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Located in an attractive park on the banks of the River Po, the Centre's campus provides a congenial environment in which to live and study.

It contains 21 pavilions with fully equipped modern classrooms, conference halls and meeting rooms fitted out for multilingual simultaneous interpretation, a computer laboratory, and a computerized documentation centre linked to various data banks.

The campus has 287 study/bedrooms, all with private bathrooms, telephones and cable television. It also has:

- a reception desk open 24 hours a day;
- a restaurant, a self-service canteen and a coffee lounge, all catering for international dietary needs;

- a bank;
- a travel agency;
- a laundry service;
- a post office;
- an internet point;
- a recreation room;
- facilities for outdoor and indoor sports;
- an infirmary.

Social events are regularly held both on and off campus, so that participants from different cultural backgrounds can make the most of the stimulating international climate.

## For further information, please contact:

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# Extending social protection to migrant workers and their families

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Turin, Italy



International Labour Organization



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International Training Centre



# Extending social protection to migrant workers and their families



## Background and Context

Most of the world's migrants, estimated at 191 million in 2005, with women comprising about half, are migrant workers - those who migrate for employment - and their families. Recent years have seen an emerging international consensus on the positive aspects of labour migration in terms of its linkages with development through remittances, return migration, transfer of skills and technology, and contributions of trans-national communities. At the same time, a number of negative consequences have been observed, including abuse and exploitation of migrant workers in host countries, loss of critical skills from developing countries, and discrimination and poor integration of migrants in host countries.

Social security is a basic human right enshrined in major international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (1990). However, due to their particular circumstances, especially the length of their periods of employment and residence, migrant workers are often prevented from obtaining coverage by social security schemes. They risk the loss of entitlement to social security benefits in their country of origin due to their absence, and may at the same time encounter restrictive conditions under the social security system of the host country.

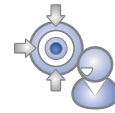
In 2001 the International Labour Conference (ILC), in its General Discussion on Social Security, reaffirmed the commitment of the International Labour Office (ILO) to extend social security coverage for all. In 2004, the 92nd Session of the ILC, in its Resolution on a fair deal for migrant workers in the global economy, identified, as one of a range of urgently needed actions, specific measures to protect the social security rights of migrant workers.

There are several mechanisms for extending social protection coverage to migrant workers and their families. The most promising is the conclusion of social security agreements - treaties which coordinate the social security schemes of two or more countries to eliminate, or at least reduce, the barriers to coverage migrant workers often encounter. In addition, there are other possible mechanisms such as voluntary insurance, community-based measures, and the inclusion of social security provisions in temporary labour migration programmes.

A key component of this course is to offer a worldwide analysis of national and regional strategies for extending social security coverage to migrant workers and their families. This will enable policy makers in charge of migration and/or social protection policies to plan and implement such measures in their respective countries.

This course is organized in close cooperation with the MIGSEC project. This project is implemented by the ILO Regional Office for Africa, in collaboration with the ILO

International Migration Programme and the Social Security Department in Geneva, with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany.



## Objectives

The training course on "Extending social protection to migrant workers and their families" will consolidate knowledge on social security and labour migration and will build the institutional capacities of the ministries and agencies responsible for social security to plan and implement specific measures to extend the social protection of migrant workers and their families.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Formulate national and regional strategies, consistent with ILO Conventions and Recommendations, for the extension of social security coverage to migrant workers through the conclusion of social security agreements or, when such agreements are not feasible, through voluntary insurance and community-based initiatives.
- Plan, negotiate, and implement bilateral and multilateral social security agreements on behalf of their governments.
- Promote the inclusion of provisions on social security in temporary or seasonal labour migration agreements or programmes.
- As an integral part of the course, participants will develop an action plan, based on what they have learned, for the extension of social security coverage of their respective countries' migrant workers.



## Participation

The course will target the following groups:

- Senior officials from government ministries responsible for planning and implementing strategies and policies for extending social protection coverage to migrant workers and, in particular, for negotiating (now or in the future) bilateral and multilateral social security agreements on behalf of their governments
- Senior administrators from social security institutions responsible for providing operational advice to government ministries during the process of negotiating social security agreements and implementing such agreements once they are concluded as well as implementing other measures such as voluntary insurance for extending social security coverage to migrant workers
- Policy makers and administrators from concerned governmental institutions in charge of governing labour migration
- Representatives of workers and employers' organizations handling migration matters

- Staff of international development agencies and regional economic communities
- Staff of micro insurance schemes, and civil society organizations dealing with the social protection of migrant workers
- Researchers and academics working on social protection and labour migration issues



## Course contents

- Migrant workers and social protection: challenges and opportunities
- ILO Conventions and Recommendations on the coordination of social security systems
- Coordination of social security systems - main instruments and regional overview: Coordination in several regional cases: the current situation
- Social security agreements:
  - Material and personal scope, equality of treatment, and provision of benefits abroad (exports of benefits)
  - The legislation applicable (coverage)
  - Preservation of rights in course of acquisition (totalizing);
  - Coordination of medical care
  - Administrative provisions
  - Process for negotiation and conclusion
- Unilateral action: voluntary contributions to social security schemes
- Social security provisions in temporary and circular labour migration programmes
- Responding to the needs of the most vulnerable migrant workers and their families (Women; irregular migrants, people working in the informal economy)
- Community-based approaches to extending social protection



## Methodology

The course will be organized on a participatory basis to encourage active involvement and the exchange of views and experiences among the participants. The gender dimension will be a cross-cutting theme throughout the programme. Training methods will combine lectures and discussions, case studies and group work. Besides, participants will be requested before the course to prepare a brief description of their national social security schemes and to gather information, based on a template to be distributed in advance, of the key provisions of their national social protection legislation of particular relevance to migrant workers.

## Language

English

## Venue and date

ITCILO - Turin (Italy) 13 – 24 September 2010



## Applications

The cost of participation, excluding international air travel, is **EUR 3,250** (course fees EUR 1,570, participant subsistence EUR 1,680) payable in advance by the participant or his or her sponsoring organization. This covers tuition fees; the use of training facilities and support services; training materials and books; accommodation and full board at the Centre's campus; a lump sum allowance for incidental expenses at the Turin Centre and emergency medical care and insurance.

Applications to participate in the workshop should be addressed **not later than 31 July 2010 to:**

Mrs Miriam Boudraa by email: [socpro@itcilo.org](mailto:socpro@itcilo.org)  
or by fax: + 39 011 693 6548

Please note that if a Schengen visa for Italy is needed, the average time required is at least three weeks.