

Report on the Project Meeting in Sofia

„The economic crisis impact on industrial relations national systems: policy responses as key recovery tools“

In the period 23-26 February 2012 The Centre for Economic Development in Sofia (CED) organized a meeting of all partners participating in implementation of the project „The economic crisis impact on industrial relations national systems: policy responses as key recovery tools“, financed by the European Commission, DG for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion. The purpose of this meeting was to agree on the research methodology, topics and monitoring and evaluation indicators.

The meeting moderated by Mr. George Prohaski from the CED initiated with each of the six partners presenting the state of industrial relations in their own countries. Presentations were submitted by: Dr. Lyuben Tomev from the ISTUR trade union (Bulgaria); Kerly Espenberg, University of Tartu (Estonia), Dr. Sibel Güven, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey – TEPAV (Turkey); Dr. Marija Risteska, Centre for Research and Policy Making – CRPM (FYR Macedonia), Dr. Hrvoje Butković – Institute for International Relations – IMO (Croatia) and Dominik Owczarek, Institute of Public Affairs – ISP (Poland).

Second part of the meeting had on the agenda determining content of the national reports on industrial relations systems in participating countries. The goal of these reports is to make an overview of the main trends and development of relationships between employers and trade unions after the outbreak of economic crisis in 2008. It was determined that methodologically the research done for the purpose of national reports should be composed of 60 per cent desk research and 40 pre cent field research (mainly through the questionnaires). Titles of three chapters and 15 sub chapters in the national reports have also been determined.

The meeting determined a detailed project implementation plan consisting of: national research field work (through specifically designed questionnaires); organization of national debates with the main actors of industrial relations systems in respective countries; composition and publishing of the national reports on industrial relations in the times of crisis; translation and publishing of parts of the EC 2010 report on industrial relations; organization of national press conferences on research results; regular updating of the web content; participation in the study trip to Brussels; making of a video material on the project; and participation at the final conference in Sofia.