



10th EU Meeting of People experiencing Poverty

ESTONIA



WAGES

Wages in Estonia are so small that even an average salary has the indications of poverty. At the same time the prices are constantly going up.

We get our salaries from daily job, but the money comes from somewhere else – nonformal work and constant “extras” are necessary to get by.

A bartender in Finland earns more than a lawyer in Estonia.

WORK

But there's one more thing, that drives us abroad.

It's the attitude.

Our society doesn't value human resources. People exist for the economy, not the other way around.

REALLY,

What sort of crises do we really have?

Are they crises of economy

or

crises of values?



WHAT RIGHTS?

Asking for support makes you look like a loser
- showing that you're not good enough.

There's a serious lack of consensus in our
society.

If you're not successful, you belong to the
lower class.



THE REAL VALUE OF WORK? OUR HEALTH.

The new Employment Contracts Act is tilted towards the employer.

People go to work being ill, because the health insurance doesn't cover the first 3 days being ill.

The ones who are often ill, face the chance of being fired.

The 4-months trial period allows to keep an underpaid workforce.

THE REAL VALUE OF WORK? OUR HEALTH.

The Trade Unions are powerless; there's a "No need for trouble" mentality.

Workers are pushing themselves for the sake of the company.

AND it gets better – the hairier the chest, the higher the salary.

Men get up to 30% more money for the same work as women.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment benefits in Estonia are small and often end before people find work again.

Many people are not qualified to get any benefits at all

and children in these families experience poverty and social exclusion,

that will affect their choices and life quality today and tomorrow.

WAKE UP, ESTONIA!

- What are our aims, solutions?
- Aware and educated people.
- People with self-respect who don't get involved in these provoked, "be better than your neighbour" style races.
- We have to increase the awareness about our rights, possibilities and choices.

WAKE UP, ESTONIA!

- The way out of poverty isn't just work and welfare payments.
- Europe 2020 gives member states the directions. Estonian government has promised to lead 49 500 people out of poverty during next 10 years.
- Decrease the number of school dropouts below 10%
- and achieve an employment rate of 76% in the 20-64 age group.

Can't wait to see how they'll do it!