



VÍZÜGYI KÖZSZOLGÁLTATÁSI DOLGOZÓK
SZAKSZERVEZETI SZÖVETSÉGE



KÖZGYŰTEMÉNYI ÉS KÖZMŰVELŐDÉSI
DOLGOZÓK SZAKSZERVEZETE



23 June 2017

Public Services Day: Joint statement by EPSU and Hungarian affiliates

Hungarian public sector workers seek across-the-board pay increases after a 9-year pay freeze

Hungarian public sector workers have not received a general, all inclusive, pay increase, since 2008. As the overall salary levels have remained unchanged, many public sector salaries have fallen below the minimum wage.

The Hungarian government has used a “divide and rule” tactic, freezing pay for some while awarding pay increases to others. This accounts for some of the official data showing an increase in average public sector salaries in recent years. Trade union action in 2013, did lead to some public sector pay increases. But many groups of workers - including technical staff, catering workers, cleaners and administrators – did not receive any increase in their take home pay.

Poor salary prospects mean that many public sector employees, both blue and white collar, are choosing to quit their professions and find employment outside the public sector, often outside Hungary. The quality of services simply cannot be maintained with an unskilled workforce and precarious working conditions. Hungarian trade unions have tabled several proposals on pay but the government has refused to accept a solution which would include all public sector workers.

June 23rd is Public Service Day and EPSU is calling for a pay rise for public service workers across Europe and strongly backs its Hungarian affiliates in their fight for a pay increase. Since the economic crisis of 2008, the vital contribution public sector workers make to society has too often been met with pay cuts or pay freezes and Hungary is no exception.

According to EPSU General Secretary, Jan Willem Goudriaan, ‘It is completely unacceptable that Hungarian public sector workers are required to maintain the quantity and quality of services while being ignored by their public sector employers and the government’.

‘Public services need well-qualified, well-trained competent staff, but this calibre of employee will not be attracted to the public sector without good pay and employment conditions,’ continued Goudriaan. EPSU believes that the Hungarian government needs to recognise this reality and so start proper and meaningful negotiations with public service unions.

This statement is supported by EPSU and its Hungarian affiliates: BDDSZ, HVDSZ2000, KKDSZ, VKDSZ; EVDSZ expressed their solidarity

EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Unions. It is the largest federation of the ETUC and comprises 8 million public service workers from over 263 trade unions; EPSU organises workers in the energy, water and waste sectors, health and social services and local, regional and central government, in all European countries including the EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood. EPSU is the recognized regional organization of Public Services International (PSI). For more information please go to: <http://www.epsu.org>