



## Cost of Participation

Participation in the course costs 2,000 Euros, including course fees of 1,400 Euros and the participant's subsistence of 600 Euros but excluding international air travel and airport transfers. This is payable in advance. The cost of participation covers tuition fees, the use of training facilities and support services, training materials and books, accommodation and full board at the Turin ITC's campus and emergency medical care and insurance.



## Applications

Applicants should complete the online nomination form no later than 1 June 2013, supported by a nomination letter from their sponsoring institution indicating how the participant will be financed. The nomination form can be found at:

<http://socialprotection.itcilo.org>

Applicants are responsible for obtaining their Schengen visa, whenever applicable. If a Schengen visa for Italy is needed, the time required for its processing is usually of 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. 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, and a computerized documentation centre linked to various data banks.

The campus has 287 study/bedrooms, all with private bathroom, telephone, free access to internet 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;
- medical service.

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

### For further information, please contact

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## Assessing the feasibility, fiscal cost and impact of National social protection floors

Turin, Italy  
8 – 12 July 2013



Social Security Department of the ILO



International Training Centre

[www.itcilo.org](http://www.itcilo.org)

# Assessing the feasibility, fiscal cost and impact of National social protection floors



## Background

The ILO took decisive action to promote national social protection floors (SPFs) as a means to alleviate the social fall in the aftermath of the global financial and economic crisis of 2008 and as a way to prevent such social shortfalls in future times. This effort builds up on a long history of work as the ILO Constitution (1944) already insisted on the extension of basic income and comprehensive medical care to all in need to be considered as social and economic necessities.

Different international labour standards have since then provided the means to operationalize this principle, such as through the flagship Convention no. 102 (1952) on minimum standards of social security specifying the minimum role of the state in respect of old age, invalidity, health care, death, unemployment, family support, maternity and employment injuries. However, persisting gaps in social security coverage have been observed. This was recognized in 2001 by the International Labour Conference (ILC) following which a global campaign on the extension of social security for all was launched. The impact of this coverage gap was heavily experienced when the global financial and economic crisis hit in 2008. This and prior decades of lasting social crises have provided evidence that neoliberal economic policies do not suffice to protect the poorer segments of society and to create inclusive development pathways to avoid social discontent. In April 2009, the United Nations Chief Executive Board designated the ILO and the World Health Organisation to lead the social protection floor initiative to make the case for stronger social protection as a response to the crisis and other shocks.

The SPF initiative has been aimed to promote access to essential services and social transfers for all in need of protection through a set of basic social security guarantees, namely income security during childhood, adult working life and old age as well as access to essential health care.

The SPF concept has since then become widely recognized such at meetings of the G20 and at summits of the Millennium Development Goals. In parallel to the UN-wide initiative, the ILO has introduced the concept of national SPFs into the body of international labour standards. Based on an agreement of the ILC in 2011, a two-axis extension strategy was adopted, including on the one hand the building up of a comprehensive social security systems which foresee setting up, complementing and maintaining national SPF and, on the other hand, the gradual improvement of the scope and levels of protection to reach at least the minimum benchmarks foreseen by existing international labour standards (e.g. C.102). This has provided the grounds for the ILC to adopt, almost unanimously in June 2012, Recommendation No. 202 concerning national SPFs.



## Learning objectives

The ILO seeks to draw the attention of national constituents towards investigating the feasibility of adopting national SPFs following a rapid assessment protocol (RAP) to guide policy makers in defining the gaps and possible deficiencies of existing social protection programmes, identifying fiscal resources and assessing the impact on future social outcomes. Establishing a vision of what a national SPF could be for the future shall be based on an understanding of the present. This technical assessment also guides decision-makers in managing the policy trade-offs that will inevitably arise as the financing capacity will evolve.

The course proposes to focus on the practical ways to establish the analytical facts base for the implementation of the SPF concept at the national level. It is intended as the introductory course on technical assessments while specialized training is planned to master with more depth techniques such as institutional building, modelling, impact assessment and national accounts and budgeting. At the end of the course, participants will be familiar with:

- Fundamentals to understand existing social protection policies and their performance with a particular emphasis on coverage gaps of social security measures.
- The performance review entails the analysis of the composition and extent of coverage for each type of life contingencies with a view to understand the role of contributory versus non-contributory social security, available forms of social assistance and other tax-financed employment guarantee programmes, the accessibility and affordability of health services and of other basic and essential services. Understanding the trend in actual expenditure, the delivery capacity and the effective impact on poverty is key prior to selecting SPF policy options that will efficiently use resources.
- Policy formulation for envisioning SPF options and the key analytical considerations with a particular emphasis on social security, cash transfers and public employment programmes.
- The identification of drivers of future social protection expenditure and their projections as well as their interpretation in the context of public finances and fiscal space considerations.
- The basics of impact assessment on poverty as well as a brief overview of how the effects of the SPF can trickle down on the economy and employment and the related public investments possibly required to support the introduction of some of the basic elements of the SPF beyond cash benefits.
- Understanding the integration of fiscal policies supporting the SPF into the political economy and the parliamentary budgeting process at the country level.
- The coverage extension of social protection measures and the new public investments - required to build up a national SPF - heavily rely on tax financing as contributory methods alone cannot bridge the gap. The achievement of a consensus on the selection of policy priorities and the optimal financing model to be used should be reached through social dialogue.



## Participants

Targeted participants are officials committed to furthering the social protection with innovative practical methods and techniques. Although not mandatory, we encourage the participation of national multidisciplinary teams composed of policy-makers and government officials working in the context of social protection policy analysis, social statistics, public finances (budget planning and national development plans) and social security planning. Participation from experts engaged in their country's social protection extension strategies and initiatives or in technical cooperation projects is encouraged.

Participants are required to hold an academic background, or equivalent professional experience, in an area related to social protection policy / demographic, labour and social statistics / economics / and quantitative and actuarial techniques.



## Contents

The training activity is based on the expertise of the Social Security Department of the ILO. The training programme consists of four modules as described below which will each integrate a selection of country case studies from around the world:

### Module A: Diagnosis of the performance of existing social protection systems

- Review the general architecture, composition and quality of the existing national social protection system in light of a set of acknowledged performance indicators.
- Assess the coverage gap by way of comparison of the observed experience data and other sources of information such as household surveys with policy intentions, relevant national legislation and key international standards such as the international Recommendation No. 202 of 2012 on national SPFs and the international Convention No. 102 of 1952 on minimum requirements of social security.
- Conduct cross-national comparisons of the state of development of social protection.

### Module B: Costing of national SPFs for the initial orientation of policy-making

- Review the methodologies and foundations of quantitative modelling of the national SPFs expenditure components and of the fiscal space.
- Review statistical and information bases relevant to costing.
- International best practices for public revenue mobilization and tax revenue efforts.

### Module C: Impact analysis of national SPFs

- Review the basics of micro-simulations for the impact assessment of national SPFs on poverty and social outcomes.
- Review the basics of a general equilibrium economic model using the dynamic social accounting matrix approach for the assessment of the economic and employment impact of public social protection expenditures and public investments with a social objective.

- Review statistical requirements relevant to social protection impact assessments.

### Module D: Political economy and good governance of national SPFs

- Understand the political economy affecting social protection policies and budgetary implications.
- Review institutional and administrative considerations and required public investments.
- Review the parliamentary budgeting, monitoring and reporting process for the good governance of spending and operations of national social protection programmes.



## Methodology

The ITC promotes a three-phase blended approach in its learning activities:

- Phase I: Pre-course information, including required pre-reading, on the internet-based learning platform
  - three weeks before the course.
- Phase II: Face-to-face workshop
  - one-week course in Turin.
- Phase III: Post-training on the internet-based learning platform
  - follow-up.

During the course an action-oriented, highly participative approach is used with particular attention to sharing international experience with a view to adaptation and practical application. Training methods combine lectures and discussions, case studies, group work and hands-on technical exercises.



## Resources persons

Through its pivotal role in social security policy development, strong partnerships with other United Nations Agencies and comprehensive technical cooperation projects around the world, the ILO draws on a worldwide network of the best social protection, employment and social dialogue specialists from its own staff and senior consultants.



## Language

English.



## Venue and dates

Turin, Italy.

From 8 to 12 July 2013.