

# BUILDING WORKERS' POWER

4<sup>TH</sup> ITUC WORLD CONGRESS - COPENHAGEN, 2-7 DECEMBER 2018

UNIONS AT WORK

WHAT IS YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT WIN 2014 - 2018?

You and your affiliated unions have been on the frontlines of many struggles since we met in Berlin in 2014.

We want to document and share with all Congress delegations to the ITUC World Congress 2018 the most significant victories of trade unions during the period 2014 to 2018.

Can you describe the struggle and the outcome using the template we have prepared and provide a photo and quote from a union leader and trade union member? Send your most significant win to [congress@ituc-csi.org](mailto:congress@ituc-csi.org)

**Name of national trade union centre or union:**

Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (LBAS)

**Country:**

Latvia

**Most significant union victory [Headline in 6 words]:**

“Decent Work, Health Care and Education in Latvia”.

**Description of the issue or dispute [200 words]:**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2016 LBAS organised people’s manifestation on “Decent Work, Health Care and Education in Latvia”. More than 3000 people participated.

Basic demands:

1. To ensure Latvian citizens with affordable and quality education and health care throughout their lives;
2. To ensure a decent wage for health professionals, educators, cultural workers, policemen, social workers and fire fighters;
3. To find additional funding for health care, preschool education, universities and



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science/academicians working together with the social partners

The outcome:

- Increased funding for healthcare – gradual increase of funding on annual basis from 3,1% in 2017 to 4% from GDP in 2020
- Agreement at National Tripartite Cooperation Council on gradual increase of wages for education and science workers
- Compromise – State mandatory social insurance contributions rate increased in order to ensure financial increase for pay rise of healthcare workers – from 10.5 % to 11 %
- The Cabinet of Ministers adopted the regulation that from the 1st September 2018 about 50208 teachers of general education, pre-school education, vocational education, interest education will receive a monthly minimum wage of up to 710 euro per rate. Additionally gained financing for raising the teachers' monthly minimum wage rate in 2018 is € 6.1 million, in 2019 - € 17.6 million.

**Detail of the campaign or strategy [100 words]:**

1 May 2016 People's Manifestation in Riga:  
Decision made by LBAS Steering Committee;  
ITUC, ETUC and international colleagues informed  
International support received form ITUC, ETUC and many trade unions in Europe  
LBAS demands in writing delivered to the Government of Latvia and to the Parliament of Latvia  
Information of the event shared in media including social media

**Photo and quote from union leader [20 words]:**

“National security is at stake - queues for medical services, low wages for policemen, teachers, doctors - this does not create a sense of security in Latvia. We have enough money for banks and various questionable projects but where money is needed to survive we cannot find finances here”, stated former LBAS President Peteris Krigeris.



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**Photo and quote from member [20 words]:**

“Our teachers burn out working in several jobs to earn decent wage, people no longer believe in anything,” said Irena Zaharevica, teacher