Academy on Social Security: 
A Modular Approach for Individual Learning Needs

Turin, Italy
21 September – 2 October 2015
Background

The Academy on Social Security is the most comprehensive training package delivered by the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO) in the field of social protection. Through a diversified and need-driven course curriculum of 16 elective courses and 8 plenary sessions, the Academy addresses a wide range of topics such as the extension of social protection, efficient governance, sustainable financing and reform options with some of the best lecturers on these topics.

Over a two-week period, participants have the opportunity to take advantage of a rich and flexible learning programme, which guarantees a steep learning curve in an international environment of knowledge exchange and provides a unique opportunity for networking with a large pool of social security experts.

With more than five billion people lacking adequate social security, the adoption of a landmark ILO Recommendation concerning national floors of social protection calls for providing people with essential health care and benefits, as well as basic income security constituting national social protection floors. The Academy is designed to enhance the capacity of key actors involved in the social protection sector to build comprehensive and efficient national social protection systems.

The ITC-ILO has been playing a key role in the provision of training and capacity building to many stakeholders in the development sector for several decades now. Our direct access to the knowledge bank of the International Labour Organization, United Nations and the opportunity of an international exchange of experiences offered by the ITC-ILO to our participants here in Italy, sets us a class apart from other conventional training institutions.

After the success of the first two editions, which witnessed humungous participation from key stakeholders in the social security sector from across the globe, it remains our delight to offer the Academy on Social Security from 21 September to 2 October 2015.

Objectives

The Academy provides advanced knowledge and management tools needed for the effective design, management and governance of social security systems. The main aim of the Academy is to enhance the capacity of key actors involved in the social security sector to better advice, design, manage, administer and supervise national social security schemes in a changing global economic and financial context. The Academy covers a wide range of social protection cross-cutting themes such as extension, governance, financing and reforms.

The specific objectives are:

- Improving the skills of social security managers involved in the governance, design, reforms and administration of social security institutions;
- Analyzing best international practices and guidelines of social security schemes and the protection of the interests of beneficiaries;
- Increasing awareness of the economic and financial implications of social protection systems;
- Enhancing knowledge of the techniques and methods used for establishing financially sustainable social security schemes;
- Understanding the challenges posed by the demographic and economic changes for social security schemes;
- Acquiring an international perspective on social security policy issues through comparative analysis and experiences;
- Understanding the importance of the extension of social protection as a powerful tool to reduce poverty and inequalities while contributing to economic growth and development;
- Understanding the process for a diagnosis of current national social protection systems and formulation of a national strategy on the extension of social protection;
- Assessing the feasibility, cost and impact of National social protection floors;
- Reviewing various initiatives around the world which are components of the Social Protection Floor or milestones for extension of social protection, in view of their replication and adaptation in other countries.

Participants

Participants are officials committed to furthering the social protection with innovative, practical methods and techniques. For instance, participants can be:

- Managers, planners, advisers and professionals working in social security institutions;
- Policy planners and officials from key ministries responsible for the development and monitoring of social protection systems such as:
  - Ministry of Labour
  - Ministry of Finance and Planning
  - Ministry of Health
  - Ministry of Social Protection
  - Ministry of Social Affairs
- Representatives of the social partners involved in the governance of social security institutions;
- Practitioners and consultants of UN agencies working on social protection;
- Leaders and key members of associative or nongovernmental organizations engaged in social protection policy formulation.
Methodology and Programme Design

The ITC promotes a three phase approach in its learning activities:
- **Phase I**: Pre-course information on the Internet-based learning platform
  - three weeks before the course;
- **Phase II**: Face-to-Face workshop
  - two week course in Turin;
- **Phase III**: Post-Training on the Internet-based learning platform
  - following the face to face course.

**Phase II: Face-to-Face workshop**

Participants have the opportunity to benefit from the daily plenary sessions plus two elective courses each week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First week</th>
<th>Second week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8h30-10h00</td>
<td>Plenary session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10h00-12h30</td>
<td>Morning Elective course 1-4  Morning Elective course 9-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>12h30-14h00</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<tr>
<td>14h00-17h00</td>
<td>Afternoon Elective course 5-8  Afternoon Elective course 13-16</td>
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**Daily forum**: Each morning of the two weeks, participants join top profile guests to discuss as a group high-priority and emerging themes in the field of social security. This daily get-together serves as a backdrop to the relevant issues as participants then break up to attend their respective courses. All participants attend the plenary sessions and each Friday is special training programme.

**Morning Elective Courses**: Participants pre-register for two 4-day courses, which run from Monday through Thursday. Each week, there are a number of different morning elective courses to choose from.

**Afternoon Elective Courses**: Participants register to 2 afternoon electives during the programme. All courses offered in the afternoon are 4-day courses that participants register for before the programme. Each week, there are a number of different afternoon elective courses to choose from.

During the course an action-oriented, highly participative approach is used with particular attention to sharing international experience with a view to adaptation and practical application. Training methods combine lectures and discussions, case studies, open space discussions, group work and individual exercises.

Contents

The final training programme will be finalised in the summer 2015. As an indication, please see below the plenary sessions and elective courses offered in 2014.

**Plenary sessions**
- Social development, social welfare and social justice
- Exploring trends in Global Social security Policy: Points in common and differences
- Setting floors of protection and comprehensive social security systems: ILO Social Security Strategy
- Sharing Innovative thinking on social security policy
- Responding to the challenges of social protection through social dialogue
- Addressing inequities in access to health care through social protection
- Designing child sensitive social protection system
- Envisioning the future of social protection
- Providing security in old age through sustainable pension systems

**Elective courses**

**Week 1 – Morning Elective Courses**
- Course 1: The extension of social protection and the National Social Protection Floors: Recommendation – Challenges and opportunities
- Course 2: Social budgeting for affordable floors of protection analysis and creation of fiscal space
- Course 3: Social security trends in developing and emerging countries
- Course 4: Social security governance: Guidelines and case studies

**Week 1 – Afternoon Elective Courses**
- Course 5: International social security law
- Course 6: Diagnostic and analytical tools to support the extension of social security
- Course 7: Social protection extension: Challenges and success stories
- Course 8: Experience sharing on the extension of social protection to the informal sector

**Week 2 – Morning Elective Courses**
- Course 9: Social cash transfers
- Course 10: Improving communication and group works skills
- Course 11: Actuarial and financial planning of social protection system
- Course 12: Responding to special needs and addressing inequalities through social protection to vulnerable groups

**Week 2 – Afternoon Elective Courses**
- Course 13: Pension Systems around the world: Current situation and trends
- Course 14: Innovative public employment programmes
- Course 15: Social health protection: Effective access to affordable health care
- Course 16: Social dialogue within the context of social protection designs
Resource Persons

Through its pivotal role in social security policy development, strong partnerships with other United Nations Agencies and comprehensive technical cooperation projects around the world, the ITC-ILO and ILO draw on a worldwide network of the best social security experts from its own staff, World Bank, UNICEF, OECD, social security institutions, well-known universities, recognized research institutes and senior consultants.

Language

English and French

Cost of Participation

Participation in the course costs **3,500 Euros** (course fees 2,150 Euros and participant subsistence 1,350 Euros), excluding international air travel and airport transfers. This is payable in advance. This covers: tuition fees; the use of training facilities and support services; training materials and books; accommodation and full board at the Centre's campus; emergency medical care and insurance.

Applications

Applicants should complete the online nomination form **no later than 21 August 2015**, supported by a nomination letter from the sponsoring institution indicating how the participant will be financed. The nomination form can be found at: [http://intranetp.itcilo.org/STF/A908126/en](http://intranetp.itcilo.org/STF/A908126/en)

Please note that if a Schengen visa for Italy is needed, the time required is on average at least three weeks.

As an organization dedicated to fundamental human rights and social justice, the ILO is taking a leading role in international efforts to promote and realize gender equality. In line line with this ILO focus, women candidates are especially welcome.

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, and a computerized documentation centre linked to various data banks.

The campus has 287 study/bedrooms, all with private bathroom, telephone, free access to internet 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;
- medical service.

Social events are regularly held both on and off campus, so that participants from different cultural backgrounds can make the most of a stimulating international environment.

For further information, please contact

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Eco-Schools