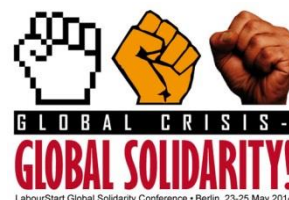


Global crisis – global solidarity

A LabourStart Conference, Berlin 23-25 May 2014:



Programme(as of May 6 , 2014)

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Programme overview

Friday, May 23	
15:00	Walking Tour: Labour history of Berlin <i>Start and end points see description</i> In English <i>Tour Guides: Günter Regneri, Win Windisch</i>
18:00	An introduction to Labourstart <i>venue: ver.di HQ, room tbc</i> <i>Speakers: Derek Blackadder, Eric Lee (LabourStart)</i>
19:00	Opening Event: Global crisis, global solidarity – how do we build global union power? <i>Venue: verdi headquarters, room AIDA (basement), with video translation to the Gallery (upper level on ground floor)</i> Speakers: Mag Wompel , LabourNet Germany, Michael Bride , Deputy Organising Director for Global Strategies, UFCW Dave Oliver , Secretary, ACTU, Mostafa Berrchid , Total Call Center Union, Casablanca, Morocco; Kıvanç Eli Açık , DISK, Facilitator: <i>Gisela Neunhöffer (tbc)</i> Followed by discussion between participants
21:00	Informal get-together for conf. participants <i>Venue: ver.di HQ Gallery</i>
Saturday, May 24	
9:00-9:30	Registration of participants; Meeting of language groups to coordinate translation for workshops
9:30-10:30	Opening of the conference <i>Venue: ver.di Aida and Othello rooms</i> <i>Welcome – Eric Lee (LabourStart), N.N. (Ver.di)</i>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-12:30	Plenary Session: How to build global industrial relations? Examples of various models <i>Speakers:</i> Claudia Rahman or Wolfgang Lemb , IG Metall; Petra Brannmark , IndustriALL; Elisabeth Tang or Myrtle Witbooi , IDWN; Stuart Applebaum , RWDSU – tbc Facilitating: Michael Fichter
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Workshops 1 (see table below)
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00-17:30	Workshops 2 (see table below)
20:00- open end	Congress party – live music and informal get together Venue – Jockels Biergarten, Ratiborstr. 14c , featuring Neofarius & DJ Lucha Amada
Sunday, May 25	
9:00-10:30	Workshops 3 (see table below)
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-12:30	Workshops 4 (see table below)
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	Closing plenary session: The role of LabourStart in the global trade union movement <i>Speakers:</i> Eric Lee , LabourStart, Martina Hartung , verdi (tbc), N.N. (tbc) <i>Facilitator: Espen Løken, Industri Energi</i>
15:00-15:30	Closing remarks The Internationale
15:30-17:30	LabourStart correspondent's annual meeting. <i>Chairing: Eric Lee</i> <i>Only LabourStart correspondents are invited to attend this session.</i> <i>(But participants can sign up at the conference in Berlin if they wish.)</i>



Workshops - Overview

Time slots	Room 1 / Plenary room	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	Room 9	Room 10	Room 11	Room 12	Room 13	Room 14
Sat 14-15.30	Track 1 Fair Play? – Working conditions at mega-sports events	Track 1 Building global industrial relations	Track 1 Limits of solidarity	Track 2 Solidarity in the Crisis – the shadows stemming from the „sunny side“ of the crisis	Track 3 The Arab Spring: Labour and the Aftermath of Revolution	Track 4 Domestic Workers – Global Families, Global Solidarity	Track 5 Supporting each other: Gays and Lesbians in the Trade Union Movement.	Track 6 The Power of mainstream media: How to get your union into the news?	Track 6 The Power of Voice: Activism and broadcasting	Track 8 Trade Unions and Protests in Turkey	Track 9 The organizing debate in Europe	Track 3 China: Unions, strikes, and solidarity	Track 8 Citizens Income	Childcare
Sat 16-17.30	Track 9 Organising in the fast food industry	Track 1 Social / Fair trade labels – pros and cons	Track 1 Climate change and new energy regimes – what do trade unions do about it?	Track 2: The neoliberal regime of „activating and forcing people to work“ in Europe. A challenge not only for initiatives of the unemployed	Track 3 Oil, the Law & Exploitation – Labour in Iraq	Track 4 Gender Based Violence – Strategies for Strong Activism and Empowerment	Track 5 Interfaith labor solidarity partnerships--- its strengths, successes / weaknesses / challenges	Track 6 The Power of networking: Communicators and communication networks in global unions	Track 7 Internet-based union busting strategies: where do we stand?	Track 8 Trade union power vis-à-vis governments – making trade unions relevant at national level!	Track 9 Strategic campaigning - successful examples and tools for planning	Track 3 Workers struggles in Iran	Track 8 Amnesty International, Human Rights and Trade Unions	Childcare
Sun 9-10.30	Track 8 TTIP and other free trade agreements: trade union's counterstrategies	Track 1 Internationalisation of trade unions - what needs to happen at local and national levels?	Track 1 New unionism in Israel: The struggle to unite Arab and Jewish workers in the fight for social progress and peace	Track 2: Youth unemployment	Track 3 Union and workers rights and labour organisations in post-Soviet countries	Track 4 Workers Struggles for Gender Equality in Muslim Countries – Beyond Stereotypes			Track 7 Online campaigning: Collaboration, competition, clicktivism	Track 8 Building Alliances for campaigning	Track 9 Labor solidarity and organizing in global value networks			Childcare
Sun11-12.30	Tbc	Track 1 Union strategies towards migrants	Track 1 Labour Struggles in the Global South: commonalities and variations.	Track 2: Last exit – Austerity policies? Trade union alternatives for a social Europe	Track 3 Defying the state: Building Worker Power & International Solidarity	Track 4 Equal Opportunities for Women in Their Unions	Track 5 The case of the 14 disappeared Union representatives at Mercedes-Benz in Argentina	Track 6 The Power of pictures: Bringing your message across	Track 7 Union communication on smartphones and tablets	Track 8 Railways, education, water: Fighting privatization	Track 9 Organising globally: creating networks in TNC	Track 6 The Power of film: Video as a weapon of the proletariat	Track 1 Book presentation: Dan Gallin on the Global Labour Movement	Childcare



Workshop and Plenary descriptions:

Plenaries

Opening Event (Friday, 19:00-21:00): Global crisis, global solidarity – how do we build global union power?

The Global crisis which we are experience has made it ever more clear that the global working class needs to build its collective global power. Over the last decade, the international trade union organisations, such as GUFs and the ITUC, have explored various strategies to rebuild union power and extend its reach to global governance processes. We have won certain battles. In some places, trade union have become part of huge, but often shortlived, social movements. We have started to recognise, in many places, the importance of international cooperation (again). But have we done enough? Have we found the right allies? Which of these strategies are contributing to our longterm success? Are we winning battles, but losing the war? What do we need to do in order to build global solidarity that finally will enable us to overcome the global crisis of the current economic, political and social system?

Speakers: Kivanç Eli Açık, DISK; Mag Wompe, LabourNet Germany; Michael Bride, UFCW; Dave Oliver, Secretary, ACTU; Mostafa Berrchid, Total Call Center Union, Casablanca, Morocco

Plenary Session (Saturday, 11:00-12:30): How do we build power at the global workplace? Experiences in building various models

Global union power starts with worker power at the workplace – and in creating linkages between those various local workplaces so that workers can make their voice heard globally. Combining local organising and getting organised globally is a challenge. Global union federations have focussed a lot on transnational companies, where the need for global organising is most evident. Various models, from International Framework Agreements over creating networks between unions in TNCs to pushing for multiemployer agreements, have been pursued in order to challenge the rules under which global corporations build their labour relations. However, outside TNCs and even outside the big companies as well, there is growing global networking, pushing for regulation and space for organising for workers as scattered, precarious and informalised as domestic workers. In this plenary discussion we will compare different strategies and explore, what they have in common, where they are disparate, and what they can tell us about ways forward.

Speakers: Petra Brannmark, IndustriALL; Claudia Rahman (tbc), IG Metall; Stuart Applebaum (RWDSU); Elisabeth Tang/Myrtle Witbooi IDWN.

Facilitating: Michael Fichter

Closing plenary (Sunday 14:00-15:00): LabourStart – the way forward

In this session we would like to discuss where LabourStart should move in the future. How do we improve our campaigns? How do we enlarge our network? Do we campaign offline as well? Participants will be asked to reflect on what the issues dicussed at the conference would mean for a network such as LabourStart in practical terms.

Speakers: Eric Lee, LabourStart; Martina Hartung, verdi/LabourStart, other speakers tbc

Other events

Introduction to LabourStart (Friday, 18:00-19:00)

The network behind this conference is LabourStart. But what, and who, is LabourStart? What does it do, and how does it work? What's its contribution to the Global Labour Movement? And how can you become part of LabourStart? In this introductory session we'll give you a short overview and answer your questions – as far as we do have the answers, of course!



Speakers: Eric Lee, Derek Blackadder (LabourStart)

Workshops

Track 1 – Building Global Labour Movements

Since 2008, the global financial crisis has shown in a most obvious way and in many places very aggressively the crisis of hegemonic neoliberalism – in fact some say, of capitalism. While analyses about the depth and nature of the crisis vary, clearly strong global movements are needed if we want to save ourselves and the planet from the devastating consequences of no more consensual but coercive neoliberalism. This track explores how a global labour movement can emerge stronger – which tools and strategies are being explored and with which results, what we can learn from these fights, with what other forces we can and should cooperate, and which role LabourStart as a global online news and campaign portal can and should play in the network of a global Labour Movement.

Workshops in this track:

Building global industrial relations

continuing the plenary debate on models of global industrial relations. This workshop will include the speakers from the plenary discussion, and will provide space for discussion with an emphasis on comments/questions from participants.

Social / Fair trade labels – pros and cons

(Workshop organised with IG BAU)

Companies often try to improve their image through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), usually by voluntary commitments and look at gaining competitive advantages and market share through this. But who controls whether these commitments are being met? Can the “Social Label” instrument improve social (or ecological) standards?

These questions are discussed quite controversially in trade unions. We will look at the main arguments and present and discuss 3-4 examples in which unions participated or initiated labels. FSC (forestry), FLP (Fair Flowers), Global Gap (Agriculture), Xertifix (Stones)... which concrete social improvements did we reach through these labels? Which possibilities for action do unions have when creating, implementing and controlling social labels? Which standards are being supported? And how much influence does the much quoted consumer power really have?

(Speakers: tbc)

Labour Struggles in the Global South: commonalities and variations.

After the great financial crisis of 2008, many of the BRIC but also other countries in the Global South have seen an unprecedented wave of mass strikes, often including state repression and wildcat strikes. This workshop will give an overview on the results, sectors and dynamics of these strikes, with additional examples of Latin American labour struggles from Argentina, Chile and Venezuela.

Speakers: Janis Klusmann, Jörg Nowak, Julian Dasten, Juana Torres

Union strategies towards migrants

Workshop organised with AK Undokumentierte Arbeit (Working group on undocumented workers)

This workshop explores a variety of union experiences with organizing migrant workers. In doing so, we want to engage a longstanding controversy around specific strategies for organizing migrant workers.

Some labour activists contend that trade unions are based on the commonality of interests of workers and that a division into special interests (migrants vs. non-migrants) undermines solidarity - others argue that unequal opportunities related to migration status require special support as a precondition for solidarity.



What approaches do different unions choose, acting in diverse contexts to organise migrants and what are they based on? What activities does this involve?

Panelists and workshop participants are asked to reflect on how their union strategies towards migrant workers have engaged this challenge, where it has succeeded and where it has failed. We wish to pay particular attention to one aspect that shapes the circumstances of many migrant workers: precarious legal status (no residency or work permit).

Speakers: Henry Lopez, 3cosas, IWGB; others to be confirmed.

Online campaigning: Collaboration, competition, clicktivism

Trade unions have been campaigning online since the 1990s. But in recent years, new organizations have sprung up that often take on the same targets and issues, such as Avaaz, Change.org, SumOfUs, and Campact. How should unions respond to this? What role should the new campaigning organizations play? Are they a threat — or an opportunity — for the labour movement?

(Speakers tbc)

Fair Play? – Working conditions at mega-sports events

Workshop organised with IG BAU and BWI

Construction workers who are the builders of the stadiums, infrastructure, hotels, and other facilities related to global mega-sports events such as the Olympics and the World Cup are instrumental players in the success of these games; however, they often work long hours for low wages and under unsafe and difficult conditions. The situation for migrant workers is much worse as evident by the reports in the preparations for the Winter Olympics in Sochi and the World Cup in Qatar. Migrant workers are often exploited and find themselves in positions of forced labour. BWI is working with trade unions to not only organize workers in the host countries but to also galvanize its affiliates to support these efforts nationally and globally to ensure that workers have decent work, safe and healthy working conditions, and living wages.

Speakers: Dietmar Schäfers, IG BAU, others to be confirmed

Climate change and new energy regimes – what do trade unions do about it?

Social priorities of trade unions also include maintaining a healthy environment for working people and their families. Therefore, trade unions have a duty to take an active part in tackling the problems caused by climate change which is no longer the domain of environmental experts. Climate change is real and already happening. It affects citizens' rights and democracy, and must be addressed also at the level of social dialogue and collective bargaining. What we need is a massive effort to transform our economy to a sustainable low carbon economy to maintain societies in which it is still worth living and working. This will need a lot of work done in a very short time. Are unions fit for tackling this challenge? What options have trade unions so support a sustainable development of our economy? And how should they act in the future to prevent an excessive climate change?

(Speakers: tbc)

Book presentation: Dan Gallin on the Global Labour Movement

Dan Gallin (Global Labour Institute) will be presenting his new book, published by LabourStart, on the Global Labour Movement.

Speakers: Dan Gallin

New unionism in Israel: The struggle to unite Arab and Jewish workers in the fight for social progress and peace

Speaker: Assaf Adiv, WAC-MAAN

Limits of solidarity

(Workshop organised by LabourNet Germany)



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Solidarity – as long as it is limited to signing petitions and email campaigns, is largely unproblematic. And it works – but to a limited extent, because it is either directed to governments or is dependent on the good will or dependency on a good image of a corporation.

But what happens, if of say 4 factories of a company 2 are up for closure? The competition in the Zero-Sum-Game of waged jobs that are (seemingly) essential for our existence but scarce creates systemic limits for solidarity.

How can these limits be overcome? How can we create conditions under which it is possible to think and live solidarity?

This question is being addressed too rarely in our opinion – we'll do it in this workshop.

Speakers: Helmut Weiss, Mag Wompel (LabourNet Germany)

Track 2 – The European and global crisis – trade union responses to ‘Europe from above’

The European and global crisis has hit workers particularly hard – so it is all the more alarming that trade unions are not benefitting from this crisis of capitalism, and that so far they have been unable to mobilise mass responses to it. Right now, just when the idea of crisis-free capitalism is being exposed as a myth, surely unions should be acclaimed as experts about the crisis. Union aspirations, going back many years, for a social Europe, statutory minimum wages, and investment programmes for ‘Crisis countries’ should be at the top of the agenda. Instead, the crisis has brought us dismantling of social security systems, and ever more precarious jobs; at the same time, the attack on the benefits system in Germany (the ‘Hartz laws’) is being rolled out across Europe. These events create clear opportunities for unions to take a lead in the political process; but instead of acting as a channel for protest and discontent, and linking these with trade union aspirations, what we see is the European and global trade union movement slipping into lethargy, and wearily organising days of action and solidarity. This workshop track looks behind the scenes of union crisis policies, and seeks solutions and opportunities in Europe and around the world. As well as analysing symptoms of the crisis, we will consider union responses to youth unemployment, to destructive austerity policies, and concepts of a common European tax policy, and we will look at how to deal with growing right-wing populism. This will include examining different forms of right-wing populism within Europe and further afield. There is also a workshop on ‘Labour as a commodity’, which will focus on the role of unemployment within capitalism.

Key questions include: Where is the potential power of unions? What are the opportunities for European and global solidarity? How can unions become political and social actors in the struggle against youth unemployment and austerity policies in Europe, and against global damage resulting from the crisis? What can unions offer as an alternative to nationalist responses to the crisis?

Workshops planned in this track:

Solidarity in the Crisis – the shadows stemming from the „sunny side“ of the crisis

The neoliberal regime of „activating and forcing people to work“ in Europe. A challenge not only for initiatives of the unemployed

Youth Unemployment

Speaker: Michael Wagner, DGB

Last exit – Austerity policies? Trade union alternatives for a social Europe

Speaker: Ralf Krämer, ver.di Wipo)



Track 3: Building Labour Movements under authoritarian regimes: (How) Can they be supported from the outside?

Trade unions and worker organisations of any kind have always had to deal with strong opposition not only from employers but often from backlashes and crackdowns by their very own governments. To this day, dictatorial and authoritarian regimes around the world resort to oppression, jailing and even murder when dealing with trade unions. In recent years, independent trade union movements in the Arab world and elsewhere have taken a front line position in the struggles for social and political freedom and equality. This thematic track aims to shed light on some of the most recent events and current developments and most importantly address tactics and strategies of trade union work under authoritarian regimes and questions on what forms of global solidarity could be adequate in these cases.

Workshops in this track include:

The Arab Spring: Labour and the Aftermath of Revolution

With old regimes deposed, where do Arab unions stand today, what are the next steps for the region and what connections to the global labour unions are needed.

Oil, the Law & Exploitation – Labour in Iraq

Despite a deposed despot and declining foreign occupation, Iraqi labour continues to struggle for recognition. What chances are there for international support for the struggle of workers in one of the essential oil producing economies?

Union and workers rights and labour organisations in post-Soviet countries

The situation of workers and unions in Iran

Speakers: Shahla Daneshfar, Goran Gustavson, (IWSC)

Facilitation: Kazem Nik-khah

China: Unions, strikes, and solidarity

The Chinese working class is the largest in the world, and yet very few trade unionists outside the country know much about what is going on. Are new, independent workers' organizations emerging? Who is organizing workers and leading strikes? What is happening with the official unions — the All China Federation of Trade Unions? And finally, how can trade unionists outside China help?

Speakers: Wolfgang Müller, IG Metall; Pun Tin Chi or Sally Choi, HKCTU, NN, Forum Arbeitswelten

Facilitation: Elisabeth Tang, IDWN (tbc)

Defying the state: Building Worker Power & International Solidarity

Identifying common difficulties & strategies to building union power under authoritarian regimes and necessary methods for global solidarity & support. Statements and discussions by representatives from Asia, Eastern Europe, MENA and Latin America

Track 4 – Women workers issues and gender equality

Gender equality and the empowerment of women require a critical view on modern society and world of work. In particular, they require a change of the general framework. Real equality requires more than the implementation of the “Equal pay – Equal Treatment” principle. Economic globalisation and patriarchal structures cast their shadows on the living and working environment of women in various ways. And so, the workshops will consider labour migration, the impact of violence against women, traditional gender roles and implications for the empowerment of women in the Arab countries and the equality of women in trade union structures.



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Workshops in this track include:

Domestic Workers – Global Families, Global Solidarity

Neoliberal globalisation has forced (and enabled) women to migrate and pursue livelihoods far from their homes. Nowadays, half of all migrants in the world are women; many of them are domestic workers. Nannies, caregivers and house-cleaners keep our communities running by supporting our families and our homes. But often, they are excluded from labour rights. Most of them have precarious jobs and are left to work without many key legal protections. Fighting for these rights is difficult as their jobs are not accepted as regular jobs, and also because of the insulation on the job in the houses of their employers, and last but not least because of their often precarious migrant status, sometimes as people without papers. As a result many are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation on the job.

This sector was perceived as being too difficult to organise for a long time, but organisations like the International Domestic Workers Network (IDWN) have begun to build a strong network that unites domestic workers globally to protect and advance domestic workers' rights everywhere. Their campaign combined organizing on the ground with a push for regulation at global level, which finally led to the adoption of ILO Convention C189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers in June 2011.

How is the Convention being used? How are domestic workers organizing? What are strategies to protect the rights of domestic workers and to organise at local, national and global level?

Speakers: Myrtila Witbooi and Elisabeth Tang, IDWN

Gender Based Violence – Strategies for Strong Activism and Empowerment

The elimination of violence against women is an essential part of the fight for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Gender inequality breeds gender violence, and violence in turn increases inequality. Gender based violence affects women in all societies of the world, but because of existing social inequalities it has its most effects on ethnic minorities, migrants and the poor.

We'd like to focus on violence at the workplace and the influence of domestic violence on the job. We will show and discuss different strategies and campaigns that fight against gender based violence and empowers women to fight for their rights.

Speakers: Birte Rohles, TERRE DES FEMMES (tbc); Arlette Puraye, UNI Europe Women

Workers Struggles for Gender Equality in Muslim Countries – Beyond Stereotypes

Arab women have closed the gender gap in education in many countries. Women become more educated than men but are still expected to enter into traditional marital arrangements. Moreover, due to prevailing social attitudes and a lack of attention to women's rights in the labour market in Arab societies, large numbers of women remain unemployed or economically inactive, filling traditional gender roles as mothers and housewives.

What are the challenges for trade unions in this situation, and how do (women?) workers struggle for gender equality in Muslim countries?

Aida Sebai, FGAT/UGTT - Tunisia; Azal Ali, General Trade Union Federation, Yemen (tbc), Sawsan Alnufaiee, Jordania (tbc), Reni Aryanti, Federation of Indonesian Metal Workers Union, Indonesia (tbc)

Equal Opportunities for Women in Their Unions

Women all around the world are the majority of the workers. They are increasingly moving into work and into trade union membership, Trade unions regard the principle of gender and equality as essential to achieving sustainable development and true social justice for everyone. Therefore most of them carry out programmes, campaigns and other activities in order to reach this goal within the organisations, who will, in turn, act as advocates and role models at local level. Therefore trade unions implement women committees and establish gender quotas and special seats in order to advance and to ensure women representation.

Speakers: Arlette Puraye, UNI Europe Women; Ines Schmidt, ver.di Women (tbc), Vera Morgenstern, formerly ver.di women (tbc), Azal Ali, General Trade Union Federation, Yemen (tbc)



Track 5 – The Labour Movements’ history, values and traditions

From its beginnings the international labour movement drew its strength and cohesion from social and moral values such as justice, solidarity, emancipation and equity. In this track we want to engage with what these (and other) values mean for trade unionism today, as well as explore what their role in mobilising the international labour movement still is.

However this track also recognizes that there are particularities to different national and regional labour movements creating particular conceptions of these social and political values and traditions. Questions that will be investigated include: How do these differences look? Do they separate or connect us? What is the impact of these potentially conflicting conceptions of values such as solidarity and justice in relation to, for example, increasing global inequality? And how do these national-specific differentiations relate and interact with the values of other social movements such as the women’s liberation movement or the LGBTI* movements? We want to unpack these and other questions in this subject track.

LGBTI and the trade union movement

The case of the 14 disappeared trade union representatives at Mercedes Benz in Argentina

Since 1999 this case has been widely published: during the Argentinian Military dictatorship 1976-83 in the Argentinian subsidiary of Mercedes Benz 14 trade unionists disappeared. They were abducted by military people during nighttime and tortured, and were later murdered. They corpses were never found. At other companies as well management got rid of active trade unionists, but the case of Mercedes Benz gained worldwide attention and was even discussed at the US Supreme Court. This turned out to be a difficult issue for trade unions in Germany and internationally, highlighting the failure of solidarity action during the dictatorship. Gaby Weber, a journalist who has done extensive research in the case and found important evidence, will report about the current state of affairs.

Speaker: Gaby Weber, Journalist; Ria Reich, IG Metall (tbc)

Track 6 – Media culture and culture of media

It is now widely accepted that independent grassroots media and social media communication have been some of the central drivers for successful human rights campaigns and political movements in recent times.

Workers’ movements have been able to dramatically increase their visibility and gain public support through the speed and spread of online media and social networking. Developments such as the digitalization of media, the widespread use of social networking, the simple and relatively cheap access to IT equipment such as smart phones, but also programs of the web 2.0 generation has allowed this to occur.

On the other hand, traditional media still remains an important tool for sharing information, education and influencing public opinion, which trade unions need to utilise.

This track explores how trade unions can increase their access to the media, how to use media tools for strengthening workers’ rights as human rights and build global solidarity. In this track there is a practical workshop, where you can learn more about video campaign material production, but also workshops on how to get your union into the news and how to build a communication or media strategy. There will also be time to discuss several forms of global networks, common forums and other information exchange tools for trade unions to generate momentum for campaigns and build global solidarity.

Workshops in this track include:



The Power of mainstream media: How to get your union into the news

The Power of networking: Communicators and communication networks in global unions

The Power of film: Video as a weapon of the proletariat

The Power of pictures: Bringing your message across

The Power of Voice: Activism and broadcasting

Track 7 – Digital communication

Workshops in this track:

Internet-based union busting strategies: where do we stand?

Since the HBGary revelation it has become known that anti-terror-cyberwar tools are also used as a union busting strategy. But how does this affect our union practice? In these two workshops (part 1 and 2) we want to explore, what technologies exist and how they are used. We also want to gather and discuss experiences - whether you yourself were already exposed to such tactics and how you dealt with the situation. How can we handle such threats?

Speakers: Suse Lang, N.N. Tactical Tech (tbc).

Online campaigning: Collaboration, competition, clicktivism

Trade unions have been campaigning online since the 1990s. But in recent years, new organizations have sprung up that often take on the same targets and issues, such as Avaaz, Change.org, SumOfUs, and Campact. How should unions respond to this? What role should the new campaigning organizations play? Are they a threat — or an opportunity — for the labour movement?

(Speakers: tbc)

Union communication on Smartphones and Tablets

As our union websites because an increasingly important part of how we communicate with members and with the outside world, and as more and more people access the net over their smart phones and tablets, it's essential that our websites work for those devices too. In this workshop we'll look at practical – in the technical and communication sense - and political issues this entails.

Speaker: Eric Lee, LabourStart.

Track 8 – Trade Unions and Politics

Workshops planned in this track so far include:

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership – pilfering workers rights behind closed doors

Facilitation: Florian Moritz, DGB

Building Alliances for campaigning

Experiences learned working with national unions, major NGOs and the Council of Global Unions to build e. g. the Robin Hood Tax and global Tax Justice campaigns

Speakers: Teresa Marshall, PSI; Joel Odigie, ITUC Africa



Trade Unions and Protests in Turkey

Railways, Education, Water: Fighting privatization

Speakers: Dr. Martin Beckmann, Verdi; N.N. (South Korea);

Citizens Income

(aka basic income, basic income guarantee, unconditional basic income, universal basic income): a proposed system of social security in which citizens or residents of a country regularly receive a sum of money unconditionally, either from a government or some other institution able to ensure an equitable distribution of common wealth.

Speaker: Raphael Salkie, UCU

Trade Union and Human Rights

Speakers: Shane Enright, Amnesty International; Joel Odigie, ITUC Africa

Trade union power vis-à-vis governments – making trade unions relevant at national level

Speakers tbc

Track 9 – Organising and Trade Union renewal

Trade unions are working hard to reverse the trend – in many countries – of falling membership. Since a number of years, increased exchange of experience is taking place, and sometimes the transfer of organizing approaches is attempted. Organising strategies are not only about increasing membership, but at the same time about renewing trade union democracy, including new groups of membership, building a union on rank and file involvement – and increasing trade union power through all of these. In this track we are exploring a number of examples and strategies.

Workshops we are exploring at this point in time include:

The organizing debate in Europe– experience with (adapted) US models in Europe

All over Europe, in the last years unions have been experimenting with “new” (sometimes going back to old traditions) organizing approaches. We want to look at a number of examples from recent years and ask – what made them successful? What problems were encountered? (How) was international embeddedness important for those successes?

Speakers: Antti Vainio, Baltic Organising Academy; Jonas Berhe, IG Metall, Valery Alzaga, Change to Win, Adrian Durtschi, UNIA

Organising in the fast food industry:

Fast food restaurants are said to be difficult to organize, as they often they employ the most vulnerable categories of workers und precarious employment relationships. However in several countries and under various circumstances, unions are actively organizing and defending the rights of these workers. In this workshop, they come together to share experiences and insights.

Speakers: Nick Allen, Change to Win; Funda Uygur, NGG

Labor solidarity and organizing in global value networks

Well-known transnational companies employ only a minority of the global labor force. The majority work for no-name or sub-tier-suppliers in TNC-controlled global value networks (GVN).

Worker’s power in these GVNs has been undercut through ever increasing competition between sites, and the distance between where workers’ are negotiating and corporate decisions are being made. As a result, employment relations and core labor standards become precarious and weaken. Building solidarity across transnational supply chains has proven difficult. In this workshop we would like to share and draw on some experiences of building solidarity and organizing in global value networks. The campaigns explored range from



small to large, and some are either ongoing or complete, but each offers different insights into how the complexities of GVN's can be addressed.

Organising globally: creating networks in TNC and globalizing workers struggles:

Building networks within TNCs can be seen as the first step to building global industrial relations and workers powers within TNCs, who are among the most powerful actors globally. Speakers will talk about their work to build and maintain such networks and the struggles they have fought.

Speakers: Marika Varga, IG Metall; Burcu Ayan, IUF, N.N., BWI)

Winning struggles - Strategic campaigns

Trade Unions are campaigning all the time offline and online - but often we miss the time to reflect on what makes a campaign successful - and how do we can plan and implement our campaigns in order to make success more likely. In this workshop we want to take a look at examples of successful campaigns and ask what did make the successful, and what are the corner stones of successful strategic campaigning.

Speakers: Adam Lee, IndustriALL Global Union; Wilfried Schwetz, IG Metall; Donna McGuire; Eyup Özer (DİSK Birlesik Metal İş, tbc).

Cultural events at and around the conference

We'll not only discuss, we'll enjoy time together in various other ways as well! From the start to the very end.

Guided city tours, Friday, 15:00

We are offering two guided city tours on the labour and social movement history of Berlin. Both will start on Friday, 3 pm, **but at different starting points. Both will be held in English.**

Sites of the Labor Movement in Berlin

with Günter Regneri, historian

This tour will start from the center of town at Potsdamer Platz and pass along various important places of the Berlin and German labour movement touching on topics such as Where the communists denied their founder a monument – Where in 1848 murdered revolutionaries won the day- Where the union learned about New Objectivity – Where the union owned a real gem until the fluctuating groundwater took it away – Where the union smashed a military coup in 1920 – Where squatters used songs to defeat the GDR border police . Where in 1844 the calico printers instigated the first strike in Berlin – Where the Labourstart conference takes place – the tour will end at verdi headquarters.

This tour will use public transport quite a lot. Please make sure to buy a day pass for public transport to attend (6,70€, AB area).

The meeting point for this tour is the "Ampelturm" at Potsdamer Platz, near the S-Bahnstation at the crossing of Potsdamer Str., Ebertstr. and Stresemannstr. Watch out for the LabourStart flag!



"When Kreuzberg was the 'Red South-East' ...1848 -1933"

with Win Windisch, tour guide about "A Peoples History of Berlin"

This tour will start at the verdi-headquarter and go through the district of Kreuzberg. We will look at its history as the "cradle" of the workers movement in Berlin and the time until 1933 when the Nazis got in power: the first trade union house of berlin 1900, its occupation by the Nazis May 2nd 1933 and the destruction of the unions after/ the beginnings of the trade union movement 1848/ the clandestine work of the forbidden Social Democratic Party and the beginnings of the proletarian womens movement during the Bismarck Era (until 1890)/ the tragic split of the workers movement in the 1920s between communists and social-democrats and

the street fights against Nazis/ a cleaning woman active in the anti-fascist resistance/ as well as the role of beer, culture and sports for the workers movement.

The meeting point for this tour is in front of ver.di headquarters (entrance facing the river) at Paula-Thiede-Ufer 10.

see www.berlin-subversiv.de (click on Logo, webpage has english section)

Informal get-together, Saturday, after the opening event

This opening event will give us some food for thought – and discussion! We'll therefore hang around the verdi atrium and gallery for some time after the conference. Some drinks will be provided, but don't come hungry!

With lounge music by DJ Lucha Amada

Get ready to dance!

This will be THE event – the LabourStart conference 2014 congress party!

With a live concert by **the Neofarius v. Occasionally Flyer K.Orchestra** (Klezmer, Polka, Balkan), and DJ's **Lucha Amada** (Berlin) and **Aural Guerilla** (Leipzig).

At Jockel's Biergarten, one of Berlins hip party locations (address: Ratiborstr. 14c) .

With lots of Berliners, and all of the congress participants!

And in solidarity with antifascists in Germany and Greece.

Don't miss it!



Films on labour and trade unions

We'll show labour films during the workshop programme. Film line-up to be announced.