirtau and handed out information booklets on HIV/AIDS prevention.

The Kazakh State Technical University under sponsorship of the Faberlic cosmetics company conducted a contest among student hostels entitled AIDS – Problem of the Century. Students organized theater performances promoting a healthy life style, contraceptive usage and sexual fidelity.

Trade unions will maintain their efforts on HIV/AIDS prevention among youth. Last December Kazakhstan's government, trade unions and employers associations signed a new general agreement for 2009-2011 that includes a provision on HIV/AIDS. ■

Rostrud launches job search website



Russian Health and Social Development Minister Tatiana Golikova informed on January 16 of the launch of a website containing a national databank of vacancies.

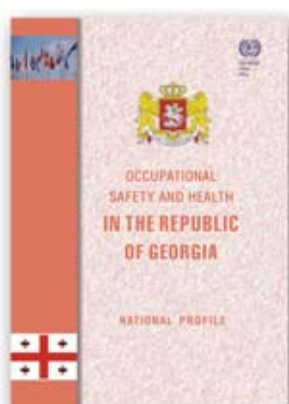
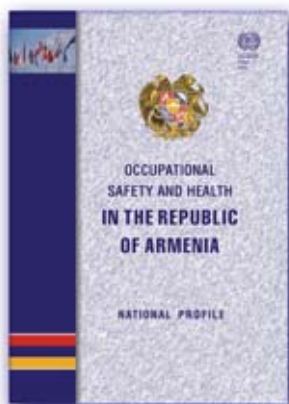
At present, the website <http://www.trudvsem.ru/> comprises over 908,000 vacancies from 85 regional employment services and 2,500 municipal employment centres.

The head of the federal labour and employment service (Rostrud), Yuri Gertsy, said the website's creation began last December. Until April 1, the databank will be

updated every week and later on – every day. He stressed that both state-run and private companies can place their information on the website.

The website is designed for active job-seekers and helps employers to find personnel they are looking for. It contains hotline phone numbers of state labour inspections in the Russian regions to consult citizens and employers on external labour migration, provide information to workers on protection of their labour rights and employment-related services. ■

Our Publications



The National Profiles of Occupational Safety and Health in Armenia and Georgia

were prepared by groups of national experts in cooperation with the ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. They were published in national languages, in English and Russian (Armenia's profile).

The national profiles contain information on the legislation, the mechanism of making state policy in occupational safety, the infrastructure, the social partnership structures and labour resources. You can find there statistical data and OSH indicators, general demographic data, the problems and difficulties as well as the needs for the further national development in the field of OSH.

The structure of the profiles meets the ILO methodological instructions.

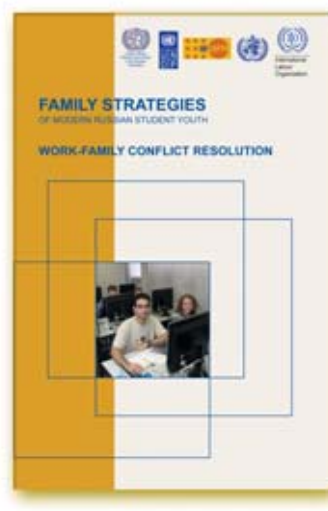
Georgia's profile can be found at the website of the Georgian State Inspection for Technical Supervision www.techinspection.gov.ge and Armenia's profile – at www.mss.am, www.umba.com.

Cooperative sector in Russia and the implementation of the ILO Recommendation No. 193 in the development of different Russian cooperative trends

The purpose of this publication is to analyze the implementation of the ILO Recommendation No.193, and the current situation with regard to Russia's cooperative sector. The report describes basic types of cooperatives in Russia, and the emergence and structuring of different trends of their development, with bringing up concrete data and indices and illustrating these trends. It also focuses on the role of the state and state policy, along with changes in the cooperative legislation, the role of employers' and workers' organizations, international cooperation and participation in the international cooperative movement, as well as the role of cooperatives in eliminating poverty and gender inequality.



Having published the brochure on the ILO Subregional Office's areas of work (see our previous issue) we began to prepare a series of informational booklets devoted to ILO's concrete projects in the region. We are glad to present two project briefs – **Boosting Youth Employment – Development of Integrated Youth Employment Strategies for Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan** and **EU-ILO Regional Project: Towards Sustainable Partnerships for the Effective Governance of Labour Migration in the Russian Federation, the Caucasus and Central Asia**. You can find these publications at the Project section on our website www.ilo.ru



Family strategies of modern Russian student youth. Work-family conflict resolution.

The idea of the project "Family Strategies of Modern Russian Student Youth" was proposed by the Centre for Comparative Social Policies and Social Governance under the State Administration Department of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, and it was supported by the UN Gender Theme Group in Russia. The objective of the group is to support initiatives by the government and civil society on improving the situation of women and promoting gender equality.

The author of the research "Family Strategies of Modern Russian Student Youth" (Part I), is Natalia Grigorieva, Doctor of Political Science, Professor, director of the Centre for Comparative Social Policies and Social Governance under the State Administration Department of the Moscow State University.

The second part reproduces a publication of the International Labour Organization, devoted to work and family balance. The choice of the Gender Theme Group to include this material in the publication was logical – young students are those who will soon enter the labour market, and many of them, specifically student families, are already combining work and studies.

The publication was prepared with the financial support of the ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. On March 5, it was presented at the UN Information Centre in Moscow at the meeting devoted to the International Women's Day that brought together Russian and UN experts as well as members of the public.

In Brief

■ Jan Dijkema, ILO consultant, visited Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on January 19-23 to study opportunities for establishing a *mutually advantageous partnership between the Dutch and Kyrgyz businesses and regions*. The partnership is aimed to contribute to the creation of jobs for the youth. The mission was organized as a follow up activity to the study tour of Kyrgyz tripartite delegation to the Netherlands last September.

■ On February 23-27, ILO experts - Guseppe Casale, Chief of the Social Dialogue, Labour Law and Labour Administration Branch, Wael Issa, Technical Cooperation Support Officer, InFocus Programme On Promoting the Declaration, and consultant Roger Lecourt visited Georgia to follow up *the progress of tripartite social dialogue*. During the mission tripartite constituents signed a joint statement to start a process of tripartite social dialogue.

■ The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the ILO held a con-

ference on *“Civil society in the Black Sea region and the Eastern Partnership countries – Promoting civil and social dialogue”* in Brussels on March 2-3. The participants requested the EESC to use its expertise in developing civil society networks and play a key role in the setting-up of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. The conference was attended by over 120 representatives of employers’, employees’ and various interest organisations from the EU Member States as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.

■ ILO Director-General Juan Somavia called for a *“Global Jobs Pact”* to forestall a *“prolonged and severe”* jobs crisis that would lead to a massive increase in unemployment and working poverty. The appeal followed a high-level, tripartite discussion within the framework of *the ILO Governing Body’s session held in Geneva on March 5-27*, during which International Monetary Fund Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn said increased cooperation between the IMF and the ILO was crucial in

addressing the global economic crisis. The high-level meeting also heard remarks by Mr. Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC); Mr. Alexander Shokhin, President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; Jonathan Shaw, Minister for Disabled People and for the South East of the UK Department for Work and Pensions.

■ *“Over the past five months an additional 200 thousand people were officially registered as unemployed,”* Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview with Channel One TV on March 15. *“In total, the number of registered unemployed in our country is about 2 million.* And this is not taking into account the actual unemployment, i.e. all those people who are intensively searching for a job but who are not registered as jobseekers at employment services,” he said. *“If you add together those who are not registered as jobless and those who already are then using the ILO methodology we get a figure of about 6 million,”* the president said. (Source: ITAR-TASS)



Photo Report from ILO European Regional Meeting



Ms Petra Ulshoefer, ILO Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia



Decent work - a better world starts here! (installation)



During the break between sessions. The Internet corner for delegates.



ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Russia 107031, Moscow, 15 Petrovka st., office 23
Tel.: +7 (495) 933-0810, fax: +7 (495) 933-0820
Web-site: www.ilo.ru E-mail: moscow@ilo.org

Editor: Elena Iskandarova

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On the issue of distribution please contact: +7 (095) 933-0810 or moscow@ilo.org