

Minutes GLU International Steering Committee Meeting 15.09.2007 in Kassel

The Steering Committee was attended by the members of the Steering Committee and a number of guests. A list of participants is attached. (attachment 1)

1. Presentation of the Master Programme on Labour and Globalisation of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences by Sharit Bhowmik.

Prof. Sharit Bhowmik gave a presentation about the plan to establish a GLU programme at the Tata Institute for Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai in 2008 <http://www.tiss.edu> . The TISS has started this year a Master programme on Globalisation and Labour. This is a newly developed programme that was launched for the first time in 2007 to test the demand. They got 90 applications and took on 10 students for the course. TISS is interested to develop this programme further into an international GLU programme in 2008. The special focus of the programme will be on the challenge of securing basic social and employment rights for informal economy workers.

Following earlier consultations with INTUC, HMS and SEWA the TISS will, in cooperation with ILO and the Indian office of the FES, organise by the end of the year a follow up workshop with Indian Trade Unions in Mumbai to discuss the concept and structure of the Programme and also elaborate the best form of continuous involvement of the labour movement in the programme. Given the complexity of the trade union situation this will be open to all interested Indian trade unions.

To develop the cooperation further Prof. Bhowmik also participated in the GLU Summer School and gave a presentation on the challenges of the informal economy in India. Prof. Scherrer and Frank Hoffer will give some guest lectures at the 2007/2008 course at TISS. TISS is considering of sending a junior researcher to Kassel University later this year.

2. Update on Programme implementation in SA, Germany and Brazil

A) South Africa

Prof. Webster reported on the development in South Africa. The Pilot course in South Africa has been going successfully. The students are currently working on their theses and he is cautiously optimistic that all of them will finish the course successfully. Consultations with COSATU underlined the need for a bridging programme (Honours Degree) to enable more students to enter a masters programme as many trade unionists had only very little access to education during the apartheid period. One problem has been that qualified applications for the course so far have been mainly from African countries. The aim of the 2008 course is to double the number of participants to twelve.

In close cooperation with COSATU the programme was able to mobilise domestic resources for a number of scholarships for South African participants and a part time programme coordinator.

B) Germany

The German programme just welcomed the fourth intake of 20 students from 19 countries. In addition to the Masters programme, a Ph.D school of Global Social Policies and Governance was established. For the first time the University, supported by the German Academic Exchange Service and the ILO, organised a GLU Alumni summer school. 32 out of 45 Alumni joined the summer school. With one exception they are all involved either as researchers or as trade union officials in the trade union movement.

The German Trade Unions and the FES strongly support the programme politically. The FES, the Böckler Foundation and the Otto Brenner Foundation provide financial support for scholarships and programme implementation.

While more than hundred trade unionist applied for the course, the programme has so far attracted very few applications from other western European countries. One reason might be that the programme is not offering scholarships for applicants from industrialised countries. The other might be the length of time. Therefore the German universities suggested that they will explore the possibility of a three month post-graduate course for trade union experts and leaders. They will apply for funding from the German Academic Exchange Service.

C) Brazil

The Brazilian Programme will start in 2008. It is planned to start with a small number of students. The deadline for applications is the 1st of October. Until now the number of applicants has been small and the programme did not get applications from Latin America. José Celestino Lourenço from the CUT raised the issue that university admission rules create barriers for Brazilians to apply. It was stressed in discussion that it is essential for the success of the programme that it is open for Brazilian applicants, in particular from the trade union movement.

Three students from the German programme are planning to study one semester in Brazil. These will be the first cases of student exchange within the GLU programmes.

3. Potential cooperation with other partners

A) Ruskin College

Christoph Scherrer and Frank Hoffer had visited Ruskin College in June 2007 as Ruskin is currently offering a part time MA on International Labour & Trade Unions Studies and is planning to launch, in addition, a full time course. The meeting resulted in the understanding that there is a potential mutual interest in cooperation and Sue Ledwith from Ruskin College was invited to present the programme at the International Steering Committee and to participate in the GLU summer school to get an impression of the GLU network.

Ruskin College has developed a part time course on International Labour and Trade Union Studies (http://www.ruskin.ac.uk/courses/page.php?course_id=22)

Ruskin College is a recognised higher education institute and has a long tradition in trade union education at national and international level. It has good relations with the British TUC, has educational partnerships with UK trade unions, and is also developing a leadership programme with non-EU eastern European trade unionists. As a comparatively small institution with long experience in recognizing prior learning, Ruskin College has a higher degree of flexibility in admitting students than many other universities. The College has also possibilities to provide some scholarships for foreign students.

Ruskin has handed in its new proposal for a full time masters programme on Labour and Globalisation to the higher education authorities for approval. The programme is scheduled to start in autumn 2008. Guest teaching by 'visiting fellows' from the GLU network or exchange teaching-relations would be good opportunities to explore the possibilities of further cooperation. A participation from colleagues from Ruskin at the GLU conference in Brazil would also open the possibility for further networking and discussing the potential for cooperation within the GLU network.

B) McMaster (Canada)

Frank Hoffer reported that Charlotte Yates reiterated her commitment in trying to get a GLU programme developed in Canada. She will be relieved from a lot of administrative work at the university in 2008 and was cautiously optimistic that she would have the necessary time for programme development and resource mobilisation in 2008/2009.

4. Letter of Intent

The draft letter of intent (attachment 2) was circulated in advance and no further amendments were suggested.

5. GLU conference 2008

The Brazilian Partners reported on the preparation of the GLU conference from the 28-30th of April in Campinas. They are planning to give more room for discussions and have a smaller number of papers. They expect approximately 40 foreign participants. The conference will be bilingual to allow more participation from Latin America. It was agreed to resend the call for papers in three languages. The deadline for applications is the first of November.

6. GLU Research initiatives

During the GLU summer school three ideas for further research cooperation were developed:

- Closing the representational gap in Micro- and Small Enterprises (Team leader: Edward Webster)
- Policy advocacy at national level for a labour perspective on global governance (Team leader: Christoph Scherrer)
- Research support for global campaigns for decent work related to major sport events like the Soccer World Cup in SA or the 2012 Olympics in London. Further consultation with ITGWLF and BWI are foreseen. (Team leader: Steve Davies)

7. Resource mobilisation

It was agreed that all partners will look into additional resource mobilisation as the network will only be sustainable if there is a variety of funding sources. The joint 'Letter of Intent' will be helpful for the different project partners to approach donor or governments in their home countries to get co-funding for international activities.

Given the growth of the GLU network and the number of programmes, it was agreed that a small international secretariat that does the technical coordination and would also engage in professional fund-raising would be desirable to ensure a good information flow and support joint resource mobilisation.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation of the GLU

The GLU has been successful in attracting students from all over the world. In the light of the extension of the programme to different places and the need to reflect on the practical experiences in implementing the courses and other network activities, it was agreed to put a more systematic monitoring and evaluation process in place. Mike Waghorne kindly agreed to the request that he will monitor and evaluate the programme from a labour perspective from 2007 – 2009.