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**Foreword**

We are delighted to see moments of new strength and growth in the networks this year. At the same time, the transformation of work and entire value chains through digitalisation and the rise of right-wing parties and actors are leading to new attacks on good working conditions, social security and spaces for a self-determined life. This worries us and we are working together to find answers. In the following texts, we report on the ExChains network meeting in India and its findings, the regional meeting of retail division colleagues and how the discussion of health and digitalisation is leading them to seek new forms of cooperation. In the Vida Viva network in Brazil, Colombia and newly Canada as well as the wine network in South Africa, activists were able to mobilise new colleagues through the entry point of discussions around health. They identified important concrete workplace issues for their trade union struggles. The state and societies are also changing with the economic changes. There is a major struggle over how to deal with these changes politically. We report on the fall of the government in a long-lasting crisis in Bangladesh and the fight against the rise of right-wing parties before and after the French elections.

We witness this simultaneity of experiences of empowerment in our own organisations and the escalation of social conflicts in all networks and countries. They are therefore the subject of our newsletter, which reports on the year's activities, as well

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Feedback and comments on this newsletter are always welcome!
Enjoy reading and in solidarity,

tie Bildungswerk e.V.

This cross-company standardisation of work processes goes hand in hand with a second development. At the same time, manufacturing companies are introducing software systems that can process and compare data on efficiency – how quickly a worker works – and quality – how many mistakes they make. The data is collected via RFID readers on the machines – the chips are in the fabric parts – and via supervisors who document quality defects. In this way, the

ExChains clothing

The TIE network *ExChains* aims to create links between workers in the retail, textile and clothing industries from Europe and Asia who work along the global supply chain. Mutual solidarity is vital for the global fight against exploitation and poverty in this industry. In *ExChains*, TIE has been working with independent regional trade unions since 2002. Today, these are: the FTZ&GSEU in Sri Lanka, the NGWF in Bangladesh, the GAFWU in Chennai/India, the GATWU in Bangalore/India, the ver.di trade union in Germany and, more recently, the Spanish MIT and the Italian SI-Cobas.

Joint strategies are being developed to promote the self-organisation of workers and build trade union practice along the value chain. The trade unions in the production countries are also working together regionally and developing new approaches to organising that go beyond selective campaigns, which attract attention but do not build up countervailing power in the companies. In the local retail sector, we are also working together to find new trade union approaches in the face of precarisation, divisions in the workforce, low wages and digitalisation.

ExChains orange-juice

Three companies in Brazil dominate 80% of the global market for orange juice from concentrate. The orange pickers are mostly migrant labourers from poor parts of Brazil. The working and living conditions of



manufacturing companies want to optimise their processes and increase productivity. However, buying companies are also playing a key role in this development. On the one hand, they are driving the introduction of standards for production by sending their own engineering teams to their suppliers in order to optimise processes and generalise their best practices. On the other hand, they require their suppliers to provide data on the quality and efficiency of workers – sometimes in real time.

This allows buyers to optimise their orders: They can see which suppliers still have free capacity, what they can ‘deliver’ and plan their orders accordingly according to which supplier can respond most flexibly to the brands’ requirements. To do this, they utilise their suppliers’ data and integrate it into their systems for controlling and planning the value chain. In this way, they put their suppliers in even greater competition and drive the continuous optimisation of production processes. Those who cannot keep up will fall by the wayside. This shows that digitalisation actually increases the control that buyers have over their suppliers – even if they have become large companies that have invested massively in machines and new technologies. This does not make them more independent, but is a prerequisite for being able to produce for the big brands at all.

This development will continue to radicalise in the future. In interviews, representatives from both buyers and manufacturers confirm that buyers are working on integrating their suppliers’ production data together with data on logistics processes and retail processes into their own platforms. The aim is to digitally coordinate and control all processes in the value chain, from production to sales.

Automation ≠ Digitalisation

But these disruptions are not the only changes in the textile and clothing industry. In Bangladesh in particular, a second change is taking place at the same time: automation. Garment companies are automating production steps in all areas of the factories. Particularly affected are the areas in which skilled workers previously worked, such as cutting fabric, pattern making and weaving.

On the one hand, this means a massive loss of jobs. Our colleagues from the National Garment Worker Federation in Bangladesh report that sometimes one machine replaces up to 10 workers and one worker can operate 10 of these machines. At the same time, the workers on the new machines are considered less qualified and are therefore given lower grades. Instead of sewing, cutting fabrics or operating machines, they operate touchpads. The companies say: “anyone who can operate a smartphone can do this”.



Good news: The strike is called off!

Colleagues from the H&M call centre in Barcelona have been fighting for months against the planned job cuts and the associated deterioration in working conditions. Various solidarity actions were organised by colleagues from H&M and other retail companies in Germany.

In July, the colleagues in Spain were able to reach an agreement: it includes a gross salary increase of €160 per month, an additional day's holiday for workers on permanent contracts and compensation for the last two weeks of the strike for all those who went on strike there.

RIGHTS ARE WON THROUGH STRUGGLE

these workers are often catastrophic. Time and again, even slave-like working conditions are found. Germany is the second largest demand market in the world. In 2015, TIE therefore founded a trade union network along the orange juice value chain together with ver.di's trade section, works councillors from Edeka, Rewe and Kaufland and trade unions from Brazil. The experience of the clothing network plays an important role here. The network aims to organise concrete actions in the workplace and strengthen trade union action in harvesting, processing, sales and along the value chain. In Brazil, trade unions of plantation workers and industrial workers are working together across organisational boundaries for the first time.

ExChains wine

The TIE-ExChains network is in the process of establishing a second agricultural network along the wine supply chain. It is building on the experience of struggles by Brazilian work-

We need new forms of cooperation

So far, trade unions in the clothing industry have hardly been able to influence these changes. There are several reasons for this problem: On the one hand, the unions' previous approaches are no longer sufficient to organise workers. On the other hand, the changes cannot be adequately addressed in the traditional negotiating arenas. Up to now, trade unions have often tried to address workers through individual complaints: Demanding clean drinking water or clean toilets or inadequate compensation payments in the event of redundancies were entry points into organising. In digitalised factories in particular, however, trade unions are finding that companies are much more willing to guarantee these basics. This is because they themselves have an interest in stable workforces, as this is the only way they can guarantee the flexibility, efficiency and quality that their buyers demand.

The trade unions are faced with the challenge of finding new topics to address workers and build trade unions. They are reaching their limits with individual complaints, while at the same time the existing negotiating arenas at industry level are not sufficient. In industry-wide negotiations, the unions have so far tried to push through increases in the minimum wage. Although wage issues remain important, the changes at company level, which are leading to an increase in health risks, deskilling and downgrading, cannot be addressed in this way. Mapping experiences in Bangladesh and India are helping trade unions to find new issues, organise workers and formulate demands for changes in working conditions. However, the changes make it clear that demands and negotiations must not be limited to the level of the individual factory. The reorganisation of work processes and the digital control and integration of all processes in the value chain into one platform are being driven forward by the buying companies.

For trade unions and workers, this means that the work of colleagues along the value chain will be managed via the same platforms and software systems in future. Negotiations on operational issues will take place against the backdrop of cross-company management along the value chain. As much as workplace organisation is needed, so is the connection along the chain, because the operational changes are triggered by the aim of the buying companies to optimise the entire value chain. This also means that it is no longer enough to support each other's demands. Rather, trade unions, works councils and workers along the chain must find common issues and negotiate them together with the buying companies that control the chain and thus have a significant influence on working conditions.

ers on orange plantations, Verdi Handel and colleagues in the German retail sector. The agricultural workers' union CSAAWU, which is mainly organised in the Western Cape of South Africa, is part of the network and will strengthen the struggles of colleagues on the ground and in the German retail sector. The new possibility of cooperation between South African and Brazilian agricultural workers, as well as our colleagues from the VidaViva network in Mozambique, will enable both South-South cooperation and international work along the entire supply chain up to the German food retail sector.

VidaViva

The TIE network *VidaViva* addresses health issues in order to organise workers. Network activists report that work-related health issues are constantly increasing worldwide. Companies are telling workers that they should eat healthier and exercise in order to stay healthy. Work organisation is being increasingly trimmed for efficiency and strains are increasing. In *VidaViva*, workers are developing solidarity-based strategies to reduce strains and gain control over their everyday working lives. However, the network does not simply want to make workplaces healthier, but to organise trade union resistance to the ever-increasing demands that companies are making on people's lives. Since 2003, various instruments for educational work, self-research, risk analysis, worker-orientated benchmarking etc. have been

Bangladesh

The end of a tyrant

The revolt in Bangladesh and the consequences for workers



On 5 August 2024, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, resigned after several weeks of social protests. Her resignation signalled the end of 15 years of tyranny. Her time in power saw economic growth in the form of exports, but also rampant corruption, electoral fraud, the brutal murder of opposition politicians and repression against trade unionists and civil society activists, a deteriorating situation for the working class and serious human rights violations.

The protests were triggered by the government's announcement to regulate access to well-paid public jobs. What initially began as a student movement against this decision quickly turned into a mass movement against the government's anti-social and undemocratic policies.

The trade union movement supported the protests and soon textile workers, day labourers and workers in other sectors were also involved in the protests. The government initially responded to the protests with violence. More than 600 protesters were killed by the police and military. At times, a nationwide curfew was imposed and security forces were instructed to shoot at people who were out and about without warning. Telecommunications channels were also blocked. Trade unionists pointed out that this violence had already been used against workers protesting for higher minimum wages last year.

What challenges are textile workers facing now?

Following Hasina's resignation, the military appointed an interim government to solve the social problems and pave the way for new elections. Developments are continuing and it remains to be seen whether the people's social and political problems can be solved. The workers and their trade unions are already facing major challenges. Parts of the business community were closely linked to the existing government. Worried about being accused of corruption and legal offences, some have gone into hiding, including leading representatives of the BGMEA, a nationwide association of garment companies. Banks are now refusing to provide credit to the affected companies, meaning that the companies are finding it difficult to pay wages.



developed in order to develop strategies in the workplace. In Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Colombia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Turkey and Germany, more than 100 trade unions from various sectors are active in the network.

Rail sans Frontière

The Railways without Borders network is mainly made up of workers and trade union activists from Morocco, Senegal, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, France and Spain. However, there are now also contacts in other regions, e.g. North and South America. The network, founded in Casablanca in 2010, supports and coordinates struggles against rail privatisation and for public services for all. The activists exchange information about the situations in their countries and help each other in industrial action against the repression that often accompanies privatisation. Their goal is to ensure that transport companies remain in public ownership or are returned to it so that workers' rights are protected

Many buying companies are also trying to renegotiate existing contracts. As the textile factories were shut down for a week due to the protests, there is a backlog of orders. Many buying companies want to pay less for these orders and other orders that have already been placed. As clothing manufacturers always calculate tightly, this subsequent price reduction means that they are unable to cover their production costs. Trade unionists also estimate that buying companies are currently cutting their orders by up to 40%. They want to wait and see how the situation develops. Buying companies are also withholding payments for goods they have already received.

The consequences for the workers are serious: so far (as of the end of August), it is unclear whether the outstanding wages from July and August will be paid. As a result, workers in various industrial areas are protesting for the payment of their wages – at the same time, the inflation rate remains high. In response to the production backlog, clothing manufacturers are demanding a lot of overtime. This leads to more stress and pressure for workers and an increase in accidents at work. The overtime leads to a new problem. As public order has still not been fully restored, the streets have become unsafe. There is an increase in street robberies, especially in the evening and at night. As a result, workers are reluctant to stay longer in the factories for fear of violence. The trade unions welcome the resignation of the old government. At the same time, the workers' problems have not yet been solved.

ExChains orange juice

Improvements through collaboration along the value chain

Tie has taken on a new challenge in 2024. For four years, tie is organising an international initiative involving more than 60 industrial and agricultural workers' unions from six Brazilian states, as well as small farmers' associations, a certifier, state labour inspectors from the Ministry of Labour and, in Germany, ver.di and works councils from the food retail and the retail companies Rewe and Kaufland. The aim is to jointly agree on problems of labour conditions along the value chain as well as instruments for their solution and to promote the dissemination of solutions in the orange and orange juice production sector in Brazil. We will report back to you in future newsletters.

and that everyone has access to transport and mobility in the long term.

Grassroots trade unions in Europe and worldwide

Grassroots trade unions and organisations from Spain, Greece, Switzerland, France, Germany, Poland and Belgium have been working together continuously since 2003 in the “Réseau Européen des Syndicats Alternatifs et de Base”. The trade union activists in the network seek to put up joint resistance to the impositions of capital operating across borders. The network fights for the preservation of public goods and services for all, for workers’ rights, for a fair distribution of social wealth, for social transformation instead of the rule of global corporations and financial markets. The participating trade unions and organisations are committed to the principles of independence, self-organisation and grassroots orientation and consciously question capitalist relations. Beyond the borders of Europe, grassroots trade un-

ExChains wine

“They have the lawyers and consultants from the apartheid era, we now have the union and our international colleagues”

In mid-September, tie and the CSAAWU leadership as well as organisers and shop stewards met in South Africa together with an organiser from the tie network in India to evaluate the experiences of local and international joint work to date, to conduct a bargaining training and to make plans for the future. In particular with a spotlight on the successful and unprecedented bargaining model at the producer Louisvale Wines in Wellington. Here, the agricultural workers’ union CSAAWU is negotiating better working and living conditions for local workers with the farm management and the direct online presence of German works councils from the major buyers Rewe, Kaufland and Edeka. A key question now is how they can extend this model to other employers and sectors.

During the workshop, it became clear once again that the work of trade unions in South Africa is a task of growing importance for society as a whole. The ruling ANC party, which emerged from the anti-apartheid struggle, lost a significant amount of power during this year’s presidential elections for the first time in its history since 1994 and is trying to compensate for this with a coalition of liberal economic and white conservative parties. It can therefore be assumed that this government is making little effort to improve the situation of workers and the wage-dependent. Unemployment is now over 43%. This increases racist and xenophobic tensions towards migrant workers, as employers reduce their costs by outsourcing to labour brokers, and thus often to migrant workers, especially in the agricultural sector. Under these conditions, CSAAWU’s trade union work becomes more important but not easier. Against this background, the mapping strategy was explicitly discussed as a political strategy that makes workers the subjects of their demands and eliminates divisions among all workers.

The workshop brought together company activists, mainly from the wine production industry but also from other sectors, to reflect together on bargaining practices in their companies. They identified key challenges such as management tactics of delay, favours towards non-union workers and persistent sexist and racist divisions. In one company, for example, the workers call the management building “The White House” because only white workers are employed there, although there are many qualified applicants from their





ions also work together in the “International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggles” (ILNSS), see also www.labour-solidarity.org.

Search movements

Trade unions and company initiatives are facing major challenges almost everywhere. Precarisation, global production networks and new forms of work organisation have profoundly changed the field of wage labour. Workers are formulating new needs and demands, including for trade unions, which are struggling to find answers. Networks like ours are also confronted with new questions. Together with other initiatives, grassroots groups and trade union activists, we are looking for strategies to overcome the crisis and for answers to the challenges that the current upheavals pose for labour. For example, in a joint initiative – *Transnational Social Strike* – groups of precarious workers from many

own company with non-white background. At the same time, challenges were identified in relation to the workers, such as impatience with the union and a lack of knowledge about the union’s possibilities in bargaining with the companies. The extremely high unemployment rate mentioned above and the resulting fear of losing one’s job also makes it easy for companies to create divisions between unions and workers.

The next step was to discuss the causes of the problems identified. An essential part of this was an exchange about the global balance of power along the supply chain of South African wine in world trade. Who has how much influence on price developments and therefore on working and living conditions? The large retailers from Germany continue to be an extremely strong factor in the development of South African wine production. Using the example of the negotiation model of CSAWU, ver.di and tie at Louisvale Wines in Landau and the successes achieved here, it was shown what can be achieved within a very short time through the joint pressure of workers from the Global South and North: Five days off for the shop stewards for trade union work, the establishment of a pension fund for all permanent employees and the additional permanent employment of eight previously fixed term workers are just the latest achievements since the end of last year. All achievements are diametrically opposed to developments at other South African companies and are in themselves a huge success for CSAWU. Most importantly, however, since the joint efforts of ver.di works councils and the farm workers, the balance of power on the farm has shifted. “They have the lawyers and consultants from the apartheid era, we now have the union and our international colleagues. Only now is the man-



countries in Europe are seeking a common trade union practice. In Frankfurt, activists in the Prekär-lab network are endeavouring to establish a common practice in the areas of organising the unemployed, social services, retail and other precarious areas.

Basis-Netzwerk Stern

The Basis-Netzwerk Stern is a newly founded working forum which, in the tradition of the former Daimler Coordination, serves the regular exchange of information between grassroots works groups and individuals from Mercedes Truck and Car plants in Germany. The new network also sees itself as anti-capitalist, orientated towards the grassroots and based on the interest of wanting to understand international connections beyond one's own backyard and to promote solidarity in Germany and beyond against narrow-minded 'location thinking'. As the corporate strategies are global, this network is also planning internationalism on the part of the workers with the aim of international cooperation between trade union activists in Europe and South America.



agement coming to us workers and wanting to hear our ideas and negotiate. They never thought that workers would discuss their problems on the farms with the outside world. We now act with the same authority as they do. You can really see how they are struggling with it.”

The first successes at Landau Farm have been achieved. A next step is to consider how the 190 migrant seasonal workers on the farm can be organised without fear of being fired directly by the labour broker. This would also be an absolute innovation for the conditions in South African agricultural sector. CSAWU's goal and benchmark is to become even stronger and more influential in order to be able to bargain collective labour agreements with the industry. However, this requires more members. The mapping strategy is planned to be used for this purpose. The workers should have the feeling that their problems are being taken seriously and at the same time that they are growing into the shoes of the role of shop stewards and thus becoming actors in their own negotiations instead of delegating their demands to the union and then turning away disappointed when the union does not get it right.

Another day of mapping training and bargaining training with the shop stewards turned into an in-depth discussion on the importance of trade union work, necessary tools and organising with examples from South Africa, India and Germany. The result of our 3-day workshop: The shop stewards will now roll out the mapping in 12 other companies as quickly as possible in order to implement and further develop what they have learned. To support the work, a cross-company WhatsApp group has been set up in which colleagues can discuss and share their work, achievements and difficulties with the mappings internationally. At the international conferences in Berlin and Frankfurt in October, the negotiation strategy initiated in South Africa and its expansion in South Africa will be discussed further. A delegation to South Africa together with ver.di retail division in February 2025 will be the next milestone in the work along the wine supply chain.



VidaViva

Networks Brazil, Canada and Colombia



There were numerous network activities in Brazil, Canada and Colombia, which we will report on in more detail in future newsletters. In **Colombia**, 16 local and national trade unions, including from the regions of Buenaventura, Bogota, Medellin, Cartagena and Barranquilla, are currently active in the network. In August of this year, further multipliers were trained so that 79 of them are now already working with the network's tools (Raio, mapping, health workshops) and many workers can be reached. A further 100 trainers are planned to be trained for 2025. The mapping process has already been implemented this year in the transport sector and ports, among others.

In **Canada**, United Steelworkers (USW) Canada unionists were trained with the network's tools at the end of 2023. In particular, they implemented several mapping processes and subsequent negotiations on working conditions at the University of Toronto, one of the city's largest employers.



In **Brazil**, in addition to the network's ongoing work, a separate working group was set up this year to address the new challenges posed by the transformation of the economy, the growth of the extreme right and the associated challenges for the labour movement. The aim is to develop instruments within the network to conduct this debate both internationally and locally with colleagues at grassroots level and to bring them together within the network. The next international conference of trainers from the network will take place from 29 November to 1 December in the federal state of Espírito Santo. There, the current status of the discussion will be reported on and the next steps of the working group and other activities will be planned.



Grassroots trade unions

Short portrait of the current political situation in France

The far right, in particular the Rassemblement National, gained further weight in the European elections in France in June 2024. As a consequence, President Macron considered it prudent to dissolve the National Assembly and call new elections. Contrary to expectations and forecasts, a newly formed front of left-wing parties, the Front Populaire, became the strongest force. The very formation of the alliance, which aimed to prevent the victory of the right, was unlikely. The alliance even managed to draft a paper with social policy demands within a short period of time. They may not be particularly radical, but they do set a different tone in the party landscape. But how did the right become so strong in France in the first place?

The main issue from the perspective of the working class is the deteriorating economic situation: closure or relocation of factories to other countries, massive staff cuts in many companies of all sizes (the largest factory, Peugeot Sochaux, has been reduced from 40,000 workers to 10,000 in 40 years), which is not offset by new industrial production, reduction in wages and pensions and, on the flip side, an increase in precariousness and flexibility of working hours and work, a decline in the quality and quantity of social services (education, medicine, postal services, etc.). In addition, everyday life has fewer and fewer collective moments: in social networks, everyone is in their own bubble, there is hardly any common public sphere, except perhaps that produced by the sovereignty of right-wing television channels. Over the last few years, left-wing governments have been equally involved in this increasingly authoritarian liberal policy. As a result, some of the exploited turned away from them and towards the extreme right. The right was able to claim that it was not involved in these decisions and even claimed that it would make other decisions in defence of “the

people”. It also fuelled nationalist rivalry among workers. So, we ended up with a ‘left’ that was heavily compromised with liberal politics – in the sense of: the market must regulate the balance, ‘freedom of the fox in the henhouse’ – and an increasingly influential populist far right as a supposed last resort.

Despite this context, there have been major social struggles in France in recent years. However, they have been met with extreme repression: the “gilets jaunes” (yellow vests) against worsening living conditions; the young people in working-class neighbourhoods who rebelled against police killings targeting them; the population who resisted the announced increases in the retirement age; the ecological youth who opposed the private appropriation of water resources by some industrial farmers or other rejected large-scale projects. These movements face increasingly violent repression and stigmatisation by the state: The system, which has hardly any substantive response, tries to crush any rebellion, no matter how small. The left-wing electoral alliance has now won the election, but not an absolute majority. Macron, who already owes his second presidency in part to the votes of the left, who wanted to prevent a far-right president, is not approaching the left-wing forces this time either. He has made the conservative Michel Barnier the new prime minister, and the new government is tolerated by the far right. This new disappointment and ignorance is now leading to renewed protests. Colleagues from SUD Solidaires and other trade unions are therefore calling for a day of protest and strike action on 1 October. The budget for next year will be presented in parliament on this day. Here, too, the government’s anti-social course continues to emerge: corporate taxes are to be lowered, public services weakened by cuts and there is no money for an ecological turnaround.

Search movements

Health and digitalisation affect the entire shopping street

In recent years, workers and works councils from Primark, Zara and H&M in the Frankfurt area have achieved a lot in their stores and companies: they have focused on the issues of health and digitalisation and fought for improvements. They were also active on the many days of strike action during the long round of collective bargaining in the retail sector and linked this fight to the workplace issues. The positive experiences of working together in this regional context and the discussion about the

transformation of city centres and shopping streets due to the digitalisation of retail led to the desire to understand the processes even better, to win more workers to work together and to jointly shape a retail sector with good working conditions and attractive city centres. During strike actions on the Zeil, colleagues from the ver.di retail division und tie regional group have already held discussions with other organized and striking workers from other stores with the help of their exhibition



‘Shaping digitalisation in a healthy way – across borders’ – with a very positive response. This has strengthened the idea of continuing the close dialogue and working together on the issues on the Zeil, Frankfurt’s largest shopping street, even after the collective bargaining round.

Background: For some time now, colleagues have been experiencing how the central shopping street Zeil has fundamentally changed as a shopping street. Stores that previously characterised it are disappearing and new shops are opening – usually without a works council or trade union affiliation. Meanwhile, the city of Frankfurt is working with property owners and retailers to plan how the Zeil is shaped in the future. Workers who work on the Zeil are not involved in these disputes. Colleagues from the retail sector in Frankfurt and the surrounding area have therefore considered how to win more comrades on the Zeil for active shopfloor and trade union work in order to enable a stronger position in shaping living and working conditions. Colleagues from various stores in the region came together for an educational seminar to work on this issue. They discussed the history of trade union struggles and how to deal with divisions in the working class in order to classify achieve-

ments and argue more strongly for the usefulness of trade union organisation on the one hand, and to find a better way of dealing with obstacles and conflicts on the other. “Knowing the history of trade union struggles gives us a direct argumentation aid to mobilise colleagues, but also encourages me to fight for the right cause, even if it is sometimes exhausting,” says a colleague from Zara. The colleagues have also practised communication models and moderation techniques and honed their previous work in this regard. The colleagues want to use these to further strengthen their central issues within their own company, but also to engage in in-depth dialogue with colleagues from other stores. The aim is to get more workers involved in the regional retail group in the region and expand the circle.

The work to date and further planning has encouraged the activists to focus on grassroots and issue-centred work in the company, in which the works councils organise a collective process and do not work as representatives. The activists have expanded their understanding of strategies for building countervailing power and are motivated to engage in trade union work with colleagues from other workplaces outside of strike action.

Announcements

International – Solidary – Strong:

Conference of ver.di, FES and tie – 08 and 09 October in Berlin

The aim of the third international conference by and for workers in the retail sector is to offer trade union activists along the value chains of the food and textile trade an opportunity to exchange experiences and network with each other.

Wine from South Africa: Thu, 09 October, DGB-Haus Bremen

Between the two conferences, we will discuss the work along the wine value chain in Bremen. We look forward to seeing you there!

tie Conference – 11 to 13 October in Frankfurt

Activists from the networks meet here independently of a specific project. The meeting is intended to strengthen the cohesion of the network as a whole. In terms of content, the aim is to have a political discussion about the current changes in our societies and workplaces, the global economy, political power and the way in which the tie practice is related to this.

