



The European Union ILO Cooperation

As a long-standing priority, with roots in European integration efforts, development cooperation occupies an important place in the European Union's (EU) agenda. The European Economic Community (the predecessor of the EU) signed its first cooperation agreement with the ILO in 1958, reflecting common values, principles and strategic objectives. Since then, the EU has had a significant impact on employment and social affairs related issues through its development work carried out jointly with the ILO. The EU, through its partnership with the ILO, benefits from a large geographical scope, experience and credibility established over time.

EU-ILO strategic partnership

The shared vision premised on a belief that economic and social progress should go hand in hand, and common support for 'Decent Work' and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals continue fostering many fruitful joint initiatives. This close relationship involves different modes of cooperation from knowledge-sharing and policy dialogue to development cooperation activities.



EC-ILO Mauritania project

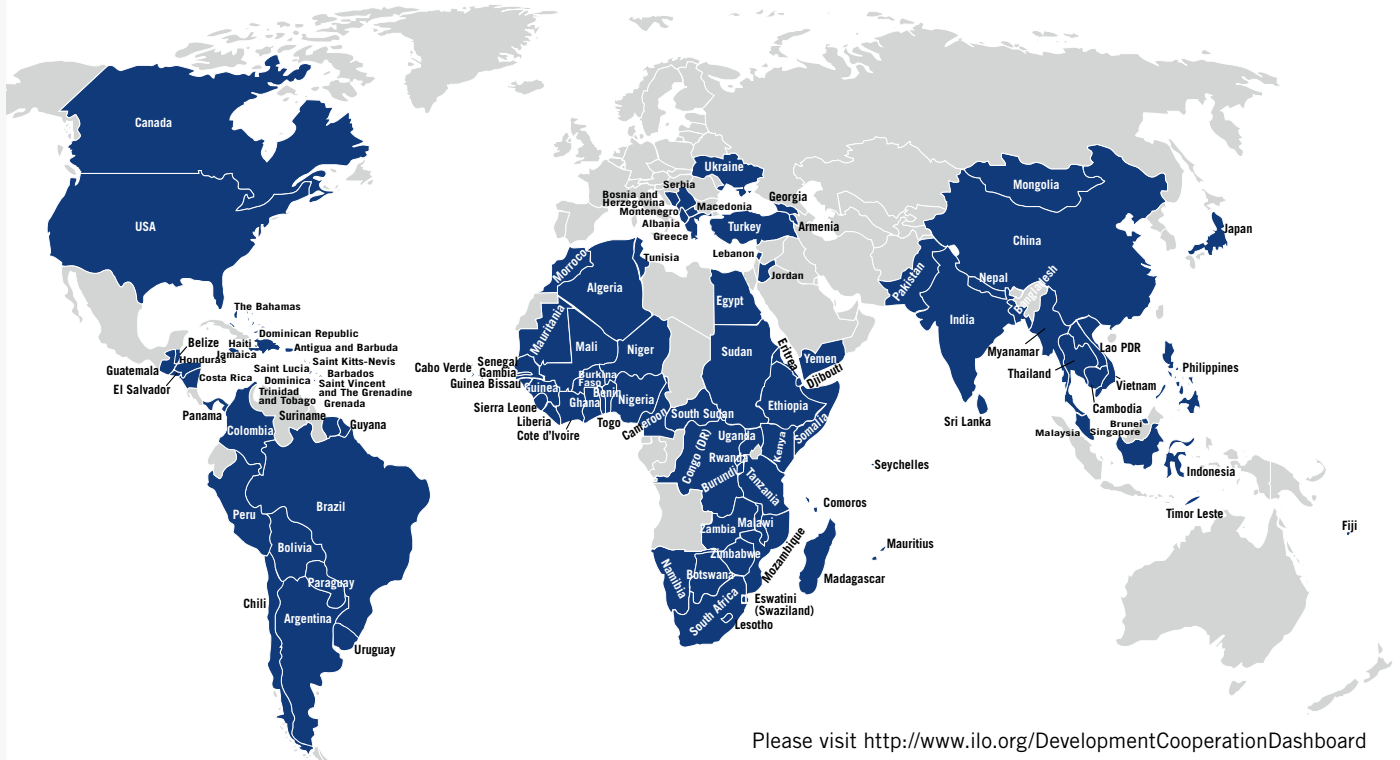
EU DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The 2017 **New European Consensus on Development** is the cornerstone of the EU's revamped development policy addressing in an integrated manner the 2030 Agenda. It outlines commitments including greater coherence between the EU and its Member States' activities and strengthened partnerships with multilateral organizations. Moreover the **new EU Global Strategy** underlines EU support to multilateralism on issues such as climate change, sustainable development, security, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and global governance.

The EU's financial contributions: facts and figures

In addition to individual Member State contributions, the EU funds ILO Development Cooperation to advance the Decent Work Agenda throughout the world. Such funding supports specific global and national projects and programmes in geographic and thematic areas of importance for the EU. With funding to the ILO amounting to USD 281.5 million between 2012 and 2018 the EC is the largest donor to ILO's development cooperation programme with worldwide outreach.

EU and ILO Collaboration: Countries covered, 2012-2018



Economic empowerment of women at work

Promoting gender equality is at the core of EU external action, together with the ILO the EU is mainstreaming gender equality across sectors and institutions.

Under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, UN Women and ILO are promoting and protecting the rights of women migrant domestic workers, both within and from the ASEAN region. By addressing policy, capacity building, and cross border cooperation, it aims to

strengthen labour migration governance frameworks, promote fair recruitment practices, and prevent abuse, including forced labour and human trafficking.

Together with UN Women and guided by the Women's Empowerment Principles, ILS, and ILO's MNE Declaration, an initiative promotes women's economic empowerment at work in G7 countries, by facilitating exchanges among countries' public and private sector, documenting and disseminating good practices,

and fostering effective partnerships. Another ILO-UN Women Programme supports enterprises and employers organisations from six Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Uruguay) to promote gender equality at work. By building capacities and incentives for women-led enterprises and networks, it is promoting business links, joint ventures and innovation between women from both regions, while supporting inter-regional dialogue for equal gender business.

POLICY DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE

The EC and the ILO engage in knowledge sharing and advance policy dialogue on development priorities during their annual High-Level Meetings. The 2017 edition addressed key areas of collaboration including on jobs, growth & investment, youth employment, gender equality, social protection, working conditions in global supply chains, including Occupational Safety and Health, migration, social dialogue, and in setting international labour standards in the maritime and fishing sectors.

Exchange on research activities include areas such as the changing nature of jobs, non-standard forms of employment and the sharing and digital economy. Analytical work on long-term changes in the world of work is being carried out with the goal of supporting job-rich and sustainable growth as well as upward social convergence among the EU member states. This cooperation informs the ILO Future of Work Centenary Initiative as well as the 2017 EU initiative for a European Pillar of Social Rights, which sets out key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets in EU member states.

Decent Work in Global Supply chains

The EU is committed to supporting its partner countries in responsible management of supply chains. Since 2018 the EU and ILO collaborate to tackle child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains in targeted countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Pakistan). Utilising a value chain approach and promoting enhanced national legislative frameworks and policies, interventions aim to promote collaboration between business

(local industry and international buyers), government, workers' and employers' organizations and civil society. The EU also supports the Vision Zero Fund that aims to prevent work-related deaths, injuries and diseases in global supply chains.

Collaboration between OECD, EU and ILO is enhancing respect for decent work, human rights, and environmental sustainability through promotion of

responsible business conduct in six EU trading partners in Asia (China, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam). In line with international instruments including the ILO MNE Declaration, it fosters responsible behaviour among businesses in target sectors (buyers and suppliers) and support the creation of conducive policy environments and tripartite plus dialogue platforms to facilitate this change.

Labour Migration and Fair Recruitment



As recognised by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the promotion of decent work in labour migration and of fair recruitment is critical to improve migration development outcomes, to reduce labour migration costs and to prevent forced labour and trafficking. Poor regulation and oversight of recruitment practices can limit labour market integration, foster low quality employment or exploitation, and lead to increased mismatch between workers skills and jobs.

The multi-stakeholder Fair Recruitment initiative aims to promote fair business practices, and improve laws, policies,

enforcement mechanisms and knowledge on recruitment practices at origin and destination countries. The ILO enhances the capacities of governments to regulate and enforce better recruitment practices and of employers, trade unions, civil society and the media to provide more reliable information and services to migrant workers improving their access to justice.

Responding to the needs identified by Africa's Regional Economic Communities, the Labour Migration Governance for Development and Integration programme seeks to extend decent work and social protection to migrant workers

and their families, and encourage productivity, and regional integration. In the IGAD region, opportunities for regulated labour mobility and decent work within its member countries is also supported.

In Ethiopia, the ILO is improving labour migration governance and addressing the root causes of migration by providing reintegration assistance to returnees through a holistic and coherent economic and social empowerment approach, smoothening school to work transition and increasing evidence on migration and employment. In June, Ethiopia's first Youth Employability Services centre was launched playing a key role in informing youth about migration.

In Turkey, within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan, the ILO supports the economic and social resilience of Syrian refugees under Temporary Protection and of host communities by developing a competent labour force, stimulating labour market demand through the local economy, business development and private sector engagement. It also supports labour market governance institutions and monitoring mechanisms for integration of refugees into the labour market in line with economic, sectorial and regional priorities of Turkey.

Joint ILO and ICMPD efforts foster dialogue between EU and the Government of India for better governance of migration and mobility. The project generates data and information and facilitates inter-governmental co-operation for informed policy decision-making.

Implementation of Fundamental Conventions

The EU supports ILO's work regarding the application of the fundamental ILO Conventions in a number of partner countries, including those benefiting from preferential export schemes. These countries include Armenia, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Interventions aim at awareness-raising and capacity building of the national administration, representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, judges and

parliamentarians as a mean to improve the implementation of International Labour Standards (ILS) and compliance with reporting obligations. The ILO also conducts research to generate information on the status of implementation of ILS and provides legal advice on the revision of national legislation.

Moreover since 2015 the EU joined the Labour Rights Initiative in Myanmar to promote fundamental labour rights and responsible business practices. The EU

is supporting the country's labour law reform by strengthening the capacity of the government, employers and workers organizations. In Vietnam, collaboration enhances the legislative framework to improve the application of ILS by raising awareness of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, identifying legislation gaps, and strengthening capacities of policy makers on ILO's supervisory mechanisms and in particular in alignment with the Free Trade Agreements framework.

Skills Development, Employability and Youth Employment



The ILO and the EU jointly deliver skills development programmes, contributing to decent employment of women and men.

The EU and ILO supports the Government of Tunisia to empower communities as policy makers for development and bridge regional inequalities. It is strengthening the capacities of the decentralized bodies and civil society through promotion of knowledge and ownership of the reform by its leaders and beneficiaries.

In Bangladesh, working with TVET institutions, the collaboration aims at strength-

ening the National Skills Development System, newly trained instructors and management as well as services for job placement.

In the frame of the EU trade agreement with Jordan, which relaxed the EU Rules of Origin, the ILO collaborates with the Ministry of Labour and the private sector to support decent job creation in exporting sectors and achieve its targets for Syrians to comprise 15% of the workforce in exporting companies. Through five Employment Service Centres in refugee camps and

industrial zones and through the extension of compliance and advisory tools and training of the "Better Work Jordan" programme to non-garment sectors, the ILO supports the private sector and Syrian and Jordanian jobseekers.

In view of the importance of the fisheries sector to Mauritania's economy, the ILO supports the strengthening of social dialogue, provides in-service training, improves working conditions, and generates economic opportunities. Other initiatives in Mauritania focus on fostering youth employment opportunities through the promotion of strong Small and Medium Enterprises in the construction sector, and through vocational training courses in road maintenance and the eco-construction sector. This onsite training and the official certification has been adopted as an innovative initiative by the Mauritanian authorities. In Timor-Leste the ILO provides market linkages to agro-forestry communities through improved rural road access built by contractors trained in using local resource based approaches thereby creating decent work employment and income support to the communities.

Promoting Indigenous peoples' human development & access to justice

The EU and ILO continue to combine their efforts in tackling discrimination of marginalized groups. Since 2016, important work is being done to improve human development and social inclusion of indigenous peoples in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Actions include ensuring that the needs of indigenous peoples are addressed in government and non-government actors' national

programming, and enhancing their access to justice as a result of community-based monitoring and reporting.

The initiative has developed the Indigenous Navigator framework, which includes tools for indigenous organizations and networks, policy-makers, academia, development practitioners and the public. A web-portal features these

tools for supporting community-based data gathering and monitoring, training and guidance, and has been enhancing indigenous peoples' capacity to monitor their rights and development. The Indigenous Navigator also promotes uptake by human rights institutions, statistical offices and the UN system to ensure synergies with related processes.

Contact

International Labour Organization
4, Route des Morillons
CH-1211 Geneva-22 – Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 799 7239 / Fax: +41 22 799 6668
E-mail: pardev@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/pardev

DEPARTMENT
OF PARTNERSHIPS
AND FIELD SUPPORT