

# EUROMF EZA SEMINAR

## invitation & programme

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## **PROTECTION GAP FOR MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE EU**

*Focus on working and living conditions for migrant workers and their families*

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**BUCHAREST**  
**19 & 20 October 2017**

Organisation: Euromf vzw

Supported financially by the  
European Union



# INTRODUCTION

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Owing to the European unification we notice a continuously growing stream of labour migrants from low-wage countries to the richer countries of the EU.

This puts considerable pressure on pay and labour conditions and protection by social security in the host countries, resulting in quite some uncertainty and unrest, which in turn give cause for strong protest. As a result these issues are getting moved higher up on the European agenda.

But apart from these direct consequences there are lots of side effects that are less in the spotlights. For example, in the countries of origin a lot of professional and technical knowledge disappears, which slows down the local economic development. Families are being separated and children grow up without role models (Euro Orphans). Often, in the host countries systems of exploitation come into existence in the fields of housing, health care and payment of wages and compensations.

The aim of this project is to map all components that determine the life of a labour migrant and to use this to bring about an awareness in the social partners and the EU policy makers to approach this issue from a broader perspective than just taking some measures for equal pay and labour conditions. The side effects should be taken along in the further social dialogue.

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At the moment the core business of the labour unions is still too much and too exclusively aimed at pay and labour conditions and protection by social security. However, labour should be seen as a part of life as a whole, and should serve as a lever for the social and economic development of the employee (in this case, the labour migrant) and his or her family.

The accompanying measures are equally important to the pay and labour conditions.

With this project we want to present an overview of the various components that play a part, directly and indirectly, in the life of a labour migrant in the EU. These elements concern both pay and labour conditions and protection by social security, and the accompanying consequences resulting -not always voluntarily- from this choice.

In the course of the project, experiences from the working area, research results and results of ongoing talks, will be listed and exchanged, also between the various host countries and countries of origin.

Issues being attended to will certainly be pay and labour conditions, mechanisms of exploitation, protection by social security, housing, health and protection, family issues, loss of economic developing power, etc.

As regards the various project themes, we want to cooperate with academics, field workers and trade union activists from the broad labourer's movements.

A clarifying real-life example will be incorporated in the project.

During the seminar there will be ample time for participation and discussion in the plenary group. Discussion will take place in the plenary group because of the limited translation possibilities. We hope that discussion in the groups can lead to solutions, which we can present afterwards to the EU policymakers.

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# PROGRAMME

## Thursday, 19 October 2017

An analysis of working and living conditions of migrant workers in the EU

**9:30 a.m. Opening of the seminar: Pieter-Jan Mattheus (EUROMF chairman)**

**Video message by Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility**

**9:40 a.m. The challenges the unions see in relation to the subject of the seminar: Maria Mihaela DARLE (Head of Social Department CARTEL ALFA) (confirmed)**

**10:10 a.m. Plenary workshop: Participants are the experts. In this workshop we take time to learn more about all the participants (including speakers) of this seminar and more specific their expectations. Making of the Wall of Expectations.**

**11:10 a.m. Coffee break**

**11:25 a.m. Living conditions for labour migrants/truckers in Belgium by Coninx Dirk, Union of Construction and Industry and Erwin De bruyn (Stebo) (both confirmed)  
Q&A**

**12:40 p.m. Lunch break**

**1:45 p.m. Research results about labour migration in the EU by Johan Wets, researcher of HIVA-KULeuven (confirmed)  
Q&A**

**2:55 p.m. The impact of the crisis on Romanian migrants and on living conditions of labour migrants in the EU by Cristina Chert, Coordinator of TON, The Open Network for Community Development (confirmed)**

**4:00 p.m. Coffee Break**

**4:20 p.m. Plenary workshop: Working and living conditions of migrant workers in the EU (part 1). Step by step, using positive inquiry and solution focus, and based on the input of the speakers we look for suggestions for the EU policy makers. Guided by Mon Verrydt and Carien Neven.**

**5:20 p.m. Plenary workshop: Working and living conditions of migrant workers in EU (part 2). Based on the results of part 1 we draft our joint suggestions for the EU policy makers. Making of The Wall of Suggestions and confronting these with The Wall of Expectations.**

**6:00 p.m. End of the first day's programme.**

**7:00 p.m. Dinner outside the hotel.**

# PROGRAMME

## Friday, 20 October 2017

An analysis of the living conditions of the families involved

- 9:30 a.m. **Opening of the second day: Carien Neven (Euromf vzw and beweging.net Limburg)**
- 9:45 a.m. **Case - Euro Orphans in Latvia: Ilze Trapenciene (researcher at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia) (confirmed)  
Q&A**
- 10:45 a.m. **Coffee break**
- 11:00 a.m. **Case - Testimony of two young field experts (Romania): Lina Vdovii (investigative journalist) (confirmed)  
Q&A**
- 12:00 p.m. **Impact on children: Prof. Dr. Annik Lampo (Head of Departement Child and Youth Psychiatry) (confirmed)  
Q&A**
- 1:00 p.m. **Lunch break**
- 2:00 p.m. **An example of approach of children in Belgium: Dirk De Rijdt (co-worker ARKTOS vzw) (confirmed)  
Q&A**
- 3:00 p.m. **Plenary workshop: Living conditions of the families involved (part 1). Step by step, using positive inquiry and solution focus, and based on the input of the speakers we look for suggestions for the EU policy makers. Guided by Mon Verrydt and Carien Neven.**
- 4:00 p.m. **Coffee break**
- 4:15 p.m. **Plenary workshop: Living conditions of the families involved (part 2). Based on the results of part 1 we draft our joint suggestions for the EU policy makers. Making of The Wall of Suggestions and confronting these with The Wall of Expectations.**
- 5:00 p.m. **Romanian perspective on Social Pillar: Petru Sorin Dandea, Secretar General, Confederatia Nationala Sindicala CARTEL ALFA (confirmed)  
Exchanges between participants**
- 6:00 p.m. **End of the second day**
- 7:00 p.m. **Dinner in the historical center of Bucharest**

# INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

Languages	Simultaneous interpretation in Dutch, English and Romanian.
Venue	EURO Hotel, Bucharesti, Euro Hotels International
Address	Strada Gheorghe Polizu nr.4, Sector 1, Bucuresti
Phone	+40 21 317 99 71
Fax	+40 21 316 83 60
Email	reservations.grivita@euro-hotels.ro
Web address	<a href="http://www.euro-hotels.ro/gara-de-nord/">http://www.euro-hotels.ro/gara-de-nord/</a> <i>Euro International Hotels is situated diagonally opposite the North Train Station, directly opposite Ibis Hotel.</i>
Registration fee	The participation fee has been fixed to the amount of € 40,00 for participants from Eastern Europe € 100,00 for all other participants
Maximum refund transport cost	€ 300,00
Registration/ enrolment	Registrations before 10 October 2017: Email: <a href="mailto:euromf@euromf.be">euromf@euromf.be</a> Phone: +32 11 29 08 70

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