

Independent Trade Union of Slovenia

ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING THE FOUNDATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PENSIONED UNION AT THE FMS (World Trade Union Federation / WFTU)

Upon returning from the founding Assembly of the P&R in Barcelona, where I was assigned the task of finding union organizations of pensioners willing to join our association, I first addressed the organization in Pula where I live. They replied that they were not competent because their headquarters are located in Zagreb. The contact with the head office did not give the desired result, since at the office they were not at all interested in the proposal.

Meanwhile, I started to receive by email materials from the blog of Rastko Plohlo, president of the Independent Trade Union of Slovenia. I asked him to find in Slovenia some union organization of pensioners who was willing to join, but without success. My friends in Belgrade, in Serbia, have suggested me the representative of the Union of workers in agriculture, which maintains contacts with the comrade Pieris Pierri, but also in this case no result ..

In April 2015, along with Zagreb's anti-fascists, I went to Češke Budojevice, in the Czech Republic, where a meeting was held with the anti-fascists and the former local fighters. Naturally I took the opportunity to present our program. They immediately told me that their trade union scene is very weak, particularly in the real sector and in small firms, where workers are afraid to connect with the trade unions. Not even here, therefore, I got answers.

In October 2017 I was, as a delegate of the Workers Socialist Party (SRP) of Croatia, at the International Conference of Balkan Communist and Workers' Parties in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. Here I spoke with the representative of the Socialist Party of Romania, skeptical about the possibility of obtaining anything in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian guests presented to me a trade union veteran who promised me he would do something, but until today without result.

So, these meetings abroad were possible within the usual activities that I carried out for my party. Outside of these activities I have no chance or indication to get any concrete result. As for other activities related to the trade union, after several multi-year attempts I managed to bring together the leaders of three Croatian unions in Zagreb, who in 2015 sat at the table together with the president of the EUROF, the comrade Pieris Pierri, but only one of them has maintained contact, despite being under the influence of the Greek SYRIZA.

Given what has been said so far, one wonders: why is there such resistance to the conception of class unions in post-socialist countries? The cause, according to my opinion, is to be found in two phenomena:

The first is the extreme stigmatization of socialist ideas and practices, with the reevaluation of clergy-fascist ideas and collaborationist components, which are very widespread in these States. The second is the different role of the unions in the capitalist countries compared to the socialist ones. While in the capitalist countries the trade unions have been conducting a class struggle for their rights for over a century, this continuity in the socialist countries was interrupted after World War II because the rights of workers were affirmed by the law, and the role of unions focused on the implementation of social standards.

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