

The FNPAIA Child Labour Code Monitoring Team Started from Soroca the First Monitoring Visits in this New School-year 2009

On 18 September, 2009 agri-enterprises from villages of Stoicani, Slobozia-Cremene and Racovăț from rayon Soroca were visited by a Child Labour Monitoring Team of the National Federation of Employers in Agriculture and Food Industry (FNPAIA).

The FNPAIA Team on Monitoring the Code of Conduct for Employers on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in agriculture conducted visits to agri-enterprises „Scripta-Prim” from Stoicani village, „Prietenia-Agro” from village Slobozia-Cremene and Farmers’ Enterprise „Cebotari Mihail” from Racovăț, all these villages in Soroca.

The visits which started this autumn in Soroca will cover by the end of the year several other regions of the country: Căușeni, Edineț Cahul and others. The FNPAIA Monitoring Team is monitoring how agri-employers comply with the CODE OF CONDUCT, which was adopted in December 2007 by the FNPAIA Council.

The monitoring visits in Soroca included a meeting with adolescents from the Lyceum from Slobozia-Cremene during which the FNPAIA Team discussed with the school-children from the sixth form about benefits of education and consequences of child labour for children.

In Soroca, the FNPAIA Monitoring Team found out that managers of agri-enterprises speak about the worst forms of child labour in the past tense: „we use machinery and the situation is strict”, „in the past, when cultivating tobacco – yes, we used to use child labour”, state agri-managers, “but the times have changed and the situation too”.

The Monitoring Team used this visits also to remind employers that it is necessary to strictly follow the provisions of the labour laws regarding employment of minors, which are also included in the CODE, especially those concerning the minimum age of employment, obligatory medical examinations and avoiding to involve children in hazardous child labour or work which impedes the education, physical, intellectual and social development of children.

The Monitoring Team members identified examples when agri-enterprises from Soroca participate to the social development of their communities through their support to kindergartens, schools and community-centres for children and youth and this constitutes a great contribution to putting into practice of the FNPAIA message that “The place of the child is at school and child’s work is to study”.

The same FNPAIA Monitoring Team conducted monitoring visits in 2008 to agri-enterprise from Orhei, Hâncești, Florești, Bălți and Ștefan-Vodă, and identified „agri-managers understanding and complying with provisions of the CODE OF CONDUCT, and a few cases which needed to be rectified”, informed Eugenia Ganea, Coordinator of the FNPAIA Project on Combating Child Labour in Agriculture in Moldova. “This recent visit is most encouraging!”, she added.

Recent information from the Labour Inspection shows a decrease in the number of children involved in the worst forms of child labour in agriculture in Moldova. „These results seem to show that our efforts on combating child labour are having an impact but there is still more to be done. Our organisation is committed to continue this initiative and we are well supported by our social partners”, stated Eugenia Ganea.

The FNPAIA is promoting since 2005 the project on Combating child labour in agriculture with technical support of the ILO Bureau for Employers Activities (ILO-ACT/EMP) and the Government of Norway.

The CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYERS on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in agriculture can be accessed at:

http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/actemp/downloads/projects/code_conduct_en.pdf
http://www.fnpaia.org/data/files/library/11/CoddeConduita_ROM.pdf

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