



A900843

Strategies for the Extension of Social Protection

Turin, Italy, 26 November – 7 December 2007

CONTEXT

Globally it is estimated that only one in five people in the world has adequate social security coverage. The lack of social protection is largely concentrated in the informal economy, where women are more likely to be working.

Extending social protection coverage to excluded populations is one of the priorities of the ILO in the framework of its global strategy aimed at ensuring that all people - both men and women - have decent work. Workers need protection against the risk of loss of income because of incapacity for work. This may be for short periods of unemployment or sickness or maternity or for a longer time due to invalidity or employment injury. Employers and enterprises need social security for a productive workforce. Pensioners need income security for a satisfactory and fulfilling retirement. Society needs social security for stable labour relations. Social security helps create a positive attitude towards structural and technical change as well as to the challenges of globalization and its potential benefits

In 2001, representatives from governments, workers' and employers' organizations, meeting at the International Labour Conference, reached a new consensus on social security. They agreed that the highest priority would be given to *"policies and initiatives, which can bring social protection to those who are not covered by existing systems."*

Accordingly, the Conference directed by the ILO to launch the *Global Campaign on Social Security and Coverage for All*. New strategies for the extension of traditional social protection mechanisms and the development of decentralized systems are becoming necessary. The ILO promotes the design of linkages and bridges between decentralized systems and other forms of social protection and public initiatives.

In this context, the ITC ILO Turin is organizing this training activity to strengthen the capacity of key actors and stakeholders to more effectively extend social protection benefits to workers in the informal economy. Special attention is needed for gender sensitive approaches in order to take into account the needs and the development opportunities of all.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this interregional training course is to strengthen the capacity of planners and social actors to develop tripartite strategies for the extension of social protection. At the end of the training, the participants will have increased knowledge and skills that will enable them:

- To have an improved understanding of the need for social protection taking into account a gender perspective;
- To understand the different statutory and decentralized systems and tools for the extension of social protection;
- To identify possible facilitating and hindering factors that may influence the design, setting-up and implementation of gender sensitive social protection mechanisms for informal economy groups;
- To develop an international perspective on the extension of social protection coverage through comparative analysis and sharing experiences; and
- To contribute to the future development of the extension of social protection through active involvement in a network for exchange of information and sharing of experiences.

PARTICIPANT'S PROFILE

This training course is designed for:

- Policy planners from relevant governmental structures,
- Leaders and key members of informal economy, community-based, women-specific or non-governmental organizations who are engaged in various development activities for the benefit of their members;
- Planners, advisers and professionals dealing with social security and social protection mechanisms;
- Representatives of workers and employers' organizations involved in the extension of social protection;
- Practitioners and consultants of international development agencies who wish to gain new technical expertise related to their interventions in the area of social protection.

PROGRAM

The training program will focus on the following topics:

- The situation and perspectives of women and men workers in the informal economy and their increasing need for social protection;
- Extension of formal social protection mechanisms: social insurance, universal benefits and social assistance schemes;
- The promotion of and support for the development of decentralized systems deriving from local initiatives, in particular micro-insurance;
- The design of linkages between decentralized systems and other forms of social protection and public initiatives;
- A gender sensitive approach to the extension of social protection.
- The role of the government, social partners and NGO in the extension of social protection.

METHODOLOGY

The training activity is organized in collaboration with the *ILO Global Campaign on Social security and Coverage for all*. The training activity will be organized on a participatory basis to encourage active involvement, and the exchange of views and experiences among the

participants. Particular attention will be paid to the presentation of best practices through case studies reflecting experiences already gained locally and internationally. The gender dimension is highlighted throughout the entire program.

LANGUAGE: English

DATES: 26 November – 7 December 2007

APPLICATIONS

The cost of participation, excluding international air travel, is US\$ 4,360 (course fees US\$ 2,440, participant subsistence US\$ 1,920) 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 standard daily allowance (12€day) for incidental expenses and routine medical care and insurance.

Applications to participate in the workshop should be addressed **not later than 19 October 2007** to:

International Training Centre of the ILO
Social Protection Programme
Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10
10127 Turin, Italy
(Tel. +39 011 6936524 Fax: +39 011 6936548)
E-mail: socpro@itcilo.org
www.itcilo.org

They should be supported by a curriculum vitae and nomination letter from the sponsoring institution indicating how the participant will be financed. Please note that if a Schengen visa for Italy is needed, the time required is on average at least three weeks.

As an organization dedicated to fundamental human rights and social justice, the ILO is taking a leading role in international efforts to promote and realize gender equality. In line with this ILO focus, women candidates are especially welcome.

THE ILO TURIN CENTRE'S FACILITIES

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 comprises 21 pavilions with:

- fully equipped modern classrooms;
- conference halls and meeting rooms fitted out for multilingual simultaneous interpretation;
- a computer laboratory;
- a computerised documentation centre linked to various data banks.

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

- a reception office open 24 hours a day;

- a restaurant, a self-service and a cafeteria catering for international dietary needs;
- a bank and travel agency;
- a small shop;
- a post office, international telephone exchange, fax and Internet connections;
- a recreation pavilion with reading rooms, television and video rooms;
- facilities for outdoor and indoor sports;
- medical service.

Social events are regularly organised on and off campus to allow participants from different cultural backgrounds to make the most of the stimulating international climate.

For more information on course content please contact:

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Social Protection Programme

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