



**Minutes GLU Steering Committee Washington (Solidarity
Center)
3 October 9.00 - 16.00**

**1. Update on recent development and new challenges at the different
campuses**

In addition to the written report the following issues were highlighted:

SOUTH AFRICA: There was a very positive feedback for the Engage programme with over 100 applicants. More than 20 trade unionists from all over the world will participate. The GLU has engaged with the TU confederations and directly with individual trade unions to make the programme more widely known. As a result for the GLU master programme and the Engage programme the number of applications from South Africa has been growing.

The labour movement is going through a difficult period in SA. The GLU has good relations with COSATU that is a member of the GLU Steering Committee as well as to trade unions outside COSATU. The GLU, as a place for research and debate, is open to applicants from all trade unions.

USA: PSU has joined the GLU network in 2013. The program at Penn State University had its first intake in August 2014. They will be joined by a new colleague, Elaine Hiu, from Hong Kong. She will be teaching a course on labour relations in China in a comparative perspective. The 2015 GLU Conference and GLU Summer School has been a great opportunity for many people in the network to meet the American colleagues and also for making the GLU more widely known in the American labour movement.

BRAZIL: There is still the challenge that only few students are from Latin America. One option would be to consider an online or a residential short term programme like Engage in Spanish or Portuguese. This year, the number of applications is low and the GLU will advertise the programme with a new deadline. For the last years the Brazilian government has regularly provided scholarships for South-South cooperation. However the problem is that the scholarships are awarded on a yearly basis and that it does not cover the full costs in particular as accommodation is expensive.

INDIA: JNU is the newest member of the GLU network. There were 1300 applicants for 40 seats of the new master programme and 700 took the entrance exam. The Master programme has started this year, but because of the short time it was not possible to attract students from trade union background. The university has established a mechanism to receive up to 6 foreign students and is working on an

entrance mechanism for applicants from Indian trade unions. The process of establishing a trade union advisory board to the programme is under its way and the trade unions will be invited to a meeting in November. Jenny Holdcroft suggested also to invite the regional representative of those GUFs based in Delhi to the November meeting. The JNU has institutionalized the cooperation with the GLU by signing bilateral agreements with most of the GLU partner universities and the ILO.

TISS. Concerning TISS Frank Hoffer and Pravin Sinha reported about their discussions with the colleagues in TISS. The Center for Management and Labour Studies is currently restructuring the program and the GLU is in a dialogue with the colleagues to support their efforts.

GERMANY: The program in Kassel and Berlin is expecting its 12th intake in October 2015. The programme has been receiving between 60 and 80 applications annually over the years. The challenge has been to attract a greater number of participants from Germany. The experience has shown that it is easier to enroll younger applicants that are not yet trade union officials as they are more flexible and get motivated to engage in the trade union movement through the programme.

2. GLU Online activities

The blended online course in Global Workers' Rights has been used for cooperation between different campuses. This interaction was very much welcomed by the students.

The MOOC has been very successful in reaching out to thousands of participants. It will be offered again in March 2016 together with supportive local workshops facilitated by GLU and MOOC Alumni Online Tutors. The Tutors will organise a local residential workshop parallel to the MOOC targeting the participants in his/or her city or country. The MOOC is a great opportunity to provide qualification programme for a wide audience and to reach out to trade unions. The trade union network can be used to advertise the course widely.

The Brazil colleagues from CUT and Unicamp are very interested to adapt the course to the Brazilian needs and translate it into Portuguese. The CUT want to use the course for their national qualification programmes and translation will be completed by the spring of 2016. Translation into other languages like Spanish will also be considered at a later stage.

Based on the positive experience it was agreed to continue and strengthen the GLU online activities. Mike Fichter and Christoph Scherrer, following a workshop in Berlin

in May 2015, have proposed initial ideas for a blended online course on Multinational Companies, Global Supply Chains and Trade Unions. It was agreed to have now a workshop with an anchor person from each university to develop the idea further in order to launch the blended online course in April 2016. The resource persons from the various country programmes currently include Mike Fichter, Christoph Scherrer Martina Spröll, Kassel/Berlin; Mark Anner, Penn State, Ben Scully/Devan Pillay, Wits, Anselmo Santos, UniCamp, Praveen Jha, JNU, Tandiwe Gross, ILO.

Similar to the positive experience with the first blended online course the different universities will use and implement the course according to their possibilities and needs. Where possible they will engage in cross campus cooperation. On the basis of the blended online course the GLU will develop a MOOC on Global Supply chains.

A third MOOC will be developed on Wage pPolicies. Hansjörg Herr and Frank Hoffer will develop a first discussion paper for this in 2016 that will be circulated to all the network partners.

3. GLU Conference 2016

The GLU conference will be held from the 28th – 30th of September in Johannesburg. The South African colleagues circulated a draft call for papers focusing on “**Just Transition - Our Ecological and Social Future: the role of labour**”. There was an intensive debate on the draft Call for Paper. All agreed that the overall topic is interesting and important for the labour movement. Some colleagues expressed the view that the current proposal is very broad and also on a high level of abstraction. On the other hand it was felt that there are very many important aspects of the debate that should not be excluded through a narrow focus. Colleagues emphasized that the Conference in Washington was particularly interesting for trade unionists as it dealt with issues close to the challenges that the trade unions are facing in trying to counter corporate power. It would, therefore, be good also in the next conference to try to have a strong link between the conference discussions and the policy challenges trade unions are facing in promoting a just transition. Having mixed panels of trade union experts and academic scholars had been a good way to ensure this interaction at the Washington conference. The Call for Papers needs to address the the academic and to the trade union community, nationally and internationally. Therefore it should, as far as possible, avoid overly academic or political campaign language. The crisis in the South African Labour Movements, in particular, also requires some critical reflections about the role of labour in the political process. Colleagues are requested to send ideas and comments concerning the draft Call for Papers to Michelle by the end of next week.

Concerning budgets there will be financial support from the FES, the ILO and the ICDD, but there is a need to try to mobilize to enable in particular participation from the global south.

4. GLU Summer School

The GLU/AARS Summer school will take place from the 27th of September until the 7 October. The colleagues in South Africa will identify a training center in Johannesburg or close by. The GLU Alumni identified a group of Alumni that will try to collect ideas from Alumni for the next summer school. Eddie Cottle from South Africa volunteered to coordinate the efforts of this team.

Experience of the past has also shown that putting the entire responsibility for the content of the summer school on the Alumni has not worked as many of them are too absorbed in their own jobs. The different campuses are, therefore, asked to provide feedback of topics and professor that would be available to contribute to the next summer school. The information should be sent to Harald, who will be in charge of the technical coordination of the summer school. The ICDD will provide not only financial support but will also take responsibility for assisting in logistics and flight arrangements. The colleagues in South Africa will also try to identify GLU Alumni based in South Africa that might be interested in participating in the preparation of the summer school.

The selection of applicants becomes more difficult as the number of Alumni grow. A number of criteria (balance between different courses, trade union involvement, regional and gender balance, involvement in Alumni projects, frequency of prior participation, etc.) will be applied.

5. Regional GLU Summer Schools

In cooperation with the GLU Alumni from Turkey and from the Philippines the ICDD submitted a grant proposal for two regional GLU Summer Schools in 2016 (Philippines) and 2017 (Turkey). The workshops will be conducted in cooperation with the local GLU alumni. To what extent this can be regional instead of national workshops will depend on the amount of funding available.

6. Cooperation with trade unions

The cooperation with the trade union movement and its active involvement is at the centre of the GLU concept. Nevertheless it remains a constant challenge. On a practical basis the internship programme has often been served as successful interaction with the trade unions. The Global Labour Column is the most widely read GLU publication among trade unionists, but its outreach could be increased by

making it more known through trade union information channels. Other potential forms of cooperation like research cooperation, drawing on GLU experts from trade union meetings etc. are underutilised.

One of the reasons is the different time horizons between academic programmes and research on the one hand and the immediate day to day needs of trade unions to respond to a wide range of policy issues on the other.

To make the GLU better known it would be good to provide a short as also comprehensive

information about GLU expertise and activities for the trade unions by producing, in addition to the new flyer, some promotional material like a short video. Cathy and Jenny will also discuss in the unions how to make better use of the GLU potentials and also establish stronger links with the educational departments of the unions. It would be good to identify contact people in the different GUFs below the level of General Secretaries to strengthen cooperation on a day to day basis. The Engage programme and the GLU online courses are opportunity to make the GLU programmes accessible to a wider group of trade unionists. On the other hand it was underlined that the strength of the GLU is the academic level of its programme. The GLU should not try to duplicate already existing programmes of workers' education, but build on its strength of an institutional cooperation between universities and trade unions to provide academic programmes tailor made for trade unionists.

7. Alumni Networking

The Alumni summer school is at the core of the GLU networking activities. In addition to this there is a GLU Alumni mailing list to facilitate internal exchange and communication. The Summer School always result in several cooperation projects among Alumni.

8. Publications

Global Labour Column

The Global Labour Column has been a very successful publication. However in recent times it has become more difficult to maintain its weekly publication as the editors have many other obligations. It was suggested to provide some support through more regular contributions from the network and also from the GLU Alumni. It would be great if more colleagues could agree to act as reviewers and/or authors for the column.

GLU Working Papers

In the last year a considerable number of GLU Working Papers have been published. The series is open for contribution from all campuses. On recommendation of the campuses students can submit a working paper based on their final thesis.

The editorial board of the GLU Working Paper series is composed of representatives from each campus. The universities will submit the names of its representatives to Hansjörg by the end of the month. Please see below the current composition and the vacancies to be filled?

Editorial board GLU Working Papers

Sharit K. Bhowmik (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India)

Hansjörg Herr (Berlin School of Economics and Law, Germany)

Frank Hoffer (International Labour Organisation)

Helen Schwenken (University of Osnabrück, Germany) Is this still up to date ?

Lotta Takala-Greenish (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) Is this still up to date ?

N.N. University of Campinas

N.N. Penn State University

N.N. JNU

9. Research cooperation

Hansjörg informed the colleagues that the Berlin School of Economics is planning to submit a research proposal on Global Supply Chains. Building on the discussions at the GLU conference the project could be designed in similar way as the inequality project and involve the expertise of the different campuses.

Michelle suggested to organise a GLU side event on labour issues together with RC44 at the 3rd ISA Forum of Sociology in Vienna. <http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/>. She will circulate details soon. This could perhaps also be done in cooperation with the Arbeiterkammer Wien that expressed interest in cooperating with the GLU. There is also a GLU Alumna from Austria (Brazilian Programme) that might be interested to join.

10. Faculty exchange

Christoph Scherrer mentioned that the ICDD could support some more South-South faculty exchange. Carlos Salas said that Unicamp would be interested to host scholars from partner universities, and suggest to discuss in advance the focus and duration of such a visit in order to integrate it in the programme.

11. Resources

The GLU has mobilised resources for scholarship and the other activities through many different sources. The teaching costs are by and large covered by the partner universities and staff costs for international network coordination is covered by the ILO. The biggest challenge is to mobilise resources for scholarships and to maintain core funding for key functions like local programme coordination, maintaining the website, regular publications and the Alumni network including alumni project cooperation require funding.

12. Members International Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of representatives from the Trade unions and the Universities of the GLU partners, a representative of the Global Unions, the ILO and the FES, and two Alumni Representative have observer status.

Mark Anner Penn State University

Joachim Beerhorst DGB/IG Metall

Cathy Feingold AFL-CIO

Mirko Herberg - Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Frank Hoffer - International Labour Organisation

Jenny Holdcroft - Global Unions/IndustriALL

Archana Prasad JNU

N.N. Indian trade unions (the formation of the trade union representation for the JNU programme is currently undertaken)

Eugenia Leone - Universidade Estadual de Campinas

Antonio de Lisboa Amâncio Vale

Alfred Mafuleka - COSATU

Christoph Scherrer - Kassel University

Michelle Williams - University of the Witwatersrand

Two Alumni Representatives – GLU

13. Associate GLU Membership enlarged networking

Frank Hoffer suggested Claudia Hoffman, assistant professor at the university of Regensburg, who collaborated on the GLU blended online course and also wrote a GLU online paper. Anselmo suggested an colleague from Rio de Janeiro. It was agreed that both would send around a short bio of the colleagues and the Steering committee would decide on that basis.

14. Discussion GLU past and future

The Brazilian colleagues suggested to have an in-depth discussion in 2016 about the experience of the GLU during the last 12 years and to discuss how to develop the GLU further. This discussion should reflect on the content and structure of the curricula, the different programmes, forms of cross campus cooperation, the interaction with the trade unions, the profile of the participants, funding perspectives etc. At the steering committee there is always only limited time for these reflections but they could help to plan more for the future. There was some debate whether this should be done in an extra meeting or could be done together with the GLU conference. In the later case the 1st and 2nd of October should be reserved for an extended Steering Committee meeting.

A final decision on the format was not taken. First the content of the meeting should be discussed in more detail. The Brazilian colleagues offered to take the lead to prepare this discussion. They will circulate a first concept note with some guiding question to prepare for this important discussion. Everybody is asked to comment on this outline to build a common understanding about this process of reflective and forward looking deliberation about the further development of the GLU. Based on this we will also decide on the format of the discussion.

Summary Follow up

Point 1 Master Programmes

All: Advertising the upcoming GLU Master Programmes

Frank : Circulating new GLU Flyer and announcement fro programmes

Tandiwe: Producing GLU info video

Cathy,Jenny, Alfred, Claire and Joachim: outreach to trade unions

Archana: Organizing meeting with India trade unions at 24th of November

Point 2 On-line Programmes

All: advertising the GLU MOOC

Tandiwe: Circulating info material for new course

Mike and Tandive: Organise next workshop on blended online course on Global Supply Chains

Ana Paula, Tandive and Frank: Following up on the Portuguese version of the MOOC

Hansjörg and Frank: Circulate first discussion note on MOOC on wage policies

Point three GLU Conference

All : Sending comments to the call for papers to Michelle by 18th of October

Michelle: Circulating the revised call for papers

Michelle: Sending a draft budget to ICDD, FES and ILO

All: Circulation of final Call for Papers

Point 4 GLU Summer School

All : Sending to Harald their possible availability for input to the summer school

Michelle: Identifying a location for the summer school

Michelle: Identifying GLU Alumni from South Africa that would be interested in joining the preparation of the summer school

Point 6 Cooperation with trade unions

Frank: Short practical note on GLU activities

Jenny and Cathy: Discussing with trade unions how to make better use of GLU, better dissemination about GLU programmes and more strategic use of GLU expertise, identifying contact persons in the different GUFs as contact point for GLU

Point 8 Publication

ALL: Contribute to the Global Labour Column as author or reviewer. Please provide Nicolas with a short info about a possible column or your readiness to be a reviewer.

Christoph, Praveen, Mark, Anselmo, Michelle: Please provide the name of the colleague who will serve on the editorial board of the GLU working paper series

Point 9 research cooperation

Hansjörg: Will circulate outline on possible research project on Global Supply Chains

Michelle: Will circulate info on side event at ISA in Vienna

Point 13 Associate membership

Anselmo and Frank: circulate info about the two proposed new associate members

Point 14 Workshop GLU past and Future

Anselmo: Will circulate a first outline for such a discussion