Geopa-Copa Seminar


Scandic Copenhagen Hotel
Vester Søgade 6, Copenhagen, Denmark
18th – 20th October, 2018
PROGRAMME

18 October 2018

13:45  Registration

14:15 – 14:35  Opening of the Seminar by Joseph Lechner, President of Geopa-Copa

14:35 – 14:55  Danish social dialogue by Peter Kaae Holm, Danish Trade Union 3F

14:55 – 15:15  Labour Costs by Đurđica Mostarčić, Head of the financial services of the Croatian Chamber of Trade and Crafts

15:15 - 15:40  Questions and Answers

15:40 – 16:00  Coffee break

16:00 – 16:45  Presentation of the preliminary results of the second questionnaire “Labour Costs in Agriculture: cross country comparative analysis - Labour Organisation” by Matthias Busse and Ana Silva, Researchers in Centre for European Policy Studies

16:45 – 17:45  Debate with the participants on the results of the second questionnaire

17:45 – 18:00  First remarks and comments by Joseph Lechner, President of Geopa-Copa

18:00  End of the session

19:30  Dinner

19 October 2018

09:30 – 09:50  Workforce and foreign labor in Danish agriculture by Martin Merrild, Chairman of Danish Agriculture and Food Council

09:50 – 10:10  Labour costs in the social dialogue negotiations by Arnd Spahn, EFFAT Secretary for the agricultural sector

10:10 – 10:30  Labour costs in Danish collective bargaining agreements in the agricultural sector by Stephan Vinther Petersen, Communications Consultant in Gardener’s, foresting and agricultural employers’ association

10:30 – 11:00  Questions and Answers

11:00 – 11:20  Coffee break

11:20 – 12:30  Preliminary presentation of the content and style of the final report “Labour Costs in Agriculture: cross country comparative analysis” by Matthias Busse and Ana Silva, Researchers in Centre for European Policy Studies
12:30  
**Lunch break**

14:30 – 14:50  
Training in agriculture in Denmark by **Stephan Vinther Petersen**, Communications Consultant in Gardener’s, foresting and agricultural employers’ association

14:50 – 15:10  
Working time organisation in collective bargaining agreements in Finland by **Veli-Matti Rekola**, Managing Director of MTA

15:10 – 15:30  
Collective bargaining agreements in the agricultural sector in Italy by **Tania Pagano**, Policy Officer in Confagricoltura

15:30 – 16:15  
Questions and Answers

16:15 – 16:45  
Conclusions by **Joseph Lechner**, President of Geopa-Copa

16:45  
End of the session

19:00  
**Dinner**

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**20 October 2018**

08:30  
Departure from the hotel

09:30 – 11:30  
**Per Thomasen farm**  
Organic milk production farm. It products 2,3 million litters of milk per year. The farm has 400 acres of land with grass, corn and 190 dairy cows.  
Address: Hjørnegårdsvej 1, 4070 Kirke Hyllinge

11:30  
Departure to lunch

12:00  
Arrival to lunch

13:00  
Departure from lunch

13:30 – 15:30  
**Kim Kjær Knudsen farm**  
Pig production farm with 70,000 pigs. The farm has 920 acres of land.  
Address: Allindemaglevej 60, 4100 Ringsted

15:30  
Departure from the farm

17:00  
Arrival at the airport

17:30  
Arrival at the hotel

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**21 October 2018**

Participants’ departure
Copa is the united voice of farmers in the EU. Created in 1958, it represents the interests of 23 million farmers and their families in the EU to ensure that they have a fair standard of living and an economically viable future. Copa defends a sustainable and competitive EU agriculture sector capable of providing quality food supplies to half a billion consumers in the EU at the same time as ensuring attractive, flourishing rural areas. Copa provides a platform for its members to exchange their views and agree on common positions on upcoming issues affecting the agriculture sector in order to influence key EU and international policy makers and public opinion. Copa also provides up to date and specialised information and analyses that both cater to the needs of its members and meet the requirements underpinning public relations and promotes the multifunctional role of farmers in society.

Geopa-Copa, the Employers’ Group of Professional Agricultural Organisations in the European Union (EU), is conducting a two years project to analyse the labour costs in agriculture with the support of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

Creating nearly 5% of EU employment, agriculture remains of high importance in the EU. Agriculture sector is very dependent on labour inputs but the workers’ standard remuneration remains a patchy field and the information that exists is not always readily accessible.

It is the first time that a study on this topic is being conducted at EU level and Geopa-Copa wishes to establish a cross country firm understanding of the labour costs structure in the agricultural sector. With it, employers and employees can easily obtain an overview of an average remuneration and entitlements/obligations. A better understanding and awareness of this topic will contribute to better working conditions, to prevent social dumping and unfair competition, to fight against fraud and abuse regarding posting of workers and to foster social inclusion, labour mobility and job matching.

This project is organized in three Seminars that are preceded by European surveys made to our twenty five members.

In the first seminar an overview of the labour costs of the most economically relevant sub-sectors in agriculture was discussed. Now, Geopa-Copa will conduct a more deep analysis to the second questionnaire, especially focused on the labour organization. The objective is to understand how labour costs are affected by the rules of the labour organizations, differentiating the salary scales for permanent and seasonal employees. Skills of the employees are other element of the questionnaires, differentiating between skilled workers, less skilled and workers without training. Many features that are comparable across the Member States may also be zoomed in, thus making a direct comparison between the gross wages feasible.

In this second Seminar, hosted by the Danish Agriculture & Food Council, the discussion on the content of the final report will also start. A visit to Danish agricultural projects of relevance to the topic under discussion will provide on-the-ground insights that will filter into the report.