



PENSION SYSTEMS

# STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF PENSION SCHEMES IN ARAB STATES

6 – 17 APRIL 2020  
TURIN AND LYON

*Information Note*



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International Cooperation



## BACKGROUND

In the current demographic and socio-economic environment, policy makers, regulators, administrators and managers of pension schemes are debating over efficient strategies to ensure old-age income security through a sustainable pension system. The key actors involved in the pension sector have to review the design of the system, the organizational structures, operating procedures, public/private partnerships and financing mechanisms. Affirmative actions are needed to make the pension system more effective and achieve the defined objectives of the pension system.

Efficient governance can make a lasting difference. No system of social protection can achieve its objectives without good governance – and a pivotal element of good governance is financial governance. Sound financial governance depends on the capacity of persons planning, managing and supervising pension schemes.

Responding to this objective, the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO) is offering a two-week training course on pension schemes from 6 to 17 April 2020. The International environment at our Centre in Turin, Italy ensures the exchange of experiences between participants from different countries and we are confident that this would be a highly rewarding process.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course provides advanced knowledge and management tools needed for the effective design, management and governance of pension schemes. The main aim of the course is to enhance the capacity of key actors involved in the pension sector to better advise, design, manage, administer and supervise national pension schemes in a changing global economic and financial context.

- To understand the global and regional demographic and economic trends impacting on the viability of pension schemes;
- To review different pension design options in line with the objectives of the system such as replacement rate, poverty alleviation and consumption smoothing;
- To advance knowledge on recent policy developments and reforms with the aim of enhancing governance of pension policy;
- To gather knowledge about good governance and its importance in the design and delivery of pension systems;
- To identify guiding principles, practical guidelines, and governance structures and mechanisms that would help engender and support good governance;
- To analyse best practices in the field of pension management;
- To enhance knowledge of the techniques and methods used for establishing financially sustainable pension systems;
- To develop an international perspective on pension issues through comparative analysis and sharing experiences of other schemes.

## PARTICIPANTS

The course is aimed at managers and officials of pension schemes as well as policy makers from key ministries responsible for the development and monitoring of social protection systems. Workers and employers representatives will also benefit from this training activity.

## STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS

The training activity is based on the expertise developed by the Social Security Department and the ITC-ILO. The training programme will focus on the following topics:

- Viability and sustainability of pension systems in Arab States
  - Principles of social protection and financing mechanisms
  - Recent demographic, employment and economic trends
  - Impact of the economic and financial crisis and market behavior on pension schemes
  - Coverage, adequacy and sustainability of pension schemes
  - Current state of the pension systems sustainability in Arab States
- Financial governance and management
  - Administrative efficiency: Management structure, record keeping, transparency, compliance and communication
  - Accounting, budget, financial controls and audits
  - Actuarial and statistical methods
  - Investment objectives, policy and strategy
  - Monitoring investment performance
- Reforms and policy orientation
  - Political economy of pension systems
  - Maintaining parameters consistent with pension system objectives in terms of targeted population, income replacement, solidarity and equity
  - Parametric and systemic reforms: eligibility conditions, contribution rate, benefit structure, accrual rates, and indexation
  - Multi-pillar approach: Relationship between public and private pension provision
  - Outcomes of reforms: Pension reforms impacts on income distribution
  - Review of pension reforms around the world

## METHODOLOGY

An action-oriented, highly participative approach will be used, with particular attention to sharing international experience with a view to adaptation and practical application. Training methods will combine lectures and discussions, case studies, open space discussions and group work.

## STUDY VISIT

The programme includes a study tour to French social security institutions based in Lyon in order to provide participants with an opportunity to study applied aspects of social security management.

## LANGUAGE

Arabic

## COST OF PARTICIPATION

The cost of participation, excluding international air travel and airport transfers, is 4,385 Euros (tuition fees 2,395 Euros, subsistence fees 1.990 Euros) payable in advance by the participant or his/her sponsoring organization. This covers: tuition fees; the use of training facilities and support services; training materials; accommodation and full board at the Centre's campus; all costs related to the study tour and emergency medical insurance.

## APPLICATIONS

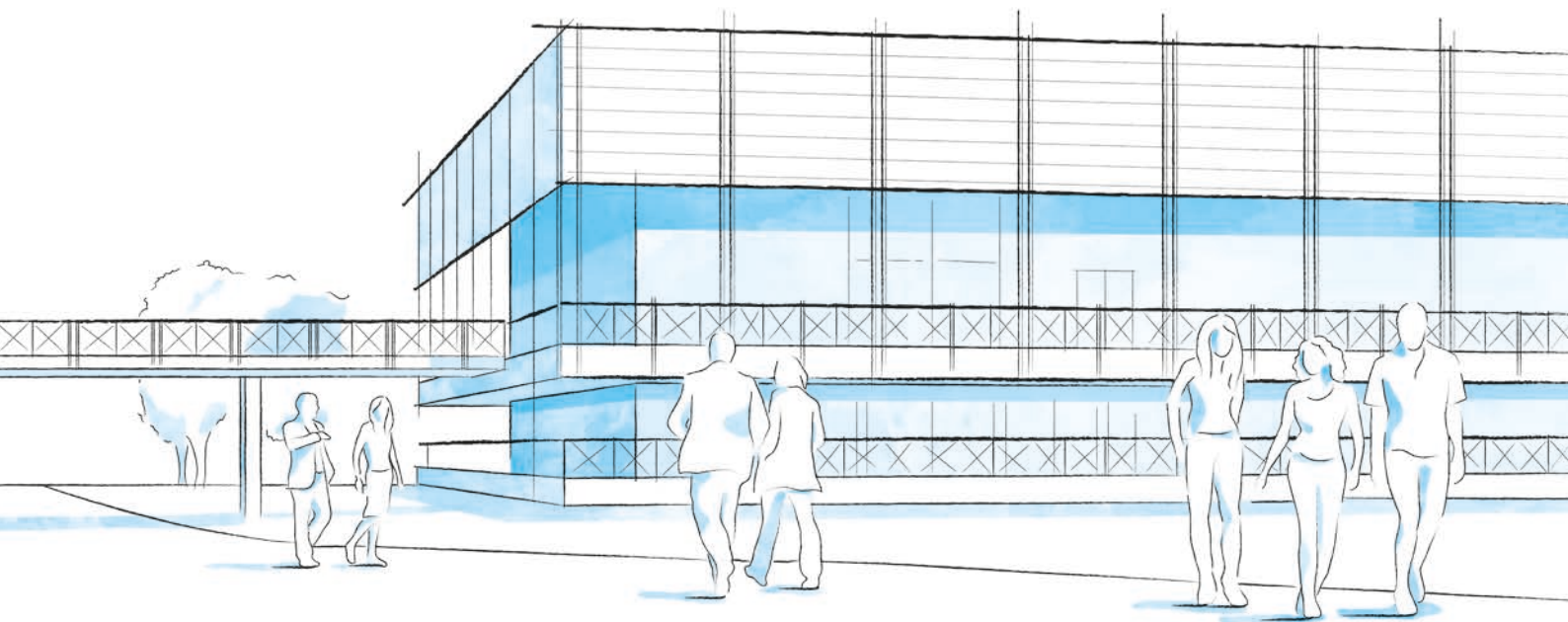
Applicants should complete the online nomination form no later than **21 February 2020** supported by a nomination letter from the sponsoring institution indicating how the participant will be financed. The nomination form can be found at: [bit.ly/2lwtr9S](https://bit.ly/2lwtr9S)

Please note that if a Schengen visa for Italy is needed, the time required is on average at least three weeks.

For information regarding payment, cancellation and refunds, please consult: [bit.ly/31ZETCW](https://bit.ly/31ZETCW)

As an organization dedicated to fundamental human rights and social justice, the ILO is taking a leading role in international efforts to promote and realize gender equality. In line with this ILO focus, women candidates are especially welcome.





## CAMPUS LIFE

### A THRIVING UNITED NATIONS CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY OF PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- **Three organizations** from the United Nations system on campus
- **More than 300 training courses** and activities in a stimulating international environment
- **Thousands of participants** from all over the world

### ENVIRONMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

#### **Grab a campus bicycle and explore the Turin Centre.**

Located in a leafy park on the banks of the Po River, it's a great place for study and collaboration. Experience innovative learning and training methods in modern classrooms equipped with simultaneous translation services.

## INFO

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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### HOUSING, DINING, AND MORE

Comprising more than 280 private dormitories, the **Turin Campus provides a broad range of services for course participants and partners** including a free-flow restaurant, bank, travel agency, laundromat, post office, gym, medical services and a reception desk open 24/7.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DIVERSITY

**Participants can enjoy social events organized by the Turin Centre** as well as by their course facilitators.

Whether on or off campus, people from different cultural backgrounds have the opportunity to listen to live music together, cook and share traditional foods, or team up to play games and network.



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