

postcare 2.0

Informing the Care Services Workers on Posting Rules

Long-term care reform, which model should Lithuania choose?

Info lab day

21-04-2023

Vilnius

On 21 April 2023 The Lithuanian trade union "Solidarumas", together with the Lithuanian trade union of social workers "Solidarumas", organised a roundtable discussion at the Seimas on "Long-term care reform, which model has been chosen by Lithuania?".

The event was attended by Ms Monika Navickienė, Minister of Social Security and Labour. Presentations were delivered by Ms Kristina Krupavičienė, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, President of the Lithuanian trade union "Solidarumas", Ms Laimutė Pilukaitė, Head of the Policy Analysis and Review Team at the European Commission Representation in Lithuania, Mr Marius Čiurlionis, Adviser on Long-Term Care Coordination and Implementation, Ministry of Health, Ms Violeta Toileikienė, Head of the Social Services Group of the Ministry of Social Protection and Labour. The discussion was moderated by Ms K. Krupavičienė and Ms Alma Neverienė, Chairperson of the Trade Union of Social Workers "Solidarumas".

All citizens of the European Community must have access to affordable and quality health and care services throughout their lives. Successful implementation of the European Care Guarantee would address the care shortage and provide decent working conditions for carers. It is of utmost importance to support families and invest in communities as they play an important role in building a sustainable care system based on solidarity. Care services must remain affordable and ensure continuity. Moreover, the public at large must be aware of new forms of care services. More men need to join the ranks of care workers, thus ensuring a fairer distribution of care within households. An approach that embraces the whole life cycle promoting healthy and active ageing while preventing age discrimination should be implemented. Adequate funding for care infrastructure and carers is needed to promote growth and employment. At the same time, rigorous quality assurance systems should be developed. Member States need to promote the creation of quality jobs and ensure that jobs in the social care sector are attractive, well paid and valued, and offer good career prospects.

Lithuania's population is ageing rapidly, as is the case across Europe, and the need for such care will only continue to grow. As the Government is developing a Long Term Care Model, there is a need to hold open and inclusive debates in the country about it. To address this need, the Lithuanian trade union "Solidarumas", together with the Lithuanian trade union of social workers "Solidarumas", decided to organise a roundtable discussion. The event took place on 21



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April, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Seimas (the Parliament) Palace, and was also open to remote participation.

The event was organised by the EU project Postcare 2.0 Informing the Care Services Workers on Posting Rules

Problems of temporary agency workers were discussed

Info lab Day

04-08-2023

On 4 August 2023, an information meeting (face-to-face and via remote mode) was held with Ms. Aurelija Maldutytė, President of the Association of Lithuanian Employment/Recruitment Agencies. During the meeting, a number of issues on the agenda were discussed such as legal regulation of temporary employment of workers, the activities of employment agencies, and cooperation between trade unions and employment agencies.

Trade unionists often meet employees/workers at the workplace who are temporarily employed or who are travelling to work in foreign countries through temporary employment agencies. Cases have been identified when the conditions of work and pay for temporary workers are worse than those of permanent workers, even though they are hired for the same job. It is particularly challenging for trade unions to help foreign employees/workers whose employment contracts are concluded not in Lithuania but in other countries where the salaries provided for in the employment contracts are lower than those in Lithuania. The principle of equal treatment is infringed.

This encourages social dumping, as it is in the employer's interest to fire a local worker and replace him with a "cheaper" foreigner.

Ms. Maldutytė admitted that she also receives reports of such cases, but, in her opinion, it would be wrong to blame all recruitment agencies. She said that dishonest and fraudulent businessmen can be found in all sectors of the economy. She also stated that foreign workers should have work and pay conditions that are no worse than those of nationals.

Ms. Maldutytė pointed out that due to the restrictions imposed on the Lithuanian recruitment agencies, their ability to recruit foreigners is limited in Lithuania. Thus, foreign workers are recruited in Lithuania with the help of foreign recruitment agencies. As a result, she said, foreign



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workers suffer because they earn lower wages compared to local workers, while businesses and the Lithuanian budget receive less revenue.

The President of the *Association* of Lithuanian Recruitment Companies, together with trade unions, proposed to change the procedure for recruiting foreign workers and to remove loopholes in the law that allow employers to abuse them. It was agreed to continue the cooperation between the Lithuanian trade union "Solidarumas" and the *Association* of Lithuanian Recruitment Companies and to hold similar meetings in the future.

The meeting was attended by Ms Kristina Krupavičienė, President of the Lithuanian Trade Union Solidarity, her deputies Ms. Jovita Pretzsch, Mr Ričardas Garuolis and Ms. Daiva Kvedaraitė, Secretary General. There are not many care professionals coming to Lithuania to work, and more often women from Lithuania go abroad to work as nurses, mostly their destination is Germany and Norway.

The event was organised as part of the EU project postcare 2.0 Informing the Care Services Workers on Posting Rules



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