



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

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Transition to formal economy - A Global knowledge sharing forum - GKSF

23 – 27 November 2015
Turin, Italy

ITC 
International Training Centre

www.itcilo.org

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Background

The informal economy comprises more than half of the global labour force. According to the most recent estimates, non-agricultural employment in the informal economy represents 82 per cent of total employment in South Asia, 66 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, 65 per cent in East and South-East Asia (excluding China), 51 per

cent in Latin America and 10 per cent in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. If subsistence agriculture is considered, the percentage of employment in the informal economy is even larger than the figures presented above. The negative aspects of informality pose serious challenges to workers (decent work deficits, poverty and vulnerability), economic units (low productivity and growth) and governments (issue of governance and limited fiscal space). In view of these challenges, the transition from the informal to the formal economy is increasingly seen as being central to realizing decent work as a development goal, and to social justice. The debate concerning the informal economy and possible strategies towards formalization is therefore gaining new momentum at all levels and in various circles.

The ILO is organizing a Global Knowledge Sharing Forum on Transition to formal economy in Turin from 23-27 of November. The event focuses on exchange on promising practises worldwide as well as exchanges on effective implementation of Recommendation 204 concerning the transition from the informal to formal economy adopted by ILO constituents in June 2015. The event includes as well a one-day high level meeting with development partners to discuss ways to build an international alliance for the transition to formality and decent work.

The adoption of Recommendation 204 constitutes a historic landmark for the world of work as it is the first standard focusing exclusively on the informal economy in its entirety. It is of significance not only to ILO constituents but for all those who are concerned with inclusive development, poverty eradication, reducing inequalities and who are looking forward to a strong focus on the goal of decent work for all in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where formalization has a key role to play to achieve Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Implementation of Recommendation 204 requires

- appropriate awareness-raising initiatives for the widespread implementation of the Recommendation;
- sharing of knowledge, information and good practices on transition from the informal to the formal economy;
- building the capacity of governments and employers' and workers' organizations to design, implement and evaluate national policies and programmes to facilitate transition to formality;
- supporting dialogue processes on the design, implementation and monitoring of national integrated policy

frameworks to facilitate the transition to the formal economy; and v) promoting cooperation and partnerships with relevant international organizations to facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal economy.

Within that context, the Global Knowledge Sharing Forum –GKSF- is a breakthrough opportunity to take stock of the wealth of knowledge across participating regions and to reflect upon how to further promote formality through innovative policies that can be efficiently monitored and evaluated for higher impact. The event is meant to be a milestone that will pave the way for continued exchange and cooperation among the countries in the way forward to making ILO's the Recommendation on transition to formality operational.

The GKSF will build on the four reports prepared under the standard setting double discussion 2014-2015 for the adoption of R204 as well as the conclusions of Regional knowledge sharing workshops organised by the ILO in Africa, Asia, Europe and Americas in 2015. It also takes place one week after the action plan and strategy for the implementation of R204 are presented for adoption, to ILO's Governing Body in November.



Objectives

The Global Knowledge sharing forum is a platform for open and interactive discussion between public decision-makers, social partners and institutional partners on what has worked on the transition processes at national, regional and global levels; as well as to identify key issues and challenges relating to enhancing the operationalization of the ILO's recommendation on transition to formality.

The first day is dedicated to be a high level meeting gathering high level speakers and resource persons from development partners, selected countries and universities. During that one day, participants will discuss the implementation of the R204 and its action plan. Considering the new context with the SDG 8 and the growing awareness and commitments of ILO constituents and multilateral/bilateral cooperation agencies to tackle the issue of the informal economy, the one-day forum will be an opportunity for the ILO to strengthen its leading role on this issue and to identify potential partnerships and synergies in that policy field.

The following four days will be dedicated to enhancing knowledge and exchanging experiences on transitioning from the informal to the formal economy from country and regional perspectives, benefitting from the Conclusions and outcomes of the Regional Knowledge sharing Forum which took place earlier in 2015 in LAC, Asia, Africa and Europe, as well as the policy work done by ILO's technical units and ACI 6 to advancing the transition to formality agenda through research, policy guidance and capacity building to ILO's constituents.

During the event, participants will:

- Discuss key actions interventions highlighted in R204 to promote the transition to formal economy;
- Assess promising formalisation experiences and practices from regions and countries;
- Brainstorm on new perspectives in relation to assisting countries in their formalisation processes;
- Evaluate the feasibility for national as well as international alliances for the promotion to better working conditions for more than half of the world workforce which is producing and working in the informal economy.

The expected changes through this forum are: i) knowledge base of the nature, pattern and effectiveness and sequencing of policy packages for transitions to formality is enhanced and available to constituents in target countries; ii) Constituents in target countries are informed about practical implementation of policy measures that facilitate transition to formalization in others countries of their region/other parts of the world to formalize the informal economy.



Target audience

The GKSF targets ILO's constituents as well as other policy makers at various levels from other key public institutions including ministries (finance, planning, social affairs, statistics...), researchers, practitioners, as well as staff of international organisations working on formalisation from Africa, Europe, LAC, Asia and Arab States.

Participation will be open to government officials and representatives of workers' and employers' organizations of countries that have actual practices, experience and knowledge on the transition to formality, as well as to those of countries that are interested in strengthening existing policies or adopting new measures but require further knowledge to do so.

High level Forum

The first day of the meeting is organised around a High level forum with development partners. Participants will interact high level speakers from ILO's constituents, representatives of development partners; about ways to advancing the transition to formality and Decent work agenda

1. From the adoption of R204 to its implementation: Strategy and Action plan Institutional partnership
2. Implementation of R204 : Focus on constituents
3. Round table :Transition to formal economy: In the new framework of post 2015 (SDG 8)
4. Building national partnerships : Coordination of interventions and role of social partners



Structure and thematic focus

The GKSF will focus on the following key thematic areas

Plenary sessions

- A. The ILO Instrument on the transition to formality: What does it mean for the Decent Work Agenda and the world of work?
- B. Mainstreaming transition to formality into employment policy and development policy design and implementation
- C. Rights and social protection
- D. Incentives, compliance and enforcement
- E. Data collection and analysis, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess impacts of formalisation policies

Country experiences (among which)

1. Integrated policy framework : Comparing countries /regions public policies on formalisation and best practises on policy formulation
2. Formalization of micro and small enterprises: business case and policy interventions?
3. Innovative Strategies for Employers' Organizations to support the formalization of Informal Businesses
4. Freedom of association, collective bargaining and organising workers in the informal economy
5. Improving working conditions of domestic workers: Tools, and recommendations
6. Extending social protection to informal workers: Review of approaches and tools
7. How cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy organisation can promote the transition to formality of employment and enterprises: Country case studies
8. Addressing informality through LED and value chains approaches
9. Data management and diagnostic tool: LM indicators on IE and analysis
10. Upgrading informal apprenticeship
11. Legal framework: review of national legal practices, and insights on enforcement and compliance mechanisms?



Languages

English, with interpretation into Spanish



How to apply

Application should be done through the e-campus system of ITCILO. Online applications should be filled in no later than October 18 of October 2015,

Spanish: <http://intranetp.ilo.org/STF/A908305/es>

English: <http://intranetp.ilo.org/STF/A908305/en>