

Responsible Supply Chains in Asia (China)



AT A GLANCE

→ Partners

Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), China Enterprise Confederation (CEC), All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), and local government;

Multi-stakeholder initiatives, sectoral associations, research and academic entities;

Multinational and national enterprises, and other stakeholders in global supply chains.

→ Donor

European Union

→ Duration

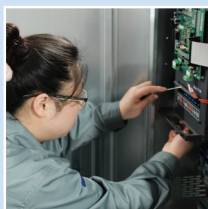
December 2017 - December 2020

→ Target beneficiaries

Government, policy makers, international and national enterprises, Small and medium enterprises, workers and employers' organizations and educational institutions

→ Geographical focus

National and provincial



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The “Responsible Supply Chains in Asia” project is a partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO), European Union (EU) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The aim of the project is to contribute to an enhanced respect for human rights, labour and environmental standards by businesses with supply chains in Asia, to work in line with internationally agreed guidelines and principles. Taking guidance from the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (ILO MNE Declaration, 2017) and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (2011), the project will promote corporate social responsibility (CSR)/responsible business conduct (RBC) in the fields of decent work, labour standards and working conditions in global supply chains.

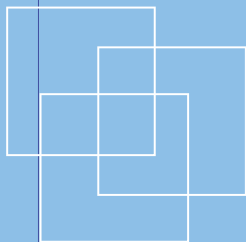
CSR is one of the integral ways in which enterprises give consideration to the impact of their operations on society and affirm their principles and values through methods and processes both internally and externally. CSR is a voluntary, enterprise-driven initiative which refers to activities that are considered to exceed simple compliance with the law. CSR is a key element of corporate management and integral to managing risk. It also promotes sustainable development at the enterprise, national and global levels, therefore contributing to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. To be effective, CSR must be systematically integrated into all long-term business management and planning, not only on occasion. CSR is not the same as philanthropy or charity.

The responsible supply chains in Asia project targets the electronics and textiles sectors in China. Together they account for high numbers of workers in the country and have strong links with EU trading partners and with other Asian countries.

The project aims to achieve the following immediate objectives:

- Increase understanding and knowledge of investors, businesses associations, enterprises, civil society organisations, trade unions and policymakers on CSR/RBC from the perspective of decent work.
- Create a policy environment conducive to promoting socially responsible conduct among businesses.
- Increase opportunities for businesses to have dialogue on challenges and opportunities in relation to the implementation of socially responsible labour practices.





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MAIN ACTIVITIES

The project's activities aim to increase government and private sector understanding of the nature and potential benefits of responsible business conduct in the area of labour rights and environmental standards. Activities will take place at the national and provincial level and the project is structured around four areas of intervention:

Research to generate an updated mapping of policies, practices and institutions at the sectoral level in China, which will lay a solid foundation for the design and implementation of policy dialogues, as well as capacity building, targeted communication and advocacy strategies.

Outreach activities will give a platform for dialogue among various stakeholders to increase knowledge of socially responsible labour practices, share expertise and learn from national and international experiences.

Policy advocacy will provide technical inputs and enhance policy dialogue among different actors to promote policy coherence and facilitate the implementation of good practices in terms of CSR.

Training on internationally agreed CSR/RBC principles and guidelines will be delivered to ILO constituents, multinational enterprises, small and medium enterprises and future business leaders both at the national and local levels, with a focus on specific sectors. Seminars and workshops will provide public and private stakeholders with updated information, ensuring the sustainability of activities, as well as demonstrating concrete examples of the implementation of CSR at the enterprise level.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

Building on its four areas of activity and engagement in China, the project will by the end of its mandate have:

- Boosted awareness and understanding of CSR/RBC, particularly among policy makers in government and business, through the exchange of information and the dissemination of the latest research, case studies and data;
- Improved coherence between the EU and China on CSR/RBC policies and practice;
- Developed and/or reinforced multi-stakeholder partnerships, including at a sectoral level, to implement sound industrial relations and lift the contributions of businesses operating in China to environmental protection, decent working conditions, and the respect for human rights.



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