

2015 CEE Round Table

Bucharest 19-21 October

Social dialogue:
Can it have an effective impact on
education policy making?

Alexandra Rüdig-Ironside
Coordinator Social Dialogue,
Trade Unions & Human Rights, Working Conditions

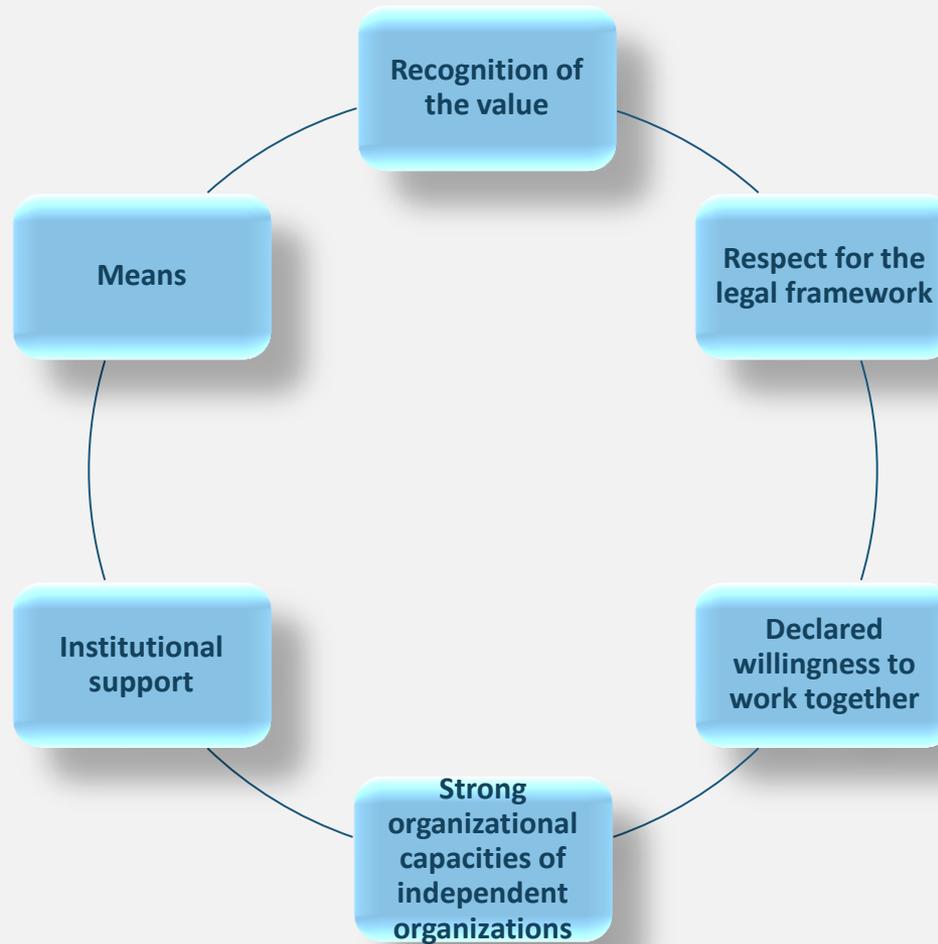


Social dialogue as a process



- Social dialogue always highly topical
- From industrialization to globalization
- At European level: under construction
 - At national level: under strain

Preconditions for successful social dialogue



Social dialogue is underpinned by:

1. The International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s conventions:

- Freedom of association (Convention N°87)
- Right to organize and bargain collectively (Conventions 98 & 154)
- Labour administration and labour inspection (Conventions 81 and 150 and related Recommendations)

2. The European Treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU):

- based on Articles 154 and 155 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

3. National law in each European country

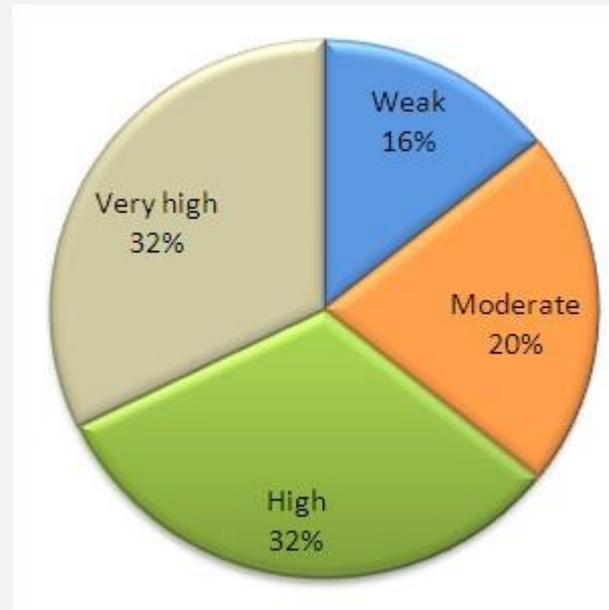


Social dialogue situation in Europe

- Very diverse already in the EU 28
 - Different traditions and experiences
 - Capacities at different level of strengths
 - Role in public policy making
 - Role of the state in industrial relations
 - Economic and financial crisis has had different impact on each country
- Very different outcomes in terms of collective agreements and policy making (social, employment, sectoral)



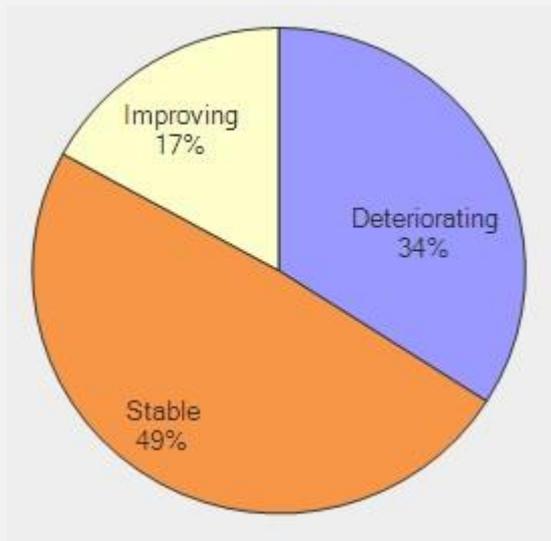
How would you assess the importance given to the trade unions' role in the organisation of the social dialogue in the education sector?



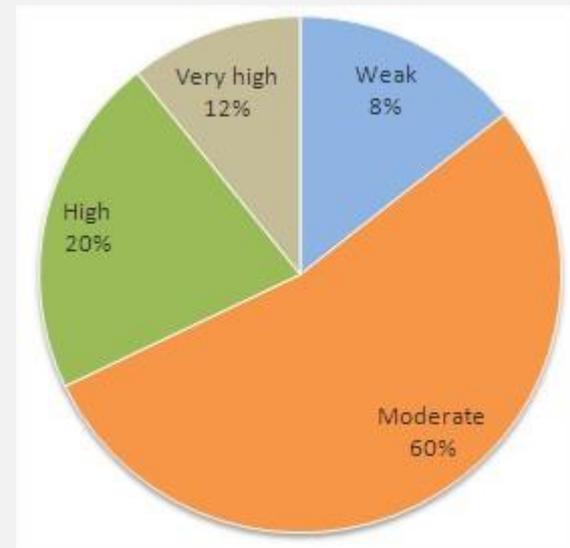
“Promoting the potentials of the European sectoral social dialogue in education by addressing new challenges and exploring experience and knowledge”, An ETUCE led ESSDE Project, December 2014



In the last 2 years, this level of integration can be considered as:



How would you rate the level of cooperation between trade unions and employers' organisations involved in the social dialogue on education?



"Promoting the potentials of the European sectoral social dialogue in education by addressing new challenges and exploring experience and knowledge", An ETUCE led ESSDE Project, December 2014



In the coming years, which topics do you expect to be addressed upon within the European Sectoral Social Dialogue?

Ranking	Topic
1	Employment
2	Remuneration and social protection
3	Job security
4	Quality of education
5	Retirement
6	Impact of the economic crisis
7	Recruitment and retention
8	Professional development and training
9	Workers' participation and representation
10	Psychosocial risks at work (stress, violence and harassment)
11	Working hours
12	Equal opportunities
13	Content of educational programs
14	Job mobility
15	Work-life balance
16	Public/private development in education



“Promoting the potentials of the European sectoral social dialogue in education by addressing new challenges and exploring experience and knowledge”, An ETUCE led ESSDE Project, December 2014



New commitment to social dialogue at EU level



“I would like to be a President of social dialogue”

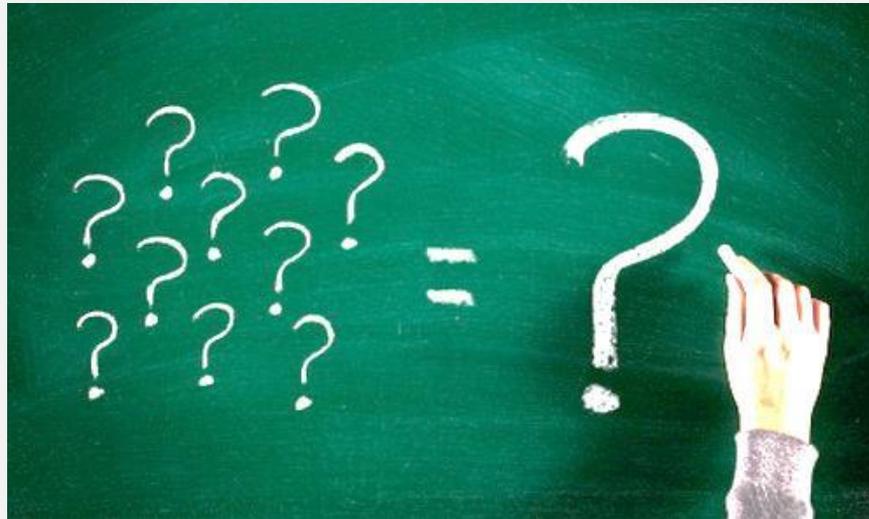
Jean-Claude Juncker,
President of the European Commission

*“The Commission has the duty to promote the role of social partners at EU level and facilitate dialogue between them. We want to give renewed substance to this duty. We are committed to enabling the social partners to **contribute to the cornerstones of the EU policy agenda**. Your contribution will be necessary to properly address the key challenges of our labour markets and economies.”*

Marianne Thyssen,
European Commissioner for Employment,
Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility.



What do we need to consider
when looking at
the interaction between the European
and national level social dialogue?



- According to article 6 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union – TFEU , the EU has got the competence to support, coordinate or supplement actions of the member states
 - Legally binding EU acts in these areas cannot imply the harmonisation of national laws or regulations!
 - Results do not commit the national social partners to anything



However:

- The ESSDE is an increasingly promising channel for lobbying of education policies at European level
- It enables the social partners to bring forward their opinions and interests on policies at EU level with impact on the education sector
- It enables the education social partner to influence policies of cross-sectoral nature which can become binding at national level
- The challenge about education policy making remains with the very impact on the situation in the member states which is essential:

The obstacles could be overcome if social partners at both sides of the recognized and added value and worked towards implementation of existing EU level policy documents



Possible questions for the debate:

- How can we strengthen our organisational capacities to improve social dialogue?
- Can you identify the added value of effective social dialogue and how could you promote it to your social partner?
- How can we raise public awareness for the need of improved social dialogue?
- What could be realistic next targets to achieve improved social dialogue?



Thank you for your kind attention!

