



**GLU**

2010/2011 : a short retrospective and outlook on our work.

Thanks to the support and commitment of many colleagues, the GLU continues to grow and explores new avenues to broaden its activities. The **Masters programs on Labour and Globalisation** in Brazil, India, South Africa and Germany remain the core activity of the GLU. They offer a unique international study and research environment for trade unionists. In addition, the colleagues in Kassel and Berlin successful launched together with Inwent the new short term **Engage** program. The Engage program provided us with the opportunity to develop policy focused qualification programs in close cooperation with the Global Unions and national trade union centers.



Sharing the burden (!) Shaping the Future (?) was the theme of this year's **GLU conference** that was hosted by the colleagues in Berlin. It brought more than 200 trade unionists and researcher from over 50 countries together to analyze the crisis and to debate policies for change beyond burden sharing.



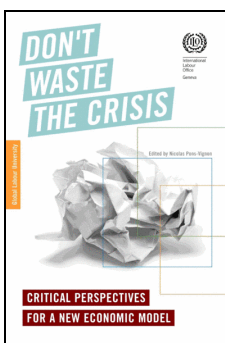
While this crisis is a classical capitalist crisis, it doesn't look like a crisis of capitalism. The anger and frustration of millions of people has by and large not translated into sufficient political power for genuine change. Vague change rhetoric of political leaders is not followed by any substantial policy decisions, but rather disguises how little has changed.

Without mobilizing and challenging the power of the few, no lessons will be learned from this crisis. That is why next

year's **GLU conference in Johannesburg** will look at initiatives and movements that promote a development agenda that is driven by the needs and preferences of society at large instead of being shaped by the narrow logic of profit maximization.

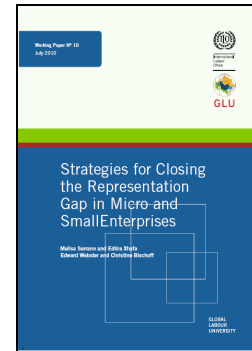


The growing number of GLU Alumni who are back in their trade unions or otherwise active in the labour field are a key pillar of the GLU. The **Alumni Summer School** has become a regular annual event to strengthen the network and to develop research cooperation projects on minimum wages, international framework agreements, fair global sport games, domestic workers, social protection, gender and trade unions, and alternatives beyond capitalism. The projects are coordinated by scholars from the partner universities, but also by GLU Alumni, or GLU partners from Cardiff University and Ruskin College. Starting in 2011 the Alumni Summer School will rotate between the four countries and alumni will meet in South Africa next year.



Since November 2009 The **Global Labour Column** is edited and published on a weekly basis by our friends from the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. The short and focused articles are highly appreciated by many trade unionists and academic scholars as a valuable contribution to a much needed debate about progressive responses to the global crisis and the future of labour. Once a year, the Columns are published as a joint ILO/GLU book.

Since July 2010, the GLU working papers are jointly published by the GLU and the ILO. They provide an opportunity to publish work done by the alumni research teams and by colleagues from the partner universities.



Two publications on the economics and the enforcement of minimum wages and a working paper on “alternatives beyond capitalism” are forthcoming in the new year.

The Brazilian colleagues hosted the first annual research conference of the **International Center for Decent Work and Development (ICDD)** on ‘**Labour Migration and Decent Work: Challenges and Opportunities**’. Furthermore the cooperation between the GLU and the ICDD has stimulated a number of new research projects focusing on

- ❖ The Employment Challenge: Towards a Trade and Currency Regime for Decent Work
- ❖ On the Political Economy of Labour Market and Social Reforms in Latin America
- ❖ Strategies of Empowerment of (Migrant) Domestic Workers

“**Development Trajectories: India and South Africa**” is a comparative research project of colleagues from India and South Africa. The Tata Institute hosted a joint work shop to assess new initiatives in the field of social security and public works schemes in the two countries. The Indian and South African partners plan to invite the Brazilian colleagues to join this South-South cooperation project as these three countries have all pioneered new large scale cash transfer and public works program to extent social protection coverage to the poor.

Needless to say, none of this would be possible without the financial support from the German Ministry for Development Cooperation, the FES, the OBS, the HBS, UNI, PSI, IILS , DAAD, Inwent, the ILO African office and ACTRAV.

Finally, maintaining our many existing activities and putting new ideas into practice constantly overstretches our administrative (and financial) capacity, which has sometimes created delays and frustration. But by and large, these growth problems seem to be greatly preferable to stagnating routine or efficient downsizing. 😊

Particular thanks to the GLU coordinators for their tireless efforts and dedication to ensuring the smooth implementation of these many GLU activities.

