

Strengthening the links between the national and European Social Dialogue

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

- Social dialogue always highly topical
- At national level: **under strain**
- At European level: **under construction**
 - According to article 6 of the 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



New commitment to social dialogue at EU level

‘There is a direct correlation between the effectiveness of national social dialogue and effectiveness at European level’

(European Commission, 2010, New Start for SD, 27 June 2016)

- **European Pillar of Social Rights**, November 2017
- Certain key European social dialogue **instruments** can only be implemented with strong national social partner action
- Must take account of **diversity of Industrial Relations** structures



However:

- Key results: Involvement in the **European decision-making process**
 - 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
- Address social concerns, help develop **good and viable public policy**, help building consensus
- Bring **value to education** personnel in all sectors
- The challenge about education policy making remains with the very impact on the situation in the member states which is essential



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



Communication within the ESSDE: challenges

- **Information flow** and **priority setting** should be bottom up, as well as top down
- Dealing with the **diversity** of the education sector
 - Education levels: Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary, Vocational Education and Training, Higher Education and Research
 - Different professions
 - Specificity and multiplicity of education employers
- **Variety of industrial relations** structures at national level, different traditions and experiences in the EU28
- Role in **public policy making**
- **Economic and financial crisis** has had different impact on each country



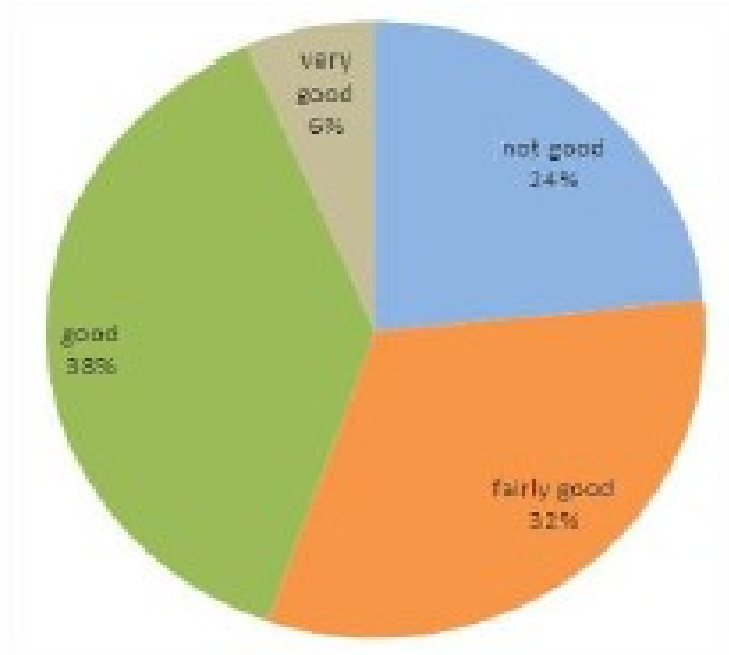
Factors influencing the effectiveness of links between the national and European level:

- Awareness of ESSDE work topics
- Buy-in and commitment
- Capacities at different level of strengths

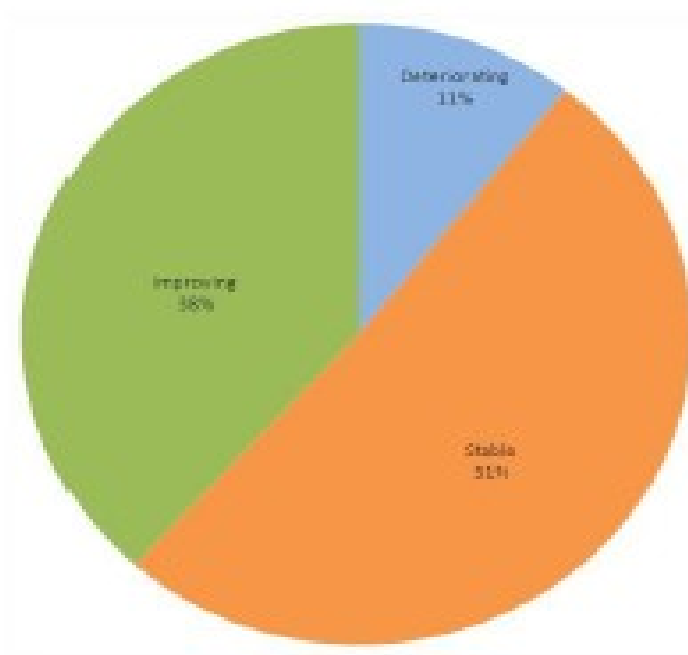


Awareness of ESSDE

- Awareness appears to be relatively high among ETUCE affiliates and is considered to be stable or improving



Graph 19 - How would you assess the knowledge of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue within your trade union? (affiliates' survey)

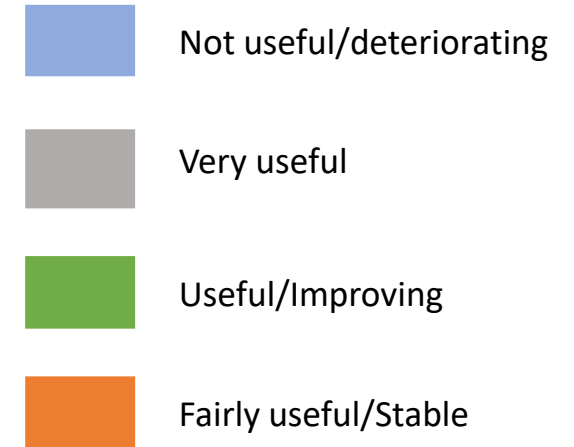
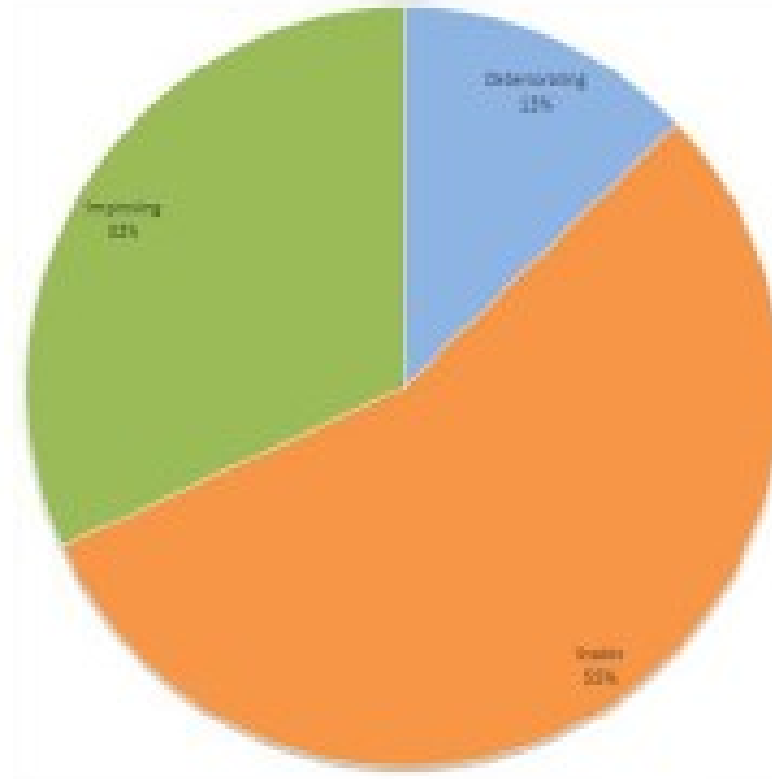
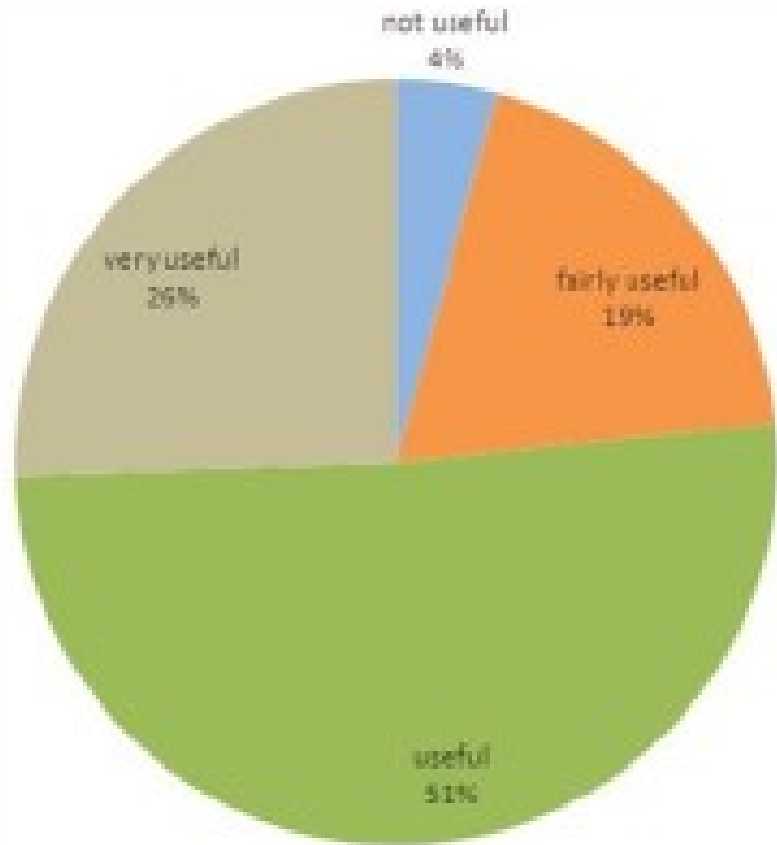


Graph 20 - In the last 2 years, this level of knowledge of the European social dialogue can be considered as... (affiliates' survey)



Buy in: how useful is the ESSDE considered to be?

- ETUCE survey shows that affiliates consider dialogue to be very useful or useful; with usefulness increasing or stable in last 2 years



Source: ETUCE report: Promoting the potentials of the ESSDE by addressing new challenges and exploring experience and knowledge



Capacity in national social partner organisations

- 75% of ETUCE affiliates have a person in charge of following European affairs
- No information about employers' organisations
- General experience is that capacity tends to be limited in many countries, further affected by the economic crisis
- Those with capacity influence dialogue most significantly
- Depends on buy-in and importance attached to the dialogue (reasons for memberships/supporting ESSDE), as well as organisational structures
- The Role of the ESF in Capacity Building of Social Partners



Improving the links:

■ How high is level of awareness of ESSDE in Italy?

- How are outcomes communicated?
- How regular is this communication?
- How well is it received?

■ Level of participation

- Do all relevant organisations regularly participate in ESSDE meetings/working groups/other European events?
- If not all/or always participating, why is this the case?

■ Organisation/capacity

- Are there dedicated officers dealing with EU issues?
- Is knowledge centralised (easily lost if one individual leaves)?
- Are there regular meetings at national level to communicate information?
- Are there strategies for feeding 'sustainably' national concerns to the EU level?
- How do we make sure that the national priorities are reflected in the European work programme?



Thank you for your attention

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