



The Rate of Unionization in the Turkish Tourism Industry

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Abstract

The unions, which are one of the most important actors in the business life, have played significant roles in protecting the rights of workers and the development of societies' democratic lives since the industrial revolution. The unionization, which is at lower levels in the private sector when compared to the public sector in Turkey, is also at low levels in the hospitality industry. The main reason for this weakness is that the perception on unions in Turkey is negative in the general world-view of society. According to the July 2018 data, there were 14,121,664 employees in Turkey. Among these employees, 1.802.155 ones were union members and the general rate of unionization in Turkey was 12.8%. The total number of employees in the hospitality and entertainment sector was 994,168 and 33,873 of them were union members. The rate of unionization in the hospitality and entertainment sector was 3.4% and it was very lower than the average value of Turkey and ranked number two among the sectors. The TOLEYIS Union has the highest number of workers in the hospitality and entertainment sector. With 15,765 members, TOLEYİS represents 46.5% of union member workers and 1.6% of all the employees working in this sector. The OLEYIS Union is the union, which has the second highest number of members in the hospitality and entertainment industry. With 13,085 members, this union represents 38.6% of union-member employees and 1.3% of all the employees working in this sector. The other unions and the number of their members are as follows; TURKON-İŞ 3,222 members, DEV TURİZM-İŞ – 1,515 members, TÜM EMEK-SEN - 27 members, SPOR-EMEK-SEN - 26 members, TURİZM-İŞ - 78 members, TURÇA SEN - 11 members, F.Ç.K. - 94 members, TÜM TURİZM İŞ Union - 43 members, and HAY-İŞ - 7 members. The presence of many unions in hospitality and entertainment industry, in which the rate of unionization is at a very low level, and quite few members in the majority of these unions play a negative role in protecting the rights of employees.

Keywords: Union, Unionization, Turkish Tourism Sector