

Social Partners' Dissemination Workshop
European Parliament, December 3rd, 2018

Dear All,

First of all I would like to thank MEP Zitnanska and MEP Benifei for hosting this workshop and for their engagement in ensuring that Recruitment and Retention policies are supported and adequately implemented.

I would also like to thank the European Commission for its financial support that allowed us to carry the two projects that will be presented in more details.

It is a pleasure for me to be here today to represent HOSPEEM, to share with you some thoughts but, most important, to listen from you how to develop potential synergies.

In November last year in Goteborg, the European Union adopted the European Pillar of Social Rights in which, among others, the EU Institutions proclaimed their support for safe and healthy workplaces.

As well recalled by Commissioner Adriukaitis, in our last Conference in Vilnius, social partners play a crucial role in preparing and implementing new measures to achieve this goal.

The EU committed herself also to another principle important for our discussion today: the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable people to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market.

We are all aware that training and re-qualification is fundamental in our sector. It is essential for the safety of the workers and for the patients. It is essential also because the hospital sector employs, based on recent statistics, more than 13 million people, making it 10% of the overall workforce across the European Union.

And for this reason, since 2014, going hand in hand, HOSPEEM and EPSU worked together to promote and share social partners good practices in the field of Recruitment and Retention for health workers in the EU, by supporting Continuing Professional Development and Life Long Learning (CPD and LLL) and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) measures.

Through our collaboration and, in particular, via the two joint projects, that our Consultant Nico Knibbe will be presenting you in a moment, we were able to identify how preventive actions can contribute to improved workers' health and safety, to pinpoint more attractive retention conditions in the hospital sector and to improved efficiency in the management of healthcare institutions by reducing the negative effects linked to these occupational risks.

We also looked at and discussed the instruments needed to achieve healthy and safe working conditions and proved that CPD and OSH measures are crucial to reach this goal.

I would like to end my intervention by referring again to the European Pillar of Social Rights which clearly states the commitment of the EU to encourage and support the capacity of social partners to promote social dialogue. The outcomes of these two projects are a clear example of an effective social dialogue. We can for sure, do even better.

But we also want to hear the voice of other stakeholders present here today to discuss potential follow up and way forward.

Health has, as you all know, economic and social determinants and we should all engage to make our workplaces safer and healthier to guarantee a better life and wellbeing for all.

Thank you for your attention.