International labour standards

27 May - 7 June 2019
Turin (Italy) and Geneva (Switzerland)
Background and rationale

One of the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) oldest and most important functions is the setting of International Labour Standards (ILS). These standards are adopted by the tripartite International Labour Conference and take the form of Conventions, Recommendations and Protocols. Conventions are international treaties that are open to ratification by member States. By ratifying them, member States formally undertake to make their provisions effective, both in law and in practice, and to report on their application at regular intervals. Recommendations are non-binding instruments which provide guidance for national policy, legislation and practice. Protocols are partial and optional revisions or amendments of earlier Conventions. Since the foundation of the ILO in 1919, 189 Conventions, 205 Recommendations and 6 Protocols have been adopted.

ILS are tripartite and universal in character. They are essentially expression of tripartite agreements and are applicable at world level. At the same time, ILS reflect the fact that countries have diverse cultural and historical backgrounds, legal systems, and levels of economic development.

ILS cover a wide range of subjects in the world of work, namely freedom of association, collective bargaining and industrial relations; forced labour; child labour; equality of opportunity and treatment; tripartite consultation; labour administration and inspection; employment policy and promotion; vocational guidance and training; employment security; wages; working time; occupational safety and health; social security; maternity protection; social policy; migrant workers; HIV/AIDS; seafarers; fishers; dockworkers; indigenous and tribal peoples; and specific categories of workers.

Once ILS are adopted, member States are required under the ILO Constitution to submit them to the competent national authority (normally the parliament) on appropriate action. In the case of Conventions and Protocols, this means consideration for ratification. More than 8,100 ratifications have been registered so far.

The ILO has developed mechanisms for monitoring the application of ILS in law and practice. These mechanisms, which are unique at the international level, are based on the evaluation by independent experts of the manner in which obligations are complied with and on the examination of cases by the ILO’s bodies. If problems in the application of ILS persist, the ILO seeks to assist countries through social dialogue and technical assistance.

Objectives

General objectives

The course aims to strengthen national capacity to follow ILS procedures, including the discharge of reporting obligations under the ILO Constitution.

Specific objectives

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- participate actively in the procedures of standard setting, submission, ratification, regular and special supervision in the fields covered by the ILO’s mandate; and
- follow actively the discussion at the International Labour Conference on the adoption and application of ILS.

Participants’ profile

The target group consists of:

- government officials responsible for matters relating to national and international labour standards, including the fulfilment of the obligations laid down by the ILO Constitution; and
- representatives of employers’ and workers’ organizations responsible for ILO matters.

A good command of one of the working languages is required.

Structure and content

The course will be held at the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO) based in Turin, Italy, and at the International Labour Office in Geneva, Switzerland. It will consist of ten working days organized as follows:

- from 27 May to 5 June 2019: course in Turin;
- on 6 and 7 June 2019: course in Geneva.

The course will cover the following topics:

- ILO’s mandate and structure;
- ILS procedures:
  - standard setting;
  - submission;
  - ratification, entry into force and denunciation;
  - regular system of supervision: reporting procedures (articles 22 and 19 of the ILO Constitution), Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Conference Committee on the Application of Standards;
  - special systems of supervision: freedom of association procedures, constitutional procedures (representations under article 24 of the ILO Constitution and complaints under article 26 of the ILO Constitution);
- ILS content:
  - core labour standards: freedom of association and collective bargaining, forced labour, child labour, equality of opportunity and treatment;

This course is part of the International Labour Standards Academy, jointly organized with the International Labour Standards Department (NORMES). The Academy brings together highly-specialized courses and is designed to build bridges between groups of participants from different professions and regions. That is why the programme of each course is enriched with four plenary lectures focussing on relevant subjects that are collectively shaping the world of work and exploring how they all connect and relate to international labour standards.
- tripartite consultation;
- labour inspection;
- employment policy and promotion;
- occupational safety and health;
- domestic workers;
- NORMLEX database and other ILS resources on the Net;
- Conference agenda item V (standard-setting, second discussion): Ending violence and harassment in the world of work.

Languages

The course will be conducted in English, French, Spanish and Russian, with simultaneous interpretation. Each language, however, will be confirmed only if a minimum number of participants will be reached.

Methodology and materials

The course will take a practical and tripartite approach. Training methods will include: presentations (face-to-face and by videoconference), Internet demonstrations, role plays, terminology and practical exercises followed by discussions.

Role-play training material, specifically developed for this course, will be used to deal with the procedures of the ILS system. Moreover, participants will have access to the online course platform including all training materials.

To facilitate the sharing of information and experience, each participant will be asked to deliver a report before the course on how ILS reporting is organized in their home country.

Resource persons

Resource persons will include specialists from the International Labour Office and the ITCILO, as well as external lecturers.

Fellowships

A very limited number of fellowships are available to qualifying candidates coming from eligible countries.

The fact that the course takes place immediately prior to the International Labour Conference allows the participants to attend it at a reduced cost. As the fellowship covers travel costs, the government would only have to pay the daily subsistence allowance for the days the participant stays in Geneva after the course.

Cost of participation

The total cost of participation is 4,470 Euros. This includes tuition fees (2,480 Euros) and subsistence costs (1,990 Euros).

- The tuition fees cover: course preparation, implementation and evaluation; training materials and books; the use of training facilities and support services, including online resources; emergency medical insurance.
- Subsistence costs cover: full board and lodging on the ITCILO Campus; laundry in Turin; some recreational activities in Turin; travel from Turin to Geneva by bus; accommodation (bed and breakfast) and allowance for meals in Geneva.

The figures quoted do not include the cost of travel between the participant’s home country and the course venue.

Participants must ensure that they have a valid passport and appropriate visa for the countries in which the course is held, and for any country in which a transit or stopover to or from the course venues is required.

The cost of the visa, airport taxes, internal travel in the participant’s home country and unauthorized stopovers is not covered.

Payment modalities

Tuition and subsistence costs must be paid in advance before the beginning of the course by the participant or the sponsor through bank transfer or credit card.

Payments by bank transfer should be made to:

International Training Centre of the ILO
Account No. 560002
Bank: Intesa-Sanpaolo Ag. 523
IBAN: IT96 G030 6909 2141 0000 0560 002
BIC: BCITITMM
Address: Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10, 10127 Turin – Italy

Note: on the bank transfer form, the participant's name and the course code should be stated.

For payments by credit card, please e-mail to ils@itcilo.org.

For detailed information regarding payments, cancellations and refunds, please consult: http://www.itcilo.org/en/training-offer/how-to-apply.

Applications

The deadline for submitting applications is 12 April 2019.

Candidates must submit through the website the following documents:

- the annex to the form, with information on the participation in the International Labour Conference and the sponsorship declaration, to be uploaded while filling in the on-line application.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications from employers’ organizations or workers’ organizations will have be endorsed by the Secretaries of the Employers’ Group or of the Workers’ Group of the Governing Body of the ILO.

As an Organization dedicated to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, the ILO is taking a leading role in international efforts to foster gender equality. In line with this ILO focus, women are particularly encouraged to apply to ITCILO courses.
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 further information please contact

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Rights at Work and Gender Equality
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