

IRENE

- INTERNATIONAL
- RESTRUCTURING
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Tilburg, 25 January 2002.

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are happy to present you a new issue of 'News from IRENE' which contains a good overview the work carried out in the IRENE network.

IRENE's international programme for the coming 3 years is on "Marginalisation of workers and workers' rights". The cornerstones of this programme are:

- **Corporate social responsibility** in which IRENE goes beyond voluntary codes of conduct and focuses also on corporate liability and legal possibilities to make companies 'socially responsible' and respect workers' rights.
- **Workers' rights**, workers' ability to organise and to gain power over their lives are at the core of the work on **workers in the informal economy**. In IRENE there is a strong agreement to elaborate all issues specifically on **women workers**. In the informal economy and in processes of flexibilisation and informalisation of labour this is of extra importance.
- The world is not static. **New developments in the international economy** have to be discussed and included in strategies of work of trade unions and NGOs, and in their education and awareness rising work. Issues high on the agenda of 'Porto Alegre' like international finance, international trade and policies of transnational companies or alternative strategies to neo-liberalism are followed. The consequences for (women) workers of these developments are IRENE's point of departure.

In its activities IRENE always co-operates with other organisations.
Suggestions and comments to IRENE's programme are welcomed.

Kind request to support 'News from IRENE'.

'News from IRENE' is produced to share information with you and your colleague organisations in the trade union and NGO world. Where possible, IRENE loves to receive a financial contribution (of 50 Euro for 3 years). IRENE is fully dependent of outside funding. However, for IRENE as a network it is very important to share and **exchange information** with you. So in return for this 'News of IRENE' you could send us information about your activities. And inform your colleagues and colleague organisations about IRENE's work. (Postbank Amsterdam, The Netherlands, account no. 578 24 78, Swift address ING B NL 2A)

Has 'News from IRENE' landed on the right desk of your organisation?

Updating the addressfiles is very important for a network.

Please inform us about: your correct postal address; the person(s) in your organisation who are interested in 'News from IRENE'; **your correct email address(es)** and web-pages.

Thanking you for your help and wishing you good luck with your work.
Yours sincerely,

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