Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy: towards inclusive and sustainable development

Background

The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation (2008) states that “productive, profitable and sustainable enterprises, together with a strong social economy and a viable public sector, are critical to sustainable economic development and employment opportunities”.

Today, the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is a reality in many people’s lives because it promotes values and principles that focus on people's needs and on their communities. In a spirit of voluntary participation, self-help and self-reliance, and through enterprises and organizations, it seeks to balance economic success with fairness and social justice, from the local level to the global level.

The concept of SSE cuts across all four dimensions of the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda. A high-level capacity building programme on SSE was proposed by more than 200 participants on the occasion of the ILO Regional Conference on Social Economy held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in October 2009.

The first three editions of the Academy were organized by the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO) in Turin (Italy) in 2010, in Montreal (Canada) in 2011 and in Agadir (Morocco) in 2013. Known as the “ILO Social and Solidarity Economy Academy (SSE Academy)”, this inter-regional training event has gathered together, in each edition, more than 70 practitioners and policy-makers from around the world, to share their experiences and meet leading SSE specialists.

Objectives

This year the Academy will have a special focus on the Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations (SSEOs) added value in terms of inclusivity and sustainability and the role that the SSE can play in the debate of the post-2015 development agenda.

The main objective will be to generate a better understanding of the concept of SSE and its possible contribution to inclusive and sustainable development.

At the end of the academy, the participants will:

- Have a better understanding of the areas in which the Social and Solidarity Economy can be applied and implemented successfully such as employment creation and preservation, social protection, social dialogue, green jobs, legal and policy frameworks, informal economy and local economic development.
- Have been acquainted with a multitude of social and solidarity experiences, strategies and tools from around the world, with a particular emphasis on South-South and triangular cooperation.

Contents and Learning Methodology

A distance-learning package will be available for the participants before the on-campus training sessions. It is designed around the following five thematic areas:

- Definition of the SSE;
- Governance and management of SSEOs;
- Policy framework for developing the SSE;
- Building the SSE through partnership and networking;
- Contributions of the SSE to the ILO Decent Work Agenda.

During the on-campus sessions, the face-to-face modality of the Academy in Brazil will allow participants to engage in interactive plenary sessions and to choose among different elective topics, based on their professional interest. The elective sessions will offer an opportunity to share knowledge, discuss concrete applications of SSE at national and regional levels and draw up lessons for future research, projects and policy-making.

Dedicated sessions will treat issues of particular concern to trade unions such as job preservation and organizing workers in the informal sector through SSEOs, and to South-South and triangular exchanges of experiences and best practices.

As training support material, the ILO coordinates the SSE Reader formulated by an international team of high level experts, with guidance, guidelines and technical inputs from ILO officials. Reviewed by ILO experts and partner organizations, the ILO Reader on SSE is part of the training package to be delivered during the Academy.

Who should attend?

The Academy is designed for

- SSE practitioners (leaders and managers of social and solidarity economy organizations).
- SSE promoters (UN organizations and development partners, foundations, networks of SSEs).
- Policymakers from different government ministries (labour, social affairs, cooperatives, women's entrepreneurship, youth).
- Social partners (workers’ and employers’ organizations).

The course may also interest researchers who would like to get practical insights into the application of Social and Solidarity Economy in different regions.

Venue and dates

This fourth edition of the ILO Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy will be held in the campus of Campinas Faculties (FACAMP), in São Paulo state, Brazil, from 28 July to 01 August 2014.

Partners

The partners of this edition are CIRIEC (International Centre of Research on Social and Cooperative Economy), EESC (European Economic and Social Committee), FACAMP (Campinas Faculties), BNDES (Brazilian Economic and Social Development Bank), SEBRAE (Brazilian Service of Support for Micro and Small Enterprises), SENAES (National Secretariat of Solidarity Economy in the Brazilian Ministry of Labour) UNISOL (Union of Cooperatives and Solidarity Enterprises of Brazil) and FecomercioSP (Federation of Trade in Goods, Services and Tourism of the State of São Paulo, Brazil).

Participation costs

1,500 Eur covering tuition fees (including meeting package, training materials and insurance)

Board and lodging, as well as travel costs, are NOT included.

A limited number of partial fellowships is available, covering up to 1,000Eur.

To be admitted in the fellowship selection process, the application will need to reach us before 30 May 2014 and will have to be accompanied by

- a sponsorship letter clearly indicating who will be covering the remaining amount
- a CV of the candidate

The fellowship selection process will be finalised by 9 June 2014.

How to apply

To enrol in the Academy, please register on-line at the address: http://intranetp.itcilo.org/STF/A957031/en click on “Apply Now”.

For further information please write directly to us at: socialeconomy@itcilo.org

Deadline for registration: 13 June 2014