

ETUC contribution to CCMC campaign #standards4services

We are working for better internships in Europe!

The CEN Workshop Agreement on a European Quality Framework for Internships, developed with trade union involvement, will soon contribute in improving – young – professionals’ working conditions across Europe.

Quality internships play an essential role in the transition of young people into the labour market, as the experience can help them acquire new work-related and transversal skills, which are in turn positively assessed by employers at the time of hiring. Yet the evidence gathered by researchers and trade unionists has proven that these internships often fall short of guaranteeing quality conditions and the professional development of interns.

Over the last 10 months, the Slovenian trade union “Mladi Plus” (“Youth Plus”) as well as trade unions from Malta, Belgium, and Italy have contributed, in cooperation with the ETUC, to the shaping of a new pre-standard for a European Quality Framework for Internships, which will formally have the status of a CEN/Workshop Agreement. The project mainly aims at providing best practices and to ensure quality working conditions for young interns across Europe. It is financially supported by the European Commission through the SPRINT project.

Mrs. Tea Jarc, president of Mladi Plus and member of the ETUC Youth Committee, has highlighted that: *“Young people deserve quality internships and decent work. Internships present an important step in transition from education to employment and should therefore provide a quality and meaningful experience for young people in gaining practical working experience. Within the project we have conducted a research on existing national legislation and realised there is a lack of national legislation, collective agreements or quality frameworks in this area. Alongside many initiatives raised at the European level, this pre-standard will represent an important framework for employers on how to ensure quality internships for young people and will hopefully raise their motivation to improve their practices. This pre-standard can be used as a soft approach for improving internships, raising awareness among employers about its importance and will hopefully be as well an important step for providing legislative frameworks in the future.”*

The draft pre-standard, currently out for comments until 31 October, is an example of how the participation of trade unions in standardization can contribute in improving the working conditions of young workers across Europe.

About the ETUC STAND

The **ETUC** is the voice of workers and represents 45 million members from 90 trade union organisations in 38 European countries, plus 10 European Trade Union Federations.

ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation, launched the **ETUC STAND** project to strengthen the workers' voice in standardization to ensure standards promote high-quality working conditions. The ETUC STAND project has been launched in 2015 with the financial support of the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

The aim of this project is to ensure that the EU is not just a single market for goods and services, but also a Social Europe, where improving the wellbeing of workers and their families is an equally important priority. The ETUC defend fundamental social values such as solidarity, equality, democracy, social justice and cohesion.