

Trade unions strategies and tactics towards restrictions on the right to strike

The right to strike in Poland was granted after mass strikes of 1980's and it is an integral part of Polish democratic system. The right to strike is granted by international law as well as Polish Constitution. Despite historical and political significance, the right to strike in Poland is restricted. Strike can be organized only by trade unions, in their workplace, after multi-step procedure of collective bargaining, which includes stating demands, negotiations, mediation and referendum.

In recent years we observe that employers have attempted to prohibit trade unions from striking, even when all phases of collective bargaining process had been fulfilled. To do that, employers use special regulations of civil law. During past decade civil courts prohibited organizing or ruled to stop strike for several times. Court ban on strike is a new mechanism in polish labour relations. Its worth considering how trade unions react on this change.

The aim of this project is:

- description of on going institutional change in the right to strike,
- inspecting how employers are trying to ban strike, especially on legal grounds,
- inspecting and categorising trade unions reactions on this change on the grounds of the right to strike.