



International
Labour
Organization

MASTERS COURSES FOR SOCIAL POLICY FINANCING AND SOCIAL POLICY DESIGN, PUBLIC POLICY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT MASTER PROGRAMME SPECIALIZATIONS AT MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY, MAASTRICHT GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE.

Depending on the state of economic development, individual countries redistribute between 5 and 30 per cent of GDP through national social protection schemes (social assistance schemes, social insurance schemes, health benefits, pension and short-term cash benefits). Redistributive machines of such an order of magnitude need to be designed, adjusted, reformed, monitored and managed by highly qualified social protection specialists and managers.

The worldwide trend towards the revision and reform of welfare and protection systems further increases the need for well-qualified quantitative social protection analysts and managers.

Many developing countries and transition-economies, but also some industrialized countries, do not have these specialists or managers; neither do they have access to comprehensive, concise and problem-orientated training programmes. Well-trained experts in each country would make a notable difference with respect to the development of effective social protection strategies for the extension of social protection and through good governance to the long-term viability of national social protection systems and thus to people's long-term social security.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Partners:

University of Maastricht,
Maastricht Graduate School
of Governance.

Beneficiary Countries:

Global

Timeframe:

Annual projects from:
2000 – 2013

Budget:

USD 810,000

THE RESPONSE

The Maastricht University Masters programmes fill a crucial void in global professional governance training.

In 2000, the ILO and the University of Maastricht agreed to set up a joint one-year master's programme in social protection financing. The programme was designed to train social protection specialists and to create a permanent training infrastructure for further groups of experts.

The long-term objective of this collaboration is to improve the design and implementation of national social protection systems by improving the (quantitative and empirical) bases for national political decision-making processes.

With the active involvement of the ILO, the first MSc in social protection financing programme was launched in the 2001–02 academic year, and was subsequently supplemented by a master's programme in social policy design.

These were later consolidated under an umbrella master's programme on public policy and human development, with the above specializations. The programmes train future specialists in social protection for social security institutions, academic institutes, governments and international organizations thereby creating a network of thoroughly trained and socially responsible managers in charge of social security systems around the world.

In the academic year 2011/2012 the ILO provided the following three courses:

- Financing Social Protection
- Social Budgeting
- Actuarial Practice in Social Protection

The ILO's Social Protection Department has also invested in the production of the textbook series which accompany the Masters programmes

Partnerships and Field Support Department (PARDEV)

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RESULTS

During the twelve academic years that the programmes have been run, 361 students have obtained their MSc in public policy and human development.

These students came from over 69 countries, and 48 per cent of them came from low- and middle-income countries.

Many of the students were employees of national social protection institutions who returned to work in them once they had obtained their degrees.

Some former students currently serve in prominent positions in their respective governments and in national social security institutions (e.g. in Ghana, Jordan, Nigeria, Thailand and Zimbabwe); others have served on ILO lead

development projects (e.g. in Ghana, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia), and others have joined international organizations.

The success of the joint ILO–University of Maastricht master’s programme justifies the ILO seeking to replicate the programme in other regions of the world. Within the framework of collaboration with the University of Mauritius an executive MSc in social protection financing programme for the 2010–11 academic year was launched. In 2013, with the University of Algiers, a new programme for higher level studies in social security has been established. Discussions are ongoing with a university in Bangkok, and possibly with the University of Montevideo for similar programmes to be set up there.



“To guarantee high quality in an international environment, we cooperate with the faculties of Maastricht University, partner universities and international organizations, like the International Labour Organization (ILO)”.



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BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

Support from ILO professional staff and senior experts to teaching and the development and updating of curricula.

Use of ILO models for social security schemes including projecting population, the macro-economic frame, the labour market frame, pensions and other social security benefits.

The availability of trained experts able to plan, organize, finance and administer benefit schemes is a necessary condition for the successful planning, implementation and management of social security policies. The ILO with its experience is a valuable partner to support the building up of national expertise.