



### 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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 Social Protection, Governance and Tripartism Programme  
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# Extending Social Protection to Migrant Workers, Refugees and their Families

19 – 23 March 2018  
 Turin, Italy



International Labour Organization



International Training Centre

www.itcilo.org

# Extending Social Protection to Migrant Workers, Refugees and their Families



## Rationale

A growing number of individuals move across borders in search of better lives and employment opportunities. Today, an estimated 244 million people live outside their country of origin. While responding to increased demand for labour from globalised labour markets, international migration poses significant challenges for migrants and their families in terms of social security coverage.

Although “everyone as a member of society has the right to social security” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), art. 22), in reality, compared to nationals working their entire lives in one country, migrants as well as refugees face huge challenges in exercising their rights to social security. They are among the most excluded from even basic coverage by social protection instruments and schemes, in particular undocumented migrant workers. They can be denied access or have limited effective access to social security coverage in their host country because of their status, nationality or the insufficient duration of their periods of employment and residence. Their access may further be curtailed due to a lack of knowledge about and awareness of their rights and obligations. At the same time, they can lose their entitlements to social security benefits in their country of origin because of their temporary absence.

Certain restrictions governing social security schemes explain the obstacles encountered by migrant workers in accessing social security benefits including health protection.

First, the principle of territoriality, stemming from the sovereignty of states over their own territory, limits the scope of application of social security legislation to the territory of the State in which it has been enacted. As a consequence, migrant workers may face loss of coverage under the social protection scheme of their home country when undertaking work in the destination country. In addition, the principle of territoriality may result in limitations regarding the coordination of benefits abroad when workers leave the territory of the State in which they have acquired rights with regard to social security.

Second, the principle of nationality may affect migrant workers' social security rights in destination countries. Although a number of countries recognize the equality of treatment between nationals and non-nationals, in some countries migrant workers are denied access or have limited access to social security because of their status or nationality or due to the insufficient duration of their periods of employment and residence. The condition of residence for entitlement to social security benefits is allowed under national legislation if not imposed solely upon non-nationals.

Third, the lack of social security coordination due to the inexistence of bilateral or multilateral agreements may prevent migrant workers from maintaining rights acquired in another State. This is particularly important in the case of long-term benefits (invalidity, old-age and survivor's) where qualifying periods may be considerable.

Moreover, where bilateral and multilateral social security agreements (SSAs) exist, they mostly cover migrant workers in

formal employment, leaving migrants working in the informal economy or in an irregular situation largely unprotected. SSA can also have a positive effect on formalization depending on the reasons and factors for the informality. “For instance, migrants, knowing that they will not fully benefit from social security contributions or tax contributions, may prefer to avoid contributions and work informally or misreport earnings. Furthermore, if, after working for many years in a formal labour market where contributions have been deducted, migrants are not able to ‘repatriate’ this income (such as a foregone pension) to their country of origin, they may choose not to return home (European Development Report 2010).” However, as the reasons and factors for informality are varied, addressing the issue of informality goes beyond establishing legal coordination frameworks.

Certain categories of workers may face additional obstacles in accessing social security, if they work in a sector or occupation not or insufficiently covered by national social security legislation. For instance, according to the ILO, “Migrant domestic workers, estimated at approximately 11.5 million persons worldwide, face even greater discrimination than that experienced by domestic workers in general. Approximately 14 per cent of countries whose social security systems provide some type of coverage for domestic workers do not extend the same rights to migrant domestic workers” (ILO, 2016).

Temporary workers, such as seasonal workers (e.g. agricultural workers, fishermen, etc.) may face particular obstacles in accessing and fulfilling the requirements for eligibility to social security benefits (e.g. minimum qualifying periods and minimum residence periods, high informality, lack of organization and representation, limited or no social networks and access to information, work in remote areas, limited possibilities to cover dependent family members in the country of origin) in addition to migrant-specific conditions. In addition, self-employed workers and job-seekers may be excluded from national social security schemes.

Finally, the number of forcibly displaced persons currently around the world is higher than ever before. In 2015, more than 65 million people were either refugees or seeking asylum abroad, or displaced within their own countries. Fleeing conflict or persecution, many make harrowing journeys in attempts to escape violence and destitution at home. Once in their country of destination, however, refugees and asylum seekers face new increased risks of poverty, homelessness, and other hardship. They are often denied access to work, automatically excluding them from social security, and ineligible for state-run social protection benefits and services and have to rely upon the benefits and services provided by international humanitarian actors such as those of the UN's High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR).

Overcoming the difficulties faced by migrant workers, refugees and their families with respect to social security coverage is an important challenge that needs to be addressed urgently. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is mandated to extend social security to all in need of such protection as embedded in the Declaration of Philadelphia (1944) and recently reaffirmed in the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) and its resolution.

This course will focus on the different unilateral and bilateral and regional measures which exist to extend the social protection to migrant workers but also refugees and their families both in their country of destination and origin.



## Objectives

The objectives of the course are the following:

- Understand the issues and opportunities related to the extension of social protection to migrant workers, refugees and their families
- Appreciate the international legal framework covering migrant workers and refugees
- Analyze the different measures existing to extend social protection to migrant workers and refugees (including multilateral, bilateral agreements and unilateral measures in both countries of origin and destination)
- Examine the specific challenges faced by certain groups in order to access social protection (such as domestic workers, temporary migrant workers, irregular migrants, refugees)
- Explore and analyze how to extend social protection to migrants and refugees based on country experiences/ good practices and lessons learned from various other countries.



## Target group

The course is designed for officials and practitioners committed to extending social protection to migrants workers and refugees with multilateral, bilateral and unilateral measures.

More precisely;

- managers, planners, advisers and professionals working in social security institutions,
- policy-planners and officials from key ministries responsible for migration and/or social protection,
- representatives of the social partners involved in the governance of migration and/or social security institutions and;
- practitioners and consultants of UN agencies working on social protection and/or migration.



## Course content

- Key issues on access to social protection for migrants
  - Difficulties encountered by migrant workers in accessing social protection benefits
  - Basic principles for the protection of social security rights of migrant workers
- International legal framework providing access to social protection to migrant workers and refugees
- The role of multilateral and bilateral social security agreements
- Social protection in the negotiation of bilateral labour agreements (BLA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- Unilateral measures extending social protection to migrant workers and refugees
- Facilitating access to health for migrant workers and refugees
- Extending social protection to vulnerable groups (domestic workers, irregular migrant workers, temporary migrant workers, refugees)



## Methodology

The course will use the Turin learning approach, which is organized in three phases:

- Phase 1 - Pre-course information on the Internetbased learning platform: two weeks before the course
- Phase 2 - Face-to-face workshops: one week course in Turin
- Phase 3 - Post-Training on the Internet-based learning platform (during the course of two weeks after phase 2)



## Language

The course will be provided in English



## Date and location

The course will take place from 19-23 March 2018 at the ITCILO campus in Turin.



## Participation cost and applications

The cost of participation, excluding international air travel, is **EURO 2,215** (course fees EURO 1,600 and participant subsistence, EURO 615) payable in advance by the participant or his or her sponsoring organization by bank transfer to:

Account no. 560002  
Bank: Intesa San Paolo Ag. 523  
IBAN: IT96 G 03069 09214 100000560002  
BIC: BCITITMM  
Address: Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10, 10127 Turin, Italy.

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; and emergency medical care and insurance. The price indicated does not include travel costs between participants' home and the course venue. The cost of passports, visas, airport taxes, internal travel in the participant's home country and unauthorized stopovers are not reimbursed

Applications to participate in the course should be done “on line” **no later than 9 February 2018**, in the following webpage:

<http://www.itcilo.org/en/areas-of-expertise/labour-migration>

The payment, cancellation and refunds policy of the ITCILO can be consulted in the following website:

<http://www.itcilo.org/en/training-offer/how-to-apply>