

Global crisis – global solidarity
A LabourStart Conference, Berlin 23-25 May 2014:



Conference Manual

Below you find information on all “technical” aspects of this conference. Please read carefully. In case of any questions write to gisela@labourstart.org or ericlee@labourstart.org. On the spot, there will be a conference information desk. If you need advice per telephone please see the contact section of this manual.

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Contact information:

There will be an information stall at ver.di headquarters on Friday, May 23 starting 14:00, until Sunday, May 25, at 18:00.

If you need to contact us on the phone or via Email:

Name	Responsible for	Telephone	Email
Gisela Neunhöffer	General coordination	+49 176 615 77 492	gisela@labourstart.org
Eric Lee	General coordination		ericlee@labourstart.org
Ole Borgard	Solidarity Housing	+49 160 60 27 635	housing@labourstart.org
Martina Hartung, Matt Heaney	Workshop/room coordination	0179 22 22 949 0163 668 26 68	martina_hartung@gmx.net heaney.m@gmail.com
Lina, Abi Dekebadru	Childcare	0175 916 82 92 +49 152 17930 596	lina@posteo.de Dekebadru@yahoo.com
Daniel Oberko	Workshop rapporteurs		danieloberko@gmail.com
Technical equipment coordination	Mark Hagen	0177 80 855 23	markhagen72@googlemail.com
Security at ver.di	In case of emergencies	Securitas 030/6956- 3955, reception -2998.	

Venue / How to get there

Venue

The conference will be held May 23-25 in Berlin, at the headquarters of ver.di, Germany's huge union for service sector workers with around 2 million members.

Address: Paula-Thiede-Ufer 10, 10179 Berlin

How to get there

You will be responsible yourselves for moving around in Berlin. We will have public transport maps available at the conference venue.

Arriving by plane

Arriving at Airport Tegel (TXL):

Public transport:

You need an "AB" single ticket (2,80 €); or an AB day ticket (6,70€) if you plan to use public transport more than twice on that day. For more information see the section on public transport in this manual.

- Take Bus X9 to stop Zoologischer Garten; then take an S-Bahn train in Eastern direction (all lines) to "Berlin Ostbahnhof". Walk 5-7 min on foot (see plan of the area below)

Taxi:

A taxi will cost about 30 EUR. Taxis are available at all exits and will have a taximeter.

Arriving at Airport Schönefeld (SXF):

Public transport

You need an "ABC" single ticket (3,20 €) or an ABC day ticket (7,20€, if you plan to use public transport more than twice on that day). For more information see the section on public transport in this manual.

- Take a regional train (RE 7, RB 14 und RB 22) in direction to city centre, exit at "Berlin Ostbahnhof".
- **OR** take S-Bahn (S9) to "Treptower Park". Change trains and take S3, S5, S7 or S75 in Western direction to "Berlin Ostbahnhof"
- From there, walk 5-7 min on foot (see plan of the area below)

Taxi:

A taxi will cost about 35 EUR. Taxis are available at all exits and will have a taximeter.

Arrival by train

- book a ticket to "Berlin Ostbahnhof"
- 5-7 min on foot (see plan of the area below)

Arrival by car

- You need an "environmental badge" to enter Berlin city-centre with a car. Information in many languages provided here.
- To plan your arrival, see the map of the area below.
- You can find a route planner [here: http://www.falk.de/](http://www.falk.de/).
- There is limited car parking space near to the ver.di building.

Map of the area



What's happening when?

You can find the latest version of the complete programme for download on the conference website www.labourstart.org/2014. We will also have printed copies at registration. This includes all events including plenaries, workshops, side events as far as we're involved in planning, informal events etc.

Registration

All conference participants should register on the website (www.labourstart.org/2014) and upon arrival at the registration desk. Conference materials, name badges, flyers, posters etc. will be available there. Registration will work from 3 pm on Friday in English, German, Russian and French.

I am facilitating or speaking in a workshop, what should I know?

You should receive all information from the contact person for your workshop. We have developed some guidelines for workshops which they will send to you. If you don't have them you can download from the conference website. Please keep them in mind.

Conference documentation

Please send all presentations, power points, and reports from each workshop to the contact person for your workshop or to gisela@labourstart.org. We'll use them for conference documentation. And anything which is available before the conference will be of great help to interpreters.

The Internationale

Traditionally, at the end of the LabourStart conference – as in many international trade union events – the Internationale is sung. You can find the text including a short note on the history and meaning of the song in various languages in a booklet by the IUF which is available for download on the website. We'll have a limited number of copies available at the conference as well.

Interpretation

Plenary sessions and workshops in the plenary room will be translated simultaneously in English, German, French, and Russian.

For workshops we will try to ensure English-German translation as far as possible, and Russian and French where needed most.

For workshops where we have no professional simultaneous translation available, we will set up a coordination of participants willing to help with whispered translation. You will be asked at registration whether you can help with this. There will be coordination meetings for French, Russian, and Spanish translation on Saturday, 12:30 in order to establish which workshops should and can be translated.

The conference in social media

- Join our facebook event and discuss with participants ahead, during, and after the conference: <http://www.labourstart.org/go/conference14facebook>
- Here's our twitter hashtag for the conference: **#lsc14**. Please join the discussion!
- We will offer participants to give interviews for our Youtube channel at <http://www.labourstart.org/go/youtube>

What is where at verdi?

The verdi building hosts a regional division (entrance from Köpenickerstr /Engeldamm) and the ver.di Federal headquarters – entrance from the Paula-Thiede-Ufer, directly facing the river. We're using the federal headquarters entrance and building!

- Conference registration and information desk will be at the Atrium (main entrance hall).
- The main plenary room is “Aida” in the basement. In addition, due to the expected large number of participants, plenaries will be video-translated to the “gallery” above the Atrium.
- The film program will be shown during workshop sessions in the “gallery”.
- Most workshop rooms are on the 7th floor.
The building is divided in an A and B wing (to the left and right of the main Atrium).
Please check whether your workshop is located on the left hand or right hand side of the building before entering the lifts to avoid wandering through long corridors later!
- Some workshops will be located in the regional division part of the building. We’ll provide directions on the spot.
- Toilets are located on all floors
- Catering will take place in the “Nabucco” room opposite the main plenary room in the basement.
- There a luggage lockers in the basement. You’ll need a coin to drop into there as a deposit.

Decoration

We are pleased if you bring your union banners etc. with you, indeed, we specifically request you do so! At the same time, we are guests of the union ver.di and are grateful for their support in letting the Global Solidarity Conference being held here. For this reason we would like to remind you not to damage the building or equipment in whatever way, please do not put stickers or notices up on walls, corridors, doors, in the toilets, etc. We have a number of large information boards where participants are most welcome to display such materials - please use them!

Internet access

- We can use the ver.di guest wifi, password available at registration.
- There are two internet computers with a printer in a small room next to the Atrium. Ask at registration.
- There is also a Telekom hotspot at the usual commercial rates.

Getting around in Berlin

Public transport

Berlin has a quite well functioning public transport system with various means of transport – regional trains, S-Bahn trains, U-Bahn trains, trams and buses.

You find information, ticket variations and prices, and a journey planner at by the public transport service BVG in English [at www.bvg.de](http://www.bvg.de).

Fares

Generally, if not arriving at Schönefeld airport and not going to out of the city sights like Potsdam or Oranienburg/Sachsenhausen, you’ll be in the AB tariff zones, for which you can buy single, day or multi-day tickets. A short trip ticket takes you 3 stations by S-Bahn or U-Bahn, 6 stops by bus or tram.

All information about fares is here: <http://www.labourstart.org/go/fares> .

Bicycles

Riding through Berlin by bike has become a popular occupation not only for locals but also tourists. A huge number of locations rent out bikes which can be an interesting, clean and cheap alternative to costly public transport for experienced bicycle riders. A large list of rental bike providers is here:

<http://www.labourstart.org/go/bicyclesberlin>

Please be aware that despite the availability of bike paths in many places, using a bike on public streets can be dangerous for inexperienced/unconfident bicycle riders – be cautious and ask the rental station for an introduction!

Accommodation

General information

Generally, participants will be expected to organise and cover their accommodation themselves. Please note we do NOT provide hotel accommodation for all participants!

For those who have requested it and have sent us the respective questionnaire, we are doing our best to organize **solidarity housing**, i.e. Berlin trade unionists and activist offering guest beds for free.

There are a number of **hotels and hostels** near the conference venue. You find details for some of them below.

Other **alternatives** are services like Couchsurfing and AirBnB have no direct connection to LabourStart – it is just the kind of website we ourselves would use ourselves if we were looking for free or budget accommodation.

Hotels and Hostels

Here are some options very close to the conference venue. Our block bookings there have expired, so you'll need to book using their normal rates:

1. The [Ibis Berlin Ostbahnhof](#) is located just across the river from ver.di headquarters.

You can contact the hotel through the booking system on their website or via email, telephone or fax:

Tel.: +49 (0) 030/ 25 760-0

Fax : +49 (0) 89 63 002 81 99 30

Email: resa.ibis10@accor.com

2. The [A&O Hotel and Hostel Berlin Mitte](#) is located down Köpenickerstr. (No.127-129), a 5 minute walk from ver.di headquarters.

You can contact the hostel through their reservation system.

Solidarity housing

If you want to use solidarity housing, it is essential you notify us in advance! It will be difficult if not impossible to find a place for you on the spot

A big number of Berlin TU activists have offered solidarity housing for conference participants, and we have notified everyone who we've been able to find a place for. If you haven't heard back from us, please write to housing@labourstart.org confirming your participation and request.

Couchsurfing

[Couchsurfing \(https://www.couchsurfing.org/\)](https://www.couchsurfing.org/) is a website which promotes solidarity housing for travelers on a much larger scale than we do – people do offer their guest rooms or sofas for free, in return for reciprocity. If you are interested to join, you can do so through their website. LabourStart has no direct connection with Couchsurfing.

AirBnB and Wimdu

Both [AirBnB \(https://www.airbnb.com\)](https://www.airbnb.com) and Wimdu (<http://www.wimdu.de/>) are websites which connect people who need a place to stay and people who rent out parts of their home. This usually is a guest room or a place on the sofa in someones private homes – but sometimes also more or less professionally run hostels advertise there. LabourStart has no direct connection to either company.

Eating and Drinking

What you get from us

- We will provide free lunches on Saturday and Sunday, including vegetarian, halal and kosher options. For all other meals, participants will be responsible for themselves.
- Coffee, Tea and water will be available at the conference venue as well.
- We will provide some drinks for the informal get-together on Friday evening – however don't come hungry as we'll not have food on that occasion!
- Berlin tap water is very good drinking water. We encourage you also to bring your refillable bottle and fill up on tap water!
- Please note we will *not* provide dinners. On **Friday evening**, we recommend you eat before the opening event – or bring something to eat with you. On **Saturday evening**, the "Action on Edeka" will finish in an area with many food options. **You can also eat at Jockel's beergarten, our party location (see <http://jockel-biergarten.de>, in German).**

Cafés, Bars, Restaurants, Fast Food

There is a wide variety of eating options in the conference area, however mostly requiring a 10-15 minutes walk.

In direction to Kreuzberg (not crossing the river but walking straight away from it, cross KöpenickerStr, walk straight on Bethaniendamm then leave it to pass next to the church and on to Mariannenplatz, walk on towards Mariannenstr. and Heinrichplatz) There are lots of cafés, bars, and restaurants.

Here's some recommendations:

- Cafe am Engelbecken, Michaelkirchplatz/Engelbecken, 10179 Berlin. About 600 m from verdi. (<http://www.cafe-am-engelbecken.de/>) open every day 10-24.
- Around same distance - <http://3schwestern-berlin.de>. I've not been there yet, but sounds good. Opens at 11 am.
- Lot of cafes and bars in about 1km distance, on Heinrichplatz, for example this <http://www.roteharfe.de/>
- If you are interested in trying German bread culture in its organic variation, there is a bread festival on the Saturday in [Markthalle 9](#) (Eisenbahnstr. 9, about 850 m from verdi). On Friday they have a farmers market.
- If you arrive early – on Friday morning there is a great food market at Maybachufer. (U-Bahn station Schönleinstr.)

In the other direction, in and behind the Ostbahnhof station there is a large number of different fast food outlets (about 300 m from verdi).

Supermarkets/opening hours

Please note that practically all food stores are closed on Sundays. However there are a Rewe and a Lidl supermarket in / near the Ostbahnhof station which are both open on Sundays.

Small shops might close at around 6 pm on Friday and Saturday, big ones might be open until 10 pm or even longer.

Other shops

Please note that practically all stores are closed on Sundays. Exceptions are possibly in the Ostbahnhof station, for some late night shopping stores "Spätkauf", and gas stations.

Tech shops / Mobile phones

- In Ostbahnhof station, there shops of the main phone operators: Telekom, O2, Vodafone. O2 is open all days, Telekom and Vodafone are closed on Sunday.
- Major tech shops are at Alexanderplatz (Saturn directly at the Square, Mediamarkt in Alexa shopping center)

Department stores

There is a Galeria Kaufhof store behind the Ostbahnhof station. Open Mon-Sat. 10 am -8 pm.

Souvenirs and revolutionary supplies

There is a classic souvenir shop in Ostbahnhof station, open Mon-Sun 08:00 - 20:00.

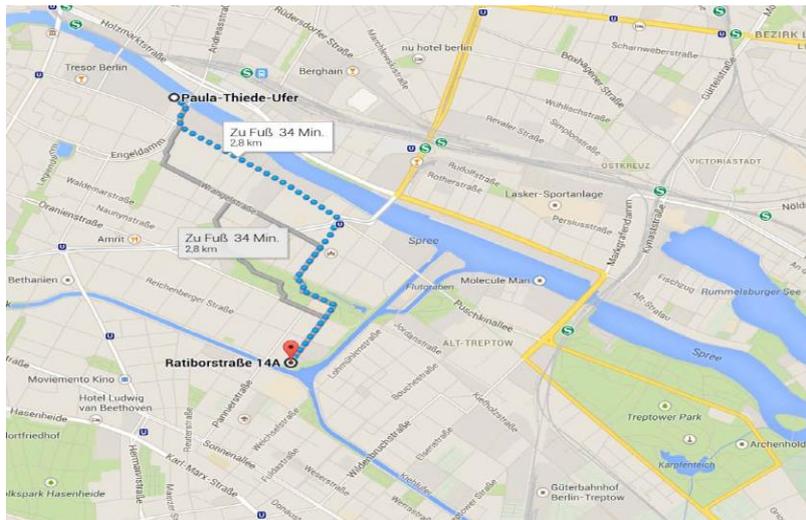
Way more interesting might be the small shops in Kreuzberg between Kottbusser Damm, Oranienplatz, Lausitzer Platz and Wrangelstr. and beyond, including the shop for “revolutionary supplies” at Manteuffelstr. 99, b-books with a great selection of English language books at Lübbenerstr. 14, and many others.

Conference party – how to get there

Our conference party will be at Jockels Beergarden, Ratiborstr. 14c, one of Berlins hippest party locations.

Jockels is about 3 km away from our conference venue.

They have also some eating options (see <http://jockel-biergarten.de/#>, in German)



We will offer **walking** you there for those who want to – a nice walk through one of Berlins most interesting areas, either from the conference venue or after our “Action on Edeka” (see programme).

For people having difficulty walking we’ll offer a **shuttle service**, leaving at 20:00 from the conference venue. Please indicate at registration if you would like to use this so we can plan.

You can also use **public transport**:

Walk 250m to Bethaniendamm. Take Bus No. 140 in direction to S+U Tempelhof, leave the bus at Adalbertstr./Oranienstr. (6 stops). Change for Bus No. M29 in direction to U Hermannplatz, leave the bus at stop Glogauer Str. Walk 300 m to Jockels.

A **taxi ride** from verdi to Jockels will cost about 10 EUR.

Other practical information:

Mobile phones/SIM cards

It is possible in Germany to buy prepaid SIM cards for use on the mobile networks. However German law means that they need to be registered (which often requires ID and proof of address) and they may not work if this has not been done. Registration may also take some hours before it works.

Electricity

The voltage in Germany is 230V. If you need to use and/or recharge electrical devices and come from a country with a different plug/socket system, please make sure to bring an adapter that fits into German "Schuko" accept Europlugs and German "Schuko" plugs (see pictures).



sockets. German sockets

Currency exchange:

You can exchange money at the Reisebank in Ostbahnhof, Open Mon-Fr 08:00 - 21:00, Sat-Sun 08:00 - 20:00.

Credit cards/traveller cheques:

Major credit cards and USD and Euro traveller's cheques are accepted.

Post Office:

There is a post office (open Mon-Sun 8:00-20:00) and a stamp vending machine and postbox in Ostbahnhof; a postcard costs 75 cents to anywhere in the world (45 ct within Germany).

Tipping:

Service charges are included in the price of restaurant meals. Tipping is therefore not compulsory unless you want to show particular appreciation to employees in hotels or restaurants, taxis, etc.

Weather:

The weather in May can be very variable. Delegates should be prepared for relatively cool and wet weather as well warmer spring weather. Temperatures can vary at least between 10°C and 25°C at that time of year.

Lost and found

If you've lost something at the conference venue, please inform the conference desk. If you find something please hand it in to the conference desk. For lost + found within Berlin see <http://www.berlin.de/en/tourism/travel-information/1735948-2862820-lost-and-found-and-lost-property-offices.en.html>

Health and Accident Insurance

Please note that LabourStart does not provide insurance cover for, and does not accept responsibility for, medical problems or accidents incurred during travel to or from the Conference and related meetings or during attendance at the conference and related meetings.

Medical and other emergencies

- If there is any emergency at the conference venue, please contact the information desk and/or call: Gisela at 0176 615 77 492
- To call an ambulance, dial 112
- To call the police, dial 110

- The next pharmacy to the conference venue is inside Ostbahnhof station, on the ground floor and is open Mo-Fr 07:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 20:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. Telephone: +49 (0)30 29 36 36 6
- If you need a pharmacy after opening hours: Any Pharmacy in Germany will always have a note at its entrance indicating the nearest pharmacy on night duty. You can also search for emergency service here, sorted by date/time and area of Berlin: <http://www.akberlin.de/notdienst.html> (only in German)
- The next hospitals (both around 2.5 km away) are
 - Vivantes Klinikum im Friedrichshain, Landsberger Allee 49, 10249 Berlin
 - Vivantes Klinikum Am Urban, Dieffenbachstraße 1, 10967 Berlin

Evidence of health insurance is required, citizens from EU countries should bring their EHIC card or alternative certificate of entitlement with them, as well as official proof of identity (passport, national ID card), to ensure they are treated on the same basis as those in the German social insurance scheme. Those with private health insurance cover should take evidence of this with them. Of course, we hope you will not need to use a hospital! But if you do - take someone who speaks German with you. The information desk will help.
- If you need to call security at the ver.di building, dial Securitas 030/6956-3955, reception 030/6956-2998.

Conference rules

- This conference is a private event organized by LabourStart, the news and campaigning website of the international trade union movement.
- LabourStart's editor and senior correspondents have invited trade union activists from around the world to attend.
- They alone will determine who is allowed to attend the conference and they reserve the right to deny admission to individuals.
- Conference participants are expected to treat one another in a comradely fashion, showing respect for all.
- We will not tolerate any form of harassment, abuse, bullying or bigotry; conference participants who act in a racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic, or sexist way will be removed from the conference venue. And this list is not intended to be comprehensive; any behaviour which inhibits anyone's full participation in the conference will not be tolerated.
- If you feel you have been bullied, harassed or the victim of racist or sexist abuse, please inform the conference organizers immediately.
- The working languages of the conference will be English and German. However, where we can we will assist participants who do not understand English/German with interpretation.
- If you intend to take photographs or make any audio or video recordings of the proceedings, please make sure you have permission. Please do not publish the names or photos of any participants in the conference without their permission. Be aware that some participants are coming from countries where workers' rights are not respected and we do not want to put them at any risk.
- We are not subsidizing participants' nor speakers' airfares, accommodation and/or food (other than outlined in this manual).
- We hope you all enjoy the conference and welcome your feedback and comments during and after the event.

Thank you!

We would like to thank everyone for their participation, the organisations involved for their support and especially those many volunteers who have given their free time and energy to make this conference take place.