

Applications to participate in the workshop should be addressed **not later than 1st October 2009** to:

International Training Centre of the ILO
Social Protection Programme
Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10
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Applications 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 average time required is 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 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:

International Training Centre of the ILO
Social Protection Programme
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Extension of social protection: towards a universal social protection floor

2 – 13 November 2009
Turin, Italy



Extension of Social Protection: towards a universal social protection floor



Context

The present global economic crisis has shown that the households accessing social protection are less affected by the crisis and, that redistribution of wealth through social protection allows vulnerable households to continue being part of and contributing to the economy. As the global crisis has now reached every country of the world, the importance and necessity of adequate social protection systems in bringing meaningful support to the people has never been as clear. However, globally, only one person out of five has adequate social protection coverage and the large part of the excluded are found in the informal economy and amongst the poor and vulnerable populations of society.

In light of this and recognizing the power of social protection as a poverty alleviation instrument, a contribution to sustainable development and an automatic economy stabilizer, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB) recently adopted (April 2009), "the *social protection floor initiative*" as one of its nine key priorities to cope with the global crisis. In the context of the "One UN", when all United Nations' agencies join forces and adopt common priorities and recognized solutions for a larger impact, the *social protection floor* has been identified as an efficient immediate response to the global crisis, as well as a sound and sustainable instrument for diminishing socio-economic inequities and contributing to economic growth in the long term.

This year, the extension of social protection course will look at the horizontal and vertical dimensions from which a country can tackle the extension of protection coverage to its population. The horizontal dimension is the adoption of a social protection floor aiming at providing a universal minimum set of social protection benefits at country level. It aims at providing social protection coverage to the poor and the most vulnerable populations of a country. The vertical dimension addresses the improvement/safeguarding of minimum benefit entitlements in the formal and formalizing sectors, i.e. within the frame of reference of Convention 102.

In this context, the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, in close collaboration with the Social Security Department of the ILO and other agencies of the UN System involved in the social protection floor initiative, is organizing a training activity on "Extension of social protection - towards a universal social protection floor".



Objectives

The main objective of this interregional training course is to strengthen the capacity of key actors and stakeholders to design and implement strategies to extend social protection, in the framework of the social protection floor initiative and other extension channels, as a response to the crisis but also as a sustainable strategy for growth and development.

Learning objectives

At the end of the training, the participants will have increased knowledge and skills enabling them to:

- Understand the importance of the extension of social protection as a powerful tool to mitigate and prevent crisis, reduce poverty and inequalities and foster economic growth and development;
- Be apprised of the social protection floor concept and initiative, its context, components and operational phases;
- Participate in national working groups involved in the extension of social protection and contribute to the process of building a national consensus on a social protection floor;
- Contribute to a national diagnosis process of the current social protection systems and to the elaboration of a national extension of social protection strategy;
- Contribute to knowledge sharing at international and regional levels for the elaboration and implementation of extension of social protection strategies;
- Identify capacity building for an efficient collaboration to the social protection floor implementation process;
- Take stock of the various initiatives around the world which constitute either significant pieces of the social floor or milestones for extension of social protection and which can be modified/replicated in other countries.



Participant's profile

The course is designed for:

- Policy planners from relevant governmental structures such as:

- Ministry of Labour;
- Ministry of Financing and Planning;
- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Social Protection;
- Ministry of Social Affairs...

- Planners, advisers and professionals working in social security institutions or with social protection mechanisms;
- Representatives of workers and employers' organizations involved in the extension of social protection coverage;
- Practitioners and consultants of UN agencies of the coalition responsible for the social protection floor initiative who will be involved in its promotion and implementation at national, regional or global levels;
- Leaders and key members of associative or non-governmental organizations engaged in social protection policy formulation;
- Other international organizations and sponsors who wish to gain new technical insights and expertise relating to their interventions in the area of social protection.



Programme

The training programme will focus on the following topics:

The Social Protection Floor Initiative

- The different social protection models and mechanisms and the needs for the extension of coverage;
- The SPF initiative, its background and development, concept and different dimensions in terms of services and transfers;
- The main components of the SPF presented with the relevant UN agencies;
- How to build the most adapted SPF combining the main components and according to national contexts and financial constraints (making the right choices).

The implementation at country level

- Building a country consensus on the need of a social protection floor and a clear national policy framework to implement it;
- Assessing the current situation in terms of social protection at country level and the financing options based on fiscal space, international cooperation, innovative financing (rapid assessment tools);

- Elaborating and implementing an extension of social protection strategy, including the horizontal and vertical dimensions;
- Monitoring, evaluation and performance indicators.

Transversal issues

- Knowledge management and sharing on the extension of social protection initiatives;
- Gender issues;
- Needs of specific vulnerable groups, such as migrants.



Methodology

The training activity will use a participatory and interactive approach to encourage active involvement, knowledge management and sharing, as well as the exchange of views and experiences among the participants. Various learning technologies will be used, including an open space to build answers to specific concerns raised by the participants. Case studies and good practices will expose participants to international knowledge and experience. The gender dimension will be highlighted throughout the entire programme.

Language:

English

Dates

2 - 13 November 2009

Applications

The cost of participation, excluding international air travel, is 3,250 Euros, payable in advance. This covers tuition fees, the use of training facilities and support services, training materials, accommodation and full board at the Centre's campus. A lump sum allowance for incidental expenses is provided as well as emergency medical care insurance.