

youth outcomes in order to evaluate the impact of a youth program; (iv) a presentation of data needs; and (v) a review of selected impact evaluations of youth interventions.

- **(v) Using Cost-Benefit Analysis to Calculate the Economic Returns to Investments in Youth.** To inform policy makers on the value of a particular youth investment program, it is important not only that good plans for monitoring and evaluation be included in project design, but also that cost-benefit analysis be performed in the early phase of the project cycle. In essence, cost-benefit analysis assesses the benefits and costs of a project and reduces them to a common denominator. If benefits exceed costs, the project is considered as acceptable. If not, the project should be rejected. In practice, it is not sufficient to select an acceptable project. Proper project analysis requires to search for alternatives with a larger surplus of benefits over identified costs. However, measuring the costs and benefits of youth project can be complex. Often, there are positive externalities associated with youth investments but these are sometimes difficult to identify and nearly always difficult to measure. As a result, the benefits of youth projects may be underestimated and these interventions may be considered as ineffective. This module will present in broad terms the basic approach to the economic analysis of youth projects, drawing a particular attention on the way to assign a monetary value to all possible effects of youth investments.

Part Three: Sectoral Issues (Parallel sessions)

- **(vi) Adolescent and Youth Health.** Forward-looking approaches to health are increasingly embracing the belief that adolescents and youth are at an essential and formative stage of their life with specific health concerns and needs that spring from their rapidly growing and changing bodies and the social, sexual and personal challenges that accompany the process of maturation. However, like many youth issues, adolescent health is a relatively new field of practice and in many countries the

specific health needs of adolescents have been largely ignored. The health problems of youth in many parts of the world are being manifested in poor nutrition, substance abuse, early and unprotected sexual activity, infections, depression and anxiety, suicide, and injury due to accidents and violence. These facts underline the need to understand and address the health needs of youth more effectively. This module will start by presenting the case for developing better responses to adolescent health. It will then discuss important issues for the design of comprehensive youth health programs, drawing on the experience accumulated in several organisations over the past 10 years.

- **(vii) Youth Employment.** Supporting youth employment has become a major objective in many countries around the world. A good start in the labour market can lay a strong foundation for personal and professional development throughout adult life; a poor start can seriously impair future prospects. Often, the problems many youth face when entering the world of work encompass various dimensions, from being unemployed, discouraged, or underemployed to working in vulnerable jobs and unsafe environments. In many cases, these disadvantages are particularly concentrated among youth with poor education and basic skills, young women, youth with disabilities, those affected by HIV/AIDS, ethnic minorities, demobilised soldiers, and migrants. While there are attempts to address the employment problems of youth in middle income countries through policies and programmes, the latter are usually small-scale interventions and often little is known on their effectiveness. In this context, scaling-up what is known to work becomes crucial. This module will discuss practical issues that are important for the design of interventions that increase youth employability and employment. Examples of programs in the area of apprenticeship, youth entrepreneurship, and vocational orientation and counselling will be presented. What is known about the relative impact and cost effectiveness of these programs will be discussed.



A901373

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5 – 9 October 2009
Turin, Italy



International Training Centre

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Building Effective Youth Investment Programs: Experiences from Mediterranean Countries



Rationale

Young people, defined as aged 10 to 24 years, account for more than a quarter of the World's population - or 1.7 billion people - and the numbers are growing. The vast majority of these young people - 86 percent - live in developing countries where, in many places, they represent 30 percent of the population. The issues many of them face, including unemployment and lack of decent work, inadequate schooling and skills, HIV/AIDS, risky behaviours, violence and crime, represent tremendous social and economic costs to society, as much as they denote important failures to promote and protect the rights of young people. This is why developing comprehensive programs to support youth development is becoming an important objective in many countries around the World.

Unfortunately, available evidence shows that the importance of youth investments is not always clearly reflected in policies and programmes at country level¹. Moreover, in developing countries, when youth programs exist, there is very little evidence on their effectiveness. As policy makers consider measures to help young people make the transition into adulthood, they are often challenged by the lack of information on what their options are, what has worked well, and what has not worked so well in improving youth outcomes.

In this context, demand for UN and donors' support to help countries address the needs of youth is growing. Looking forward, an important challenge will be to design, in resource-constrained environments, a range of effective interventions with good plans for monitoring and evaluation, and special attention to gender issues and the needs of the most vulnerable youth.



Objectives

The main objective of the five days training course will be to equip participants with the requisite knowledge, concepts and tools to build effective investment programs for young people. Special attention will be devoted to cross-cutting and sectoral issues related to the design of youth interventions.

In order to limit the scope of the course to a realistic size, the sectoral issues will be restricted to post-formal schooling interventions in three broad and inter-related areas: (i) non-formal education and youth citizenship (ii) adolescent health, and (iii) youth livelihoods and employment. This is, however, not to deny the importance for youth of other interventions, such as formal schooling and early childhood interventions.



Course Implementation

The course will be held in Turin, Italy, at the ILO International Training Center, which offers unique residential facilities in a site shared with other UN agencies. The course will be taught by experts on youth issues from the Council of Europe, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the ILO, UNICEF, the World Bank, and WHO. It will be conducted with an overall participatory approach, in order to ensure a 'learning by doing' process and encourage interaction among participants.

The training methodology will balance lectures by practitioners and trainers with practical participatory sessions. Trainees will be invited to participate actively during parallel and plenary sessions in order to support the sharing of experiences. Exercises will be carried out in groups in order to stimulate the trainees' participation and to enhance teamwork. Each group will be required to work in small team to: (i) simulate negotiations of a youth investment program between a project team and representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Donors; (ii) present a Logical Framework with plans for monitoring and evaluation.



Target Audience

The course would be intended to fit the needs of: (i) program management teams, public-sector ministries, private sector entities, and non-governmental and community-based organisations (NGOs/CBOs) designing and implementing youth programs and projects in middle income countries, as well as (ii) operational staff from UN agencies, the World Bank, regional development banks, and bilateral donor agencies who participate in the design and/or co-finance these programs and projects.

Target Countries

Professionals working in countries from South-East Europe, Middle East and North Africa are encouraged to apply.

Language

The course will be conducted entirely in English and therefore a good command of English is essential to fully benefit from it.

Costs

The fee for the one-week course is 2,000 euros per participant. The fee includes tuition costs (1,040 euros), training materials, and other conference costs, as well as subsistence costs (940 euros), i.e. full board and lodging at the Turin Centre's Campus, and transfer to and from airport. Also covered are laundry, minor medical care and insurance and occasional socio-cultural activities. The partner agencies will have a limited number of fellowships to award which may cover part of the participation costs. If eligible, early applicants will be given priority. Please enquire early!

The prices indicated above do not include the cost of international travel to and from Turin which remains under the responsibility of participants. In addition, participants are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas to enter Schengen area.



Application and Contacts

To apply, interested candidates should email or fax the attached application form with a confirmation letter from the sponsor. The deadline for applications is July 10, 2009. Early application is strongly recommended since admission is competitive, space is limited, and the time taken to process Schengen visa applications can be long. Acceptance is provisional pending evidence of full financial sponsorship and approval by nominating or coordinating agency (if required).

Application and enquiry should be sent to:

Ms Michela RIPANDELLI
Tel. + 39 011 69 36 888
Fax + 39 011 69 36 451
e-mail: m.ripandelli@itcilo.org



Course Description

The course will comprise a set of eight modules covering cross-cutting and sectoral issues, as well as core techniques that are important for the design of youth programs.

Part One: Cross Cutting Issues (Plenary sessions)

- **(i) Making the Case for Investing in Youth.** Directing more resources in favour of young people may be a challenge, especially in resource constrained environments, where policymakers, and citizens when consulted, have to weigh up relative costs and possible trade-offs which are needed to set priorities among competing claims for resources. This module will start by laying-out a public policy

framework, which recognises the many competing interests and trade-offs that policymakers must address when deciding about public investments. It will present several arguments that can be put forward to motivate the use of more public resources to finance youth investment programs. It will also discuss which arguments should be used, depending on contexts, in order to engage and convince busy policy makers on the importance of youth investment programs.

- **(ii) Developing Cross-Sectoral Youth Policies as a Pillar of Youth Investments.** While making the case for youth investments is important, it is further essential to recognise that building effective youth investments programs require that these investments be embedded in a coherent youth policy framework. In this context, understanding the youth policy debate and the formulation of youth policies is essential. This module will present recent experiences with the development of youth policies in middle income countries. It will also review a number of good practices in youth policy and discuss how these can be used to inform the development of effective youth strategies and to promote a more enabling environment for youth investments.
- **(iii) Youth citizenship.** How young people become citizens, and the kinds of citizens they become, concerns a wide range of constituencies around the world: parents, educators, politicians, activists, community associations, governments, international organizations. Today, one of the biggest challenges related to positive youth development is to prepare young people to respect one another; understand the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship; appreciate democracy and develop the knowledge, skills and character to be engaged and informed participants in everyday community matters. This module will review experiences with the development of youth citizenship programs and identify strategies and investment needed to promote civic engagement of young people.

Part Two: Core Techniques (Plenary sessions)

- **(iv) Planning for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Youth Projects.** Integrating monitoring and evaluation (M&E) into youth program design is critical for determining the program's efficacy, efficiency and sustainability. Monitoring is the assessment of ongoing activities and progress. It centres mostly on the inputs, and process related to an activity. Evaluation is the episodic assessment of overall achievements and results. It centres mostly on the outcomes and impacts. This module will provide specific guidance on the way to elaborate good plans for M&E in the design of youth investment programs. It will include: (i) a discussion on the design of youth specific indicators to monitor progress in youth outcomes and on their integration in youth project documents by means of the Logical Framework; (ii) a discussion on project evaluation, why it is important, when impact evaluation should be done and how to do it; (iii) a description of different evaluation designs and estimation methods used to construct a counterfactual and measure

¹ UNFPA: The Case for Investing in Young people as part of a national poverty reduction strategy.