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Workshop on Global Industrial Relations and CSR: what's in it for companies?

Project developed and implemented by:



A series of workshops on Global Industrial Relations, Transnational Company Agreements and Corporate Social Responsibility for Employers' Organizations and Companies will be organized in 2015 and 2016. For more information please check <http://lempnet.itcilo.org/TCAs>



Workshop on Global Industrial Relations and CS

Business societal responsibility is under the spotlight since many years, notably due to the development of global trade and the emergence of multinational companies. Companies face pressure on their operations from markets but also from a variety of social actors.

Many leading companies have moved from viewing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as a public relations tool or philanthropic cause to making it a core pillar of their strategic decision-making process, as well as a part of their day to day operations. However, the way in which companies express their commitment to CSR varies markedly.

- A certain number of companies have chosen to consider the governance of their global operations in partnership with global, European and national trade unions and workers' representatives through the adoption of a **Transnational Company Agreements (TCAs)**. To date, slightly more than 270 of these agreements have been signed in around 160 companies worldwide.

- Some companies decided to adhere to the United Nations (UN) Global Compact initiative (around 8000 business participants), follow existing international frameworks such as the OECD Guidelines for MNEs or unilaterally take over key principles on fundamental social rights in their own codes of conduct or CSR policy tools.

Policy debates on CSR have taken a new turn in the last 5 years with a number of International Organisations attempting to define in greater details **companies' obligations to respect Human and Social Rights as well as Industrial Relations**.

Today, companies of all sizes are under increased pressure to show how they are respecting human rights as well as improving corporate social performance more broadly. One expectation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights is that companies will fulfil their obligation to respect human rights by undertaking appropriate **due diligence**.

This has direct implications on business to business relations in the **supply chain**. It is now common

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practice that large firms demand that their suppliers comply with codes of conduct, covering notably social practices, in an effort to fulfil their own due diligence obligations. Suppliers and in particular SMEs are faced with important **operational challenges** in complying with these obligations in addition to meeting product delivery requirements.

What is the purpose of the workshop?

The objective of the workshop is to give participants the necessary information and tools to:

- Be informed on global labour developments regarding corporate social responsibilities towards societies;
- Be aware of the content of the International instruments and policies developed by the UN, EU, OECD, ILO etc. and their impact on companies;
- Understand the nature and extent of compliance or due diligence obligations;
- Get guidance on how companies can respond “step by step” to expectations incl. how to assess existing CSR/Human

Rights initiatives, draft a vision statement, assess risks, engage with stakeholders, communicate etc.

- Know where and how to get support.

What is the Target Group for the workshop?

Company representatives from EU Member States and Candidate Countries.

The workshop is geared towards SMEs facing global supply chain challenges as well as procurement staff of larger enterprises.

What is the structure of the workshop?

The workshop will include a mix of presentations, panel discussions and exchange of experiences.

Speakers include senior representatives of the project partners’ organizations as well as from the corporate world.



Practical Information

Time & Place

Date: 19 and 20 October 2015

Venue: ITCILO Campus in Turin (Italy)

Workshop Agenda

Available here:

<http://lempnet.itcilo.org/TCAs>

Price

Free of charge. Fellowships available (20 participants) incl. economy travel, meals & accommodation upon registration.

Registration

Online registration link: <http://intranetp.itcilo.org/EMM/A408256/en>

Deadline for registration: 11 September 2015

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