

Strategies for the Extension of Social Security

Context and background Globally it is estimated that only one in five people in the world has adequate social security coverage while half of the world's population is without any social security protection.

Extending social security coverage to excluded populations is one of the chief priorities of the ILO in the framework of its global strategy aimed at ensuring that all people - both men and women - have decent work.

Lack of social security coverage is largely concentrated in the informal economy, where women are more likely to be working. Existing formal social security schemes are designed and focused on workers in formal employment. Although the appropriate legislation has been enacted in some cases to ensure that these benefits also reach workers in the informal economy, evidence suggests that only a very small percentage of these workers are able to access social protection through these structures.

In 2001, representatives from governments, workers' and employers' organisations, 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 security to those who are not covered by existing systems."

Accordingly, the Conference directed the ILO to launch a major campaign to promote the extension of social security coverage. New strategies for the extension of traditional social security 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 security 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 strategies for the extension of social security.

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 security taking into account a gender perspective;
- To understand the different statutory and decentralized systems and tools for the extension of social security;

- To identify possible facilitating and hindering factors that may influence the design, setting-up and implementation of gender sensitive social security mechanisms for informal economy groups;
- To develop an international perspective on the extension of social security coverage through comparative analysis and sharing experiences; and
- To contribute to the future development of the extension of social security through active involvement in a network for exchange of information and sharing of experiences.

Profile of participants 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 security;
- 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 content 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 security;
- Extension of formal social security mechanisms: social insurance, universal benefits and social assistance programmes;
- 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 security;

Methodology 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 17-28 November 2003

Cost of participation The cost of participation, excluding international air travel, is US\$ 3,750 (course fees US\$ 2,030, participant subsistence US\$ 1,720) 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 for incidental expenses
- routine medical care and insurance

Applications Applications to participate in the workshop should be addressed to:

International Training Centre of the ILO

Social Protection Programme

Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10

10127 Turin, Italy

(Fax: +39 011 6936548, Tel. +39 011 6936545)

E-mail : socpro@itcilo.it

<http://www.itcilo.it>

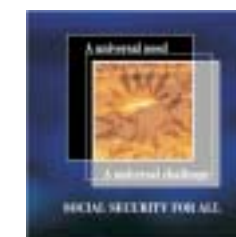
no later than 1 October 2003.

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.



International Training Centre



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