UNI Europa Project

“Shaping the Future of Work in a Digitalised Services Industry through Social Dialogue”

1st Thematic Workshop on the Role of Collective Bargaining and Social Dialogue on behalf of Self-Employed Workers

Working Paper

Workshop objectives:

The focus of this workshop is to exchange good practices of trade unions as regards collective bargaining (CB) and social dialogue (SD) on behalf of self-employed workers. It will also help identify future strategies at national and European level to further strengthen the role of trade unions in representing self-employed workers and in improving their working conditions.

Three working groups will discuss the issue of CB and SD on behalf of self-employed workers from different angles with the aim to provide the UNI Europa Congress 2020 with policy-oriented guidelines reflecting a holistic approach on this important issue.

Group 1: Exchange of good practices: Defining the target group of trade union action

- Which group of self-employed workers are targeted by trade unions through CB and SD?
- How do unions proceed to include self-employed workers in CB and SD? What are the challenges and how do unions overcome them?
- Which self-employed workers in the platform economy are targeted?

Group 2: Exchange of good practices: Improving working conditions of self-employed workers

- On what areas do trade unions focus in CB and SD to improve the working conditions of self-employed workers (e.g. working time, health and safety, gender equality, etc.)?
- What are the challenges and how do trade unions overcome them?
- How do trade unions address the challenge of competition law restricting the rights of unions to collectively bargain on behalf of self-employed workers?

Group 3: Future trade unions strategies for CB and SD on behalf of self-employed workers

- What steps are needed to further enhance CB and SD on behalf of self-employed workers?
- How can trade unions better reach out to self-employed workers?
- Is there any specific approach needed for platform workers?