



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

The campus has 287 study/bedrooms, all with private bathrooms, telephones 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;
- an infirmary.

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

For additional information please contact:

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Coping with the Global Job Crisis in South East Europe: What Role for Labour Market Policies?

A joint ILO/World Bank Training Course for South-East Europe

30 November – 4 December 2009
Turin, Italy



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International Training Centre

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Coping with the Global Job Crisis in South East Europe: What Role for Labour Market Policies?



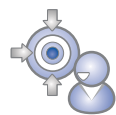
Rationale

Creating more and better jobs is a major challenge for countries in South East Europe, especially since the spread out of the financial crisis to the world of work. Across the region, unemployment and joblessness is widespread, and precarious employment is on the rise. While the prospect of accession to the EU has been instrumental in making both employment and social objectives more central in policy making, it also calls for an enhanced policy dialogue on the way to support more and better jobs in the region.

The South-East European Ministerial Conference on Employment held in Bucharest in October 2003 acknowledged the serious employment challenges faced by the countries of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe. The Declaration adopted by the same Conference called for regional cooperation to address these challenges in order to improve employment policy making at national level, as well as to foster cooperation among countries of South-East Europe.

The EU and ILO promotion of decent work in the region, stressing the role of labour market institutions and the contribution of macro and sectoral policies, is exactly an attempt to address this challenge. A decent work response to the crisis was further supported by the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the 2009 General Conference of the International Labour Organization. The World Bank recent focus on "good and bad" jobs highlights a similar concern to support a more enabling environment for inclusive growth in the region.

Recognizing the need for knowledge sharing, the ILO and the World Bank are organising a 5 days labour market course focusing on South East Europe.



Objectives

The main objective of the 5 days training course is to contribute to a better understanding of the role of policies and institutions, and their interactions, for labour market performance and social inclusion in South-East Europe in the context of the global job crisis. The course will seek to support the adoption of more effective and inclusive labour market and employment policies through a careful consideration of how these may apply or be adjusted to rapidly changing labour market realities of South-East Europe.

The scope of the course will cover four main topics: (i) Labor market trends, indicators and the recent crisis; (ii) Growth, productivity, and skills; (iii) Labor market regulations and informality; (iv) Supporting workers with active and passive labor market policies; and (v) Labor market challenges. Special attention will be devoted to lessons learned from experiences in the region. This course will focus on labor market policies, and will therefore exclude policy areas, such as fiscal and monetary policy, education, or competition policy, which affect the labor market indirectly.



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 from the ILO and the World Bank, as well as from other organizations. 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 the sessions in order to support the sharing of experiences. Practical work will consist of analyzing several labour market problems and trying to come up with proposals in terms of labour market institutions and policy settings.



Target Audience

The course will be of primary interest for policy makers, social partners and researchers from South-East Europe, as well as for staff from multilateral and bilateral development agencies, involved in the promotion of more and better jobs through the set up and/or reforms of labour market institutions and policies.

Geographic Coverage

Professionals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine are encouraged to apply.

Language

The course will be conducted in English with translation into Serbo-Croatian and vice versa. Literature will be made available in English with some key documents being translated into Serbo-Croatian. A good command of either English or Serbo-Croatian is necessary to participate at the course.



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 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.

Please, note that a **limited number of fellowships will be available which can cover part or all of the training costs but not travel**. If eligible, early applicants will be given priority. Please enquire early!

Application and Contacts

To apply, interested candidates should email or fax the attached application form with a confirmation letter from the sponsor or a request for a fellowship. **The deadline for applications is October 9, 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:

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Course Description

The course would comprise eight inter-related and complementary modules under the following headings:

- **Labor market trends and the recent crisis.** This module will provide an overview of global labor market trends, indicators, and policy issues. It will then discuss labor market issues raised by the crisis. This portion will review the most recent data available, focusing on Europe. It will have a special focus on the distressed labour markets of countries which experienced large capital outflows, runs on domestic currencies and major balance of payments problems. It will further provide a platform for debate where participants will be able to share and discuss country experiences and the policy responses.
- **Growth, productivity, and skills.** This module will review existing evidence from Europe and North America on how business cycles affect productivity through the destruction and creation of firms. It will also examine the role of the investment climate in creating better jobs, focusing on different ways to measure the investment climate. Finally, it will explore the role of skill acquisition, primarily focusing on the issue of Vocational Education and Training (VET). The section will review trends and practices in the area of VET in South-East Europe, including a recent study documenting the labor market effects of vocational school attendance in Romania. It will also review recent approaches developed to support the skills needs of workers and job seekers through initial and continuing vocational training, and some of the main challenges encountered with VET reform in the training sub-sector.
- **Labor market regulations and informality.** This module will be divided into three sections. The first will examine the appropriate role of labor market regulations, such as minimum wages and hiring and firing restrictions, in balancing flexibility with job security. The second section will consider the special role of the minimum wage, including the different roles played by employers, unions, social dialogue and collective bargaining in determining minimum wages throughout the region. It will then discuss the design of effective wage policy, paying particular attention to the use of statistical indicators to help determine the minimum wage. The final section will focus on the issues relating to the informal sector. It will present recent quantitative and qualitative evidence on the impact of labor market regulations on wages and employment in the informal sector. It will also discuss current attempts to make formal labor market institutions more responsive to the needs of the informal sector.
- **Active Labour Market Programs.** Active Labor Market Programs (ALMPs) are receiving increasing attention in the context of the global job crisis as instruments to support employment opportunities and address the social problems that often accompany high unemployment. They contrast to "passive" measures such as unemployment insurance or social transfers designed to mitigate the financial hardships of joblessness and poverty. ALMPs include a wide range of activities to stimulate employment and productivity such as training and retraining, public work, and job search assistance. This module will start by presenting existing evaluations of ALMP's in Europe and around the world, to better understand what types of programs lead to improved labor market outcomes. It will further discuss issues of program design and evaluation techniques for selected programs.
- **Unemployment Benefit Systems.** In recent decades, unemployment and the related loss in income has become a serious problem in many parts of the world. As an attempt to address this problem, many countries have introduced unemployment insurance programs. This module will start by providing information on income support programs for the unemployed in developed and emerging countries. It will also present what is known about their distributive and efficiency effects. Finally, it will discuss issues related with the design and implementation of unemployment insurance systems in different contexts.