

April 2023

Information for parents & guardians

Collective bargaining for the public sector

Collective bargaining negotiations failed – what happens

Dear parents and caregivers,

Our trade union ver.di is currently carrying out collective bargaining for federal and local government employees in the public sector. This also includes the salaries of employees in the municipal social and educational services.

As you all know, we are now facing a severe shortage of skilled workers in day care centres and all-day care. In many regions, day care centres have had to reduce their opening hours. Parents' legal entitlement to a place in a day care centre can often no longer be fulfilled. That is why it is so important to pay professionals in social and educational services well in order to make these jobs more attractive.

Why are negotiations underway again?

The collective bargaining in spring 2022 focused on improving our work through relief and financial upgrading. In this round of collective bargaining, we are negotiating pay increases for all federal and municipal public service workers. Our goal in these collective bargaining negotiations is to obtain higher pay to compensate for inflation and price increases.

Employers did not make a new offer in the third round of negotiations until the very end. On Wednesday evening they indicated that they did not wish to address our demands and only shared rough ideas. These included an increase of 8% for a 24-month term and a minimum of €300 per month. This would mean an increase of 4% per year and at least €150 per month and therefore real wage losses.

An effective social component is necessary, especially for the lower wage groups, which include many employees in day care centres. That is why we continue to demand 10.5

per cent higher pay, with a minimum of 500 euros more per month for a term of 12 months.

It will now go to arbitration.

An arbitration commission will be set up for this purpose. It will be composed of 12 representatives from the trade unions and 12 representatives from the employers. ver.di and the employers will each appoint an impartial mediator. At the end, the arbitration commission will create a recommended agreement. The employers and the union will then renegotiate this recommended agreement. The bargaining committee will then decide whether to accept or reject the result.

No strike

During arbitration, the peace obligation applies. This means that there will be no strikes in the federal and municipal public service until the end of the negotiations over the arbitration result.

How to help

If you would like to support day care workers, it would be helpful if you could draw the attention of your district administrator or mayor to the importance of a good collective agreement. They can directly influence the federation of municipal employers' associations.

Thank you for your solidarity!

The employees at your daycare centre and the entire public sector

#zusammengehtmehr