



Break up to get back together (BreakBack)

The impact of unionisation through innovative service provision

on union membership and industrial relations

Kick Off Meeting – Florence, 23rd April 2019 Application ref.: *VP/2018/004/0046 VS/2019/0079*

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WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF EUROPEAN UNION

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«BREAKBACK»: title and idea...



- It may be necessary to "break up" some rigidity in the protection of work as a way to strengthen personalized support instruments.
- These forms of protection cannot fail to "get back" to the **collective** solidarity that is a crucial point of industrial relations and union history.
- Service provision is one of the possible forms that unions undertake to achieve inclusive labour markets against the backdrop of deregulation and welfare retrenchment.



Back to the future?

- Sector- and company-level collective bargaining, are increasingly related to the **territorial dimension of the actors**.
- In the European context, also for the difficult sustainability of welfare systems, collective bargaining deals with the growing centrality of **non-wage welfare instruments** (often tax incentives), also provided by private companies and joint bodies, managed by the social partners.
- Due to the swirling processes of **digitization** and **labour market volatility**, collective bargaining finds itself confronted with "new **generation**" **protections**, which are the evolution of institutions that exist since decades, and relate to very relevant topics.

THE PROJECT

Lead applicant:	CISL (ITALY)
Co-Applicants:	LSRC - Lithuanian Social Research Centre
	(LITHUANIA)
	UAB - UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE
	BARCELONA (SPAIN)
	DSPS-UNIFI - Università degli Studi di Firenze
	(ITALY)
	FAOS - Employment Relations Research Centre,
	Department of Sociology, University of
	Copenhagen (DENMARK)
	DIESIS coop scrl-fs (BELGIUM)
Affiliated organisation:	Fondazione Ezio Tarantelli Centro Studi
	Ricerche e Formazione, (ITALY)
Associated organisation:	European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC,
	EUROPEAN UNION)
Duration of the project 24 months (Starting 1°st of March 2019)	
GRANT AGREEMENT: € 293.581,00	

Aims of the action



- to assess how trade unions respond to the processes of individualisation in the society;
- to observe the impact of innovation in services provision as a trade union strategy to enhance its membership;
- to focus on services provision as a instrument to reach those social groups and individuals who are often excluded from union protection (e.g. non-standard forms of employment, digital workers, partially and totally autonomous workers, I-pros, freelancers, workers with multiple employers, sub-contracted and posted workers, consultants, etc.).



- to assess what strategies trade unions adopt to overcome workers
 disaffection with active participation in interest representation practices;
- to collect and describe the variety of services provided in five EU Member States, in terms of diffusion, degree of innovativeness, main targets, their governance and the possible presence of assessment plans;
- to evaluate the effectiveness of this strategy of membership revitalization.



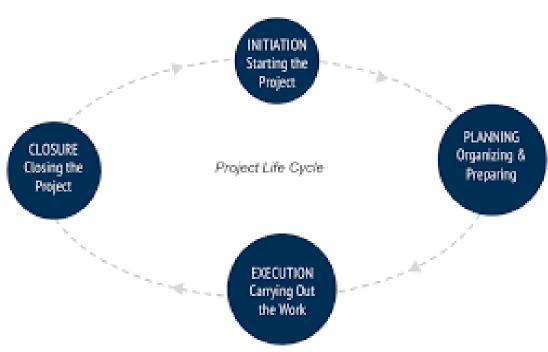
Answering together to important questions...

- How the trade unions, at the national and sectoral levels, cope with the decrease of union membership?
- Are they experimenting specific revitalization strategies?
- Are those strategies related to the provision of any kind of **services** intentionally designed to affiliate service users to the trade unions?
- What kind of services trade unions provide? What are their main features? Are they of an **innovative** or a **traditional kind**?
- What is the impact of these services on membership and participation?
- Are some services more **effective** than others in increasing the chance for union membership? Are they more effective vis-à-vis other more traditional revitalization strategies?
- Do the trade unions evaluate the impact of their strategies?

Five Working Packages (WP)



Four Project Phasis





WP A: coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation of all the activities, financial management of the Project. Scheduling of activities, communication with the Project partners, organization and coordination of Project meetings. 4 bi-annual face-to-face meetings, aimed at defining scientific, organizational and administrative aspects related to the Project activities. 24 months.

WP B: collection of baseline information on the industrial relations systems of the countries.

Specific attention to the two sectoral trade unions that would be the object of the case studies. **5 months**.



Five Work Packages (WPs)



WP C: preliminary exploration of the main research topic.

Each research will interview 4-5 peak-level key informants, and will carry out a desk analysis of the services provided by the trade unions in the countries. Selection of two sectoral case studies. 6 months.

WP D: case studies and evaluation.

Each research unit will interview at least 2 key informants per case study, will carry out 1 focus group per case study, and will collect quantitative data on service recipients and on union membership. **10 months.**

WP E: dissemination strategy.

Variety of both traditional and innovative communication tools: Project website; 5 country reports; 1 overall comparative report; 1 final report addressed to the European Commission; 4 newsletters; 5 policy briefs; 4 videos; infographics; the national "policy labs"; the final conference. **18 months.** *(see also deliverables...)*



The Project will last **24 months**; it has been started the **1**st **of March 2019** and will end on **28**th **February 2021.**

The **Workplan** of the Project is sub-divided in the following main phases and related activities.

Phase I

1st of March 2019 - Start of the Project

March-April (2019) Preliminary set up of research tools (WP A)

- Research assistants will be recruited.

23rd and 24th April 2019 - Kick-off meeting with the Project partners, in Fiesole, Firenze (Italy), Cisl National Study Center (WP A).



Phase I (continue...)

April - June (2019) - Collection of general information on national industrial relation systems (WP B)

Desk research on membership trends of main national trade unions (WPB)

Collection of information on labor market occupational structures.

21st of May 2019 - Participation at the Commission's Networking day in Brussels (WP E)

May – August (2019) - Drafts of the part of country reports on industrial relations systems (WP B)

The draft of the part of the overall comparative report on industrial relations systems will be delivered (WP B)

Launch of the Project website and of social network profiles (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube, etc.) (WPE)



Phase II

Beginning of September (2019) - Skype conference call with the Project partners (WPA)

End of September (2019) - Release of the first newsletter (WP E)

September – End of December (2019) - Interviews addressed to peak-level key informants (WPC)

- Desk analysis on innovative services provided by trade unions (WPC)

Beginning of February (2020) - Two-day coordination meeting with the Project partners, to be held in Barcelona (Spain) (WPA)

- Case studies selection (WPC)
- Set up of all the **research tools** (WPA)

End of February (2020) - Release of the second newsletter (WP E)



Phase III

January – March (2020) - Case studies (interviews, collection of quantitative data on service users and on union membership) (WPD)

- Translation of the web survey questionnaire in BreakBack countries' national languages (WPD)
- Collection of e-mail addresses to be used in the **web survey** (WPD)
- Design of the web survey (WPD)
- April (2020) Skype conference call with the Project partners (WPA)
- April July (2020) Sampling and implementation of the web survey to service beneficiaries
- Realization of focus groups (WPD)

Beginning of September (2020) - Two-days coordination meeting with the Project partners, to be held in Copenhagen (Denmark) (WPA)



Phase III (continue...)

September – October (2020) - **National "policy labs"** with industrial relations experts and practitioners

- Drafts of the part of **country reports** on the **impact of unionisation through service provision** on union membership will be delivered (WP D)

November (2020) - Release of the third newsletter (WP E)

December (2020) – January (2021) - Final version of the **country reports** (WP B, D);

- **DSPS-UNIFI and CISL** will deliver the draft of the part of the **overall comparative report** on the impact of unionisation through service provision on union membership (WPE)
- Infographics on research results (WP E)

January (2021) - Two-day coordination meeting with the Project partners, Firenze (Italy) (WPA)



Phase IV

February (2021)

- Final conference of the Project, to be held in Florence, dissemination of videos and infographics (WP E)
- The final version of the **overall comparative report** will be delivered (WPE) -The **final report** will be addressed to the European Commission and will be delivered (print copies and e-formats) (WP A)
- Release of the **5 policy briefs** and of the **fourth newsletter**
- **End** of the project



Action Events (Summary)

Venue Type of event

Florence KICK OFF MEETING

Bruxelles NETWORKING DAY

Barcelona FIRST COORDINATION MEETING

Copenhagen SECOND COORDINATION MEETING

Florence/Rome NATIONAL POLICY LAB

Copenhagen NATIONAL POLICY LAB

Barcelona NATIONAL POLICY LAB

Bruxelles NATIONAL POLICY LAB

Vilnius NATIONAL POLICY LAB

Florence THIRD COORDINATION MEETING

Florence FINAL CONFERENCE



Lead applicant (CISL)

- Coordination and monitoring of co-applicants and project activities
- Organisation of the kick-off meeting and of a coordination meeting
- Participation in the networking day in Brussels
- Translation and editing of all Project outputs
- Coordination of the definition of research methods and set-up of research tools (with DSPS-UNIFI)
- Coordination of the desk research performed by co-applicants on industrial relations systems, union membership and occupational structures
- Draft and editing of the part of the overall comparative report on industrial relations systems
- Coordination of the selection of case studies (with DSPS-UNIFI)
- Support to DSPS-UNIFI in choosing the peak-level key informants to be interviewed for the Italian case

Lead applicant (CISL)



- Coordination of WP D (case studies and evaluation) and support to the partners in their fieldwork activities
- Use of specialist networks (e.g. the TURI network) to increase the commitment of the trade unions selected as case studies
- Coordination of the partners in the organisation of their national "policy labs", in the form of workshops involving national experts and practitioners
- Coordination of all dissemination activities
- Creation of the Project website and of dedicated profiles on the most relevant social media
- Creation of a mailing list based on the TURI network, but not only, through which spreading information on Project activities and results
- Draft and editing of newsletters
- Coordination of the draft and editing of the main deliverables (overall comparative report, final report for the European Commission, policy briefs, videos, infographics)
- Organisation of the final conference (with DSPS-UNIFI)

Co-applicants

- Common tasks (DIESIS, Belgium; DSPS-UNIFI, Italy; FAOS, Denmark; LSRC, Lithuania; UAB, Spain)
- Desk research on the national industrial relations system, union membership and occupational structure
- Realization of interviews with peak-level key informants
- Desk analysis on the innovative services provided by trade unions
- Selection of case studies for unionisation through service provision
- Realization of case studies on innovative services provided by two sectoral trade unions (interviews with key informants, focus groups, and collection of data on service users and trade union membership)
- Organisation of a national "policy lab", in the form of a workshop involving a selected audience
- Draft of a country report on the impact of unionisation through service provision on union membership
- Support to the applicant in the draft of main deliverables (overall comparative report, final report for the European Commission, policy briefs)

Co-applicants

Specific tasks (FAOS, Denmark; DIESIS, Belgium; LSRC, Lithuania; UAB, Spain)

- Translation of the web survey questionnaire in the national language
- Collection of e-mail addresses to be used in the web survey

Specific tasks (FAOS, Denmark; UAB, Spain)

- Organization of a coordination meeting each

Specific tasks (DSPS-UNIFI, Italy)

- Coordination of the definition of research methods and set-up of research tools (with CISL)
- Coordination of the selection of case studies (with CISL)
- Design and implementation of a web survey on the beneficiaries of union services
- Organisation of the final conference (with CISL)

Affiliated organization (Fondazione Ezio Tarantelli – Italy)

- Support to CISL and DSPS-UNIFI in the set-up of research tools
- Support to CISL in the coordination of WP D (case studies and evaluation) and support to the partners in their fieldwork activities
- Organisation of a national "policy lab", in the form of a workshop involving a selected audience (with DSPS-UNIFI)

Associated organization (European Trade Union Confederation)

- Participation in the main Project events and meetings
- Involvement of the affiliated national trade unions in the relevant actions of the Project
- Dissemination of Project findings among the affiliates

Project Deliverables

- 5 country reports;
- 1 overall comparative report;
- 1 final report addressed to the European Commission including the main project results and the description of the study cases (in English; 80 pages);
- 5 summaries of the final report in the languages of the countries included in the project (20 pages);
- 4 newsletters. These will highlight key results and activities;
- 5 policy briefs. These will convey the key points of research findings in a language readily accessible to non-academic readers, professionals and policy makers;
- 4 videos and several infographics. These would disseminate the Project results to a wider audience;
- Minutes of the 4 project meetings. Involving the Project partners;
- *The Project website.* The website will be dedicated to the Project, where data, reports, policy briefs, videos, infographics and are materials of potential interest for the Project beneficiaries will be uploaded.



Collective protection: CISL choice for self-employed workers protection and representation

Vivace is an indipendent association developed within CISL. It expresses the unique needs of the self-employed, non-business world.

In the era of disintermediation, trade unions still have an important role to play... www.vivaceonline.it



