

5. Outline for Papers

In view of comparability each paper should refer to the following framework for general orientation. Overall length: (10pp for the conference paper / around 22 pp or 65.000 characters (including space characters) for the publication)

I. National Context (4 pp / 8 pp)

General Profiles

Short overview about the general historical and political evolution of “your” country. Short draft of important historical breaks and turning points in the national history after Second World War. In view of Eastern Europe trade unions it is important to outline the historical evolution of the national trade unions from the beginning of the 20th century along the phase of communism up to the transition phase. Short overview of the historical evolution of industrial relations and the influence of trade unions on national politics. Please, refer critically to the industrial relations “type” which is dominant in your country relating to following heuristic types:

- Nordic Corporatism: mixed economy, consociational democracy, state as a mediator, low rate of labour-related conflicts
- Continental European social partnership: social market economy, consociational democracy, state “shares” public space, collective bargaining autonomy and mutual cooperation, low rate of labour-related conflicts
- Anglo-Saxony Pluralism: market economy, rule of majority, non interceding state, low rate of labour-related conflicts
- Romanic Polarization: deregulated economy with significant influence of state, political system dominated by a polarized pluralism, interceding state, conflictive bargaining, high rate of labour-related conflicts
- Eastern Europe type: It has to be discussed if there is one special – or several – Eastern Europe type(s)

Structures of Trade Union “System”

Structure of trade union system and internal organisation of the most important trade unions in “your” country including basic political involvement, both from a historical perspective and in view of the current dimension. Please, refer to the following points if relevant:

- Evolution of working class structures and proportion of employees organized in trade unions in a long-term perspective and membership structures
- Quality and quantity of industrial conflicts until the present

- Industrial relations (freedom of strike, mediation on strikes and disputes, system of works councils or representation by trade unions in enterprises); Employment framework (Minimum working age, labour time, annual (paid) leave)
- Conflicts between different trade unions or existence of a strong “umbrella” organization (trade union pluralism vs. unity)
- Ideological (and religious) influences in the evolution of trade unions. Strong polarisation vs. consociational cooperation in long-term perspective?
- Political conditions and cooperation with “state-actors” in a long-term-perspective. Changes in tripartism or in the relationship between politics and trade unions in general
- In countries with former totalitarian systems: Significant aspects of the relationship between state and leading trade unions during transition phase
- Former and current collective wage politics: Collective bargaining rights or dominance of regional, local or individual collective wage systems?

Policies

Articulation of general demands by trade unions, political influence in historical perspective and responses to „new challenges“ in the present (e.g. deregulation and internationalization of labour markets, attitudes towards privatisation of former state-owned enterprises, decline of trade union member rates, relation to political parties, dumping salaries, etc.).

II. Trade unions and European integration (5pp / 14 pp)

Profiles

Description and evaluation of reactions of national trade unions to the foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1952, the formation of a European Economic Community (Treaties of Rome) in 1958 and the Treaty on the European Union and its amendments in the 1990s.

For trade unions in Eastern Europe it is important to outline the historical evolution of the international cooperation within the communist block and the efforts for participation. Description of historical breaks in the international context. After that, outlining of the most crucial aspects in the transition and accession phase.

Structures

In-depth-analysis of national trade union organisation(s) in relation to European policies, both from historical and current points of view, referring to the following aspects:

- Capacities and resources for European politics from the 1950s until today. Concerning the analysis of former communist countries: the investigation should start from the collapse of the system in the 1980s and the beginning of an explicit European integration policy

- Representation at the seat of European institutions

Transnational interaction and reference to the debate whether the foundation of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) has encouraged the engagement of trade unions at the European level

- Attitude towards the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- Channels and ways of articulation political demands
- Cooperation at the European level with other partners
- Evaluation of continuities and historical breaks in the European related structures of national trade unions

Aims and Policies

- Political aims and intentions of national trade unions related to European issues
- Positions of trade unions in view of issues with European relevance
- Particular conflicts between trade unions from different countries about their common politics vis-à-vis the European area

The analysis of trade unionism at the European level in former communist states should begin with the transition phase.

III. Results and prospects for the future (1-2 pp / 3-4 pp)

Please, sum up your key results in view of historical developments, changes and turning points. Refer as well to the three hypotheses (see for details “General Outline”)

IV. Selected Bibliography

Please list up to fifteen titles considered of special importance for your contribution.