

## **Decent Work for Youth—Lost in Globalisation?**

### **Open Space on the occasion of the World Day for Decent Work 2011**

**Berlin, 6–7 October 2011**

Jobs are no longer a guarantee for the livelihood of our future generations. The number of young people working in precarious employment relationships is growing, and the number of workers in the informal economy and in contractual employment relationships is on the rise worldwide. More than an estimated 150 million young people in developing countries fall under the category of the *working poor*, meaning that they live in extreme poverty despite having a job. Even academic education does not assure decent work: highly qualified young people around the globe have to accept underpaid jobs in order to have any income at all.

Youth unemployment has been steadily rising for more than a decade. During the global economic and financial crisis, unemployment figures increased by more than 20 million people. Young people were particularly hit by the consequences of the crisis: at the end of 2009, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) announced that a record number of 81 million young people, aged fifteen to twenty-four, were unemployed. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has alarmingly called the current youth a “lost generation.” Without a global political change that focuses on decent employment, societies are doomed to severe crises.

Young people in Tunisia, Egypt, Spain, and in other countries around the world have shown their willingness to take action to enforce political change. Without significant changes to give them opportunities to earn a decent living, there will be more social and political unrest on the horizon. The International Open Space aims to provide a forum for young activists from trade unions and other organisations from the North and the South to develop ideas on how to relieve the job crisis and formulate concrete demands for action on the national and global level.

What will employment look like in the future? What are socially and ecologically sustainable policy alternatives? How can the young people worldwide mobilise and voice their interests? How can they reach policy makers?

The German Confederation of Trade Union’s youth organisation (DGB Jugend) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) hope to contribute to channelling young people’s interests in the current political debates and build new foundations for decent work together. DGB Jugend and FES are jointly organising an International Open Space and a public debate to support this aim. Furthermore, street campaigns by the DGB will raise public awareness for the issue on 7 October, the World Day of Decent Work.

## ***International Open Space: Decent Work for Youth***

Venue: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Hiroshimastraße 17, 10785 Berlin

**Participants:** approx. eighty people from Germany, South-East Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin-America, Middle East/North Africa

- representatives of trade union youth organisations / Youth Secretaries of trade unions
- representatives of workers' organisations in the informal sector
- representatives of Ministries of Labour
- representatives of trade union-affiliated think tanks / foundations
- political decision-makers (in the field of labour market policies) from industrialised countries, countries in transition, and developing countries
- representatives of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- representatives of Global Union Federations (GUFs)
- YEN—ILO's Youth Employment Network
- a delegation of ITUC PERC SEE (South-East Europe) Youth

**Language:** English

**Facilitated** by Jo Töpfer, boscop eg

## ***Public Debate: Let's Get Moving for Decent Work***

Venue: Warte, Umspannwerk Kreuzberg, Ohlauer Straße 43, 10999 Berlin

Youth around the world are standing up for decent work, democracy, and equal opportunities for everybody. This event aims to make their demands public and point out the different ways in which young people around the world manifest their political, economic, and social claims. Four representatives—trade unionists, bloggers, and political activists—from four continents are invited to discuss how these claims should be promoted by various stakeholders and implemented by governments. The “Fishbowl” method ensures an interactive and participatory discussion that involves the audience in the debates.

**Participants:** approx. 150 people

- participants of the International Open Space
- young politically interested and active people / public

**Extras:** Theatrical Interlude

**Languages:** English / German / Spanish / French

## **Programme**

Thursday, 6 October 2011

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### ***International Open Space: Decent Work for Youth—Lost in Globalisation?***

- 09:30 am Welcome address  
Christiane Kesper, Head of the International Development Cooperation Division at Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
- 09:45 am **Launching the International Open Space  
Decent Work for Youth—Lost in Globalisation?**
- Introduction into the Open Space method
  - Working groups
- 12:30 pm Lunch break
- 02:00 pm Open Space to continue
- 04:00 pm Snack
- 06:00 pm Transfer with public transportation to the evening event venue

### ***Public Debate: Let's Get Moving for Decent Work***

- 07:00 pm Theatrical Interlude
- 07:15 pm Welcome address  
Jochen Steinhilber, Head of the Global Policy and Development Department at Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
- 07:30 pm **Fishbowl Discussion with DGB and international guests from Tunisia, Spain, Latin America**
- Facilitator:**  
Wolf-Christian Ulrich, ZDF log in
- 09:30 pm End of evening event followed by reception

## Friday, 7 October 2011

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09:00 am      Open Space continued

Venue: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung  
Action plans and evaluation

12:30 pm      End of International Open Space

Followed by lunch

Afternoon      Public campaign organised by DGB Jugend on the World Day for Decent Work