Case Study

Technical National Union East Jutland, Denmark

Who was involved in the partnership and why?

MUNDU is a center for global education in Denmark and a Bridge 47 consortium partner. They have a tradition of including trade unions in their work and board throughout the years. In the past, they have cooperated with one major Danish Trade Union platform to create and disseminate an educational comic book on globalisation and with another to create a mathematics school book about child labor in Tanzania. There is a strong logic for Trade unions to engage in Global Citizenship Education partnerships with CSOs because their values and objectives often coincide.

The chairman of the Technical National Union East Jutland (TL-EJ) in Denmark, Dorthe Hindborg, and MUNDU’s director, Sonja Salminen, initially met at an Internet of Things (IOT) event. The pair got talking and Dorthe explained that she was very interested in the SDGs, in particular SDG 4. She wanted to integrate the SDGs into the running of the organisation and engage the board, staff and union members with them. Sonja offered MUNDU’s support and after a number of meetings a Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

Despite the good start, the partnership wasn’t without its challenges. Sonja learned that senior staff and politically engaged people are very busy. It takes a lot of time to plan with them.

Collaborative activities

The first workshop was with the board. The aim was to create common ground on the SDGs and more specifically on some SDGs that should be operationalized in the union, among the staff and the members. The main branch had published a print out of the SDGs with ideas on if and how the goal was supported in the union and how each of the many professions that they are covering were represented in each of the goals.

Benefits and Impact

All board members participated enthusiastically and were quite responsive and engaged. There is a strong understanding within the union of education being central to the achievement of the SDGs. They were interested from the beginning as it was already on their agenda but in Mundu they found a great partner to support them through the decision making process using GCE methodologies.