



ONLINE

EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION

DESIGNING PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES FOR A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

12 MAY – 22 JUNE 2021

🕒 6 WEEKS, 30 HOURS

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



International Training Centre

RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

The world of work faces an unprecedented set of daunting challenges. It grapples with containing and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Millions of jobs and trillions of dollars of labour income have been lost and many countries face high unemployment. At the same time the COVID-19 induced crisis has shown how urgent priorities from before COVID-19, in particular climate change and achieving the SDGs, are critical. On top of this, there are major ongoing transformations in the world of work driven by technological, environmental and demographic changes. While some workers face the challenge of workplace transitions; for many, unemployment is linked to the current crises, and may be seasonal, structural, or long-term.

Developing multi-dimensional approaches to addressing these challenges require cross-cutting policies and inter-disciplinary tools which can exploit synergies and effectively manage trade-offs. Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) offer such a tool.

Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) – or public works programmes – provide an adaptive policy instrument that can create employment, fill gaps in the provision of assets or services, complement social protection provisions and contribute to Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs). They do so by providing a form of activation for participants when market conditions limit the alternatives. In this way, societies can prevent or mitigate many of the negative social and economic impacts of unemployment, not only for participants but also for wider society. The three key developmental outcomes of PEPs are:

1. **Employment creation:** PEPs are important tools for creating jobs and reducing and the negative impacts of unemployment. Through the employment offered, they contribute to decent work, build the capabilities of participants and can be targeted at women, youth and vulnerable groups such as refugees.
2. **Social protection:** Through the wages paid, they contribute to income security for the working age and their dependants and to achieving zero hunger.
3. **Assets and services provision:** Through the assets and services they deliver, PEPs can contribute to a wide range of SDGs. Which ones will depend on local priorities, but they can enhance access to development infrastructure, such as roads, water and sanitation, provide a vital tool for climate action, support communities in the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, and contribute peace building. Innovation in the work undertaken in PEPs has seen the inclusion of more services, such as Early Childhood Development, care support in communities – and forms of work using digital technology, such as social surveys, which are attractive to youth.

However, designing a programme to achieve all these objectives remains challenging, as in practice there may be a need to prioritize certain objectives, or manage the trade-offs that may arise between some of the objectives.

Cover photograph: Workers removing invasive alien plants to protect watersheds and increase water supply as part of the Working for Water programme in South Africa.

This course will discuss policy and design features of PEPs that take into account these challenges and will share current experiences on how these programme have been used to respond to the current crises. This will include experiences from both high, middle and low-income countries and will provide tools for enabling effective programme design, to achieve the multiple objectives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By following the course, you can expect to:

1. Get an overview of how these programmes have been used for economic recovery over history and in the context of COVID-19;
2. Gain an understanding of the role of PEPs in achieving full employment and decent work, as well as some of the key policy dilemmas and trade-offs encountered in the use of PEPs;
3. Get familiarized with several tools for effective public programme design and implementation and assessment;
4. Acquire insights into the expansion of PEP activities into:
 - Environmental works including the use Nature –based Solutions for Disaster Risk reduction as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 - The care economy, including community based care and early childhood development.
5. Acquire knowledge of innovations and best practices of PEPs for decent work creation; including
 - Getting exposure to operational and work organization methodologies and capacity building approaches;
 - Learning from several countries' experiences and good practices.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course will discuss how Public Employment Programmes can contribute to a sustainable recovery and will consist of six modules:

Module 1

Key concepts: Right to Work, Full Employment and Employment Guarantees

This module will introduce the key concepts that underpin the rationale for Public Employment Programmes, in particular in times of crisis and increasing unemployment and underemployment. It will highlight their role in achieving full employment and providing a rights-based approach to employment. The module will also include discussions on PEPs their role in fulfilling the social contract and how this may shift in a rapidly changing world of work.

Module 2 Essential characteristics and design of PEPs

In this module the defining characteristics of PEPs will be discussed. Tools for the design and assessment of these programmes developed by the ILO and with other agencies will be introduced. It will also include a case study on how PEPs have been used to respond to the COVID crisis in South Africa.

Module 3 PEPs creating employment in different sectors

PEPs can implement different work activities including environmental, social and infrastructure works. “Green” activities include the use of nature based solutions for hybrid infrastructure, climate change adaptation and mitigation and ecosystem restoration. Social works tend to focus on the care economy. The module will focus on how PEPs can assist in both improving coverage and standards in the sector, while infrastructure can include a wide range of construction and maintenance activities. This module will include several country case studies.

Module 4 PEPs and Decent Work

PEPs often operate in difficult contexts with large decent work deficits and thus it is important that these programmes incorporate measures to ensure that minimum standards and conditions of work are safeguarded. This module will provide guidance on amongst others wage setting, appropriate conditions of work, occupational health and safety, and measures to target vulnerable groups that face challenges accessing the labour market. This module will include several country case studies.

Module 5 PEPs in relation to investment, employment and social policy

PEPs generally have employment, social and investment related objectives. As such their alignment and integration with public investment, skills, social protection and active labour market policies are particular important. This module will delve into the areas of overlap and intersection and identify areas of both synergies and trade-offs.

Module 6 Critical Operational issues

In this module will focus on key operational issues that can be particularly challenging in PEPs, including contracting workers and making payments, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of PEPs and inclusion of workers and communities in decision making and accountability. The module will also highlight how recent technologies such as mobile recruitment and reporting systems can be used to improve operations.

Learning will be facilitated and consolidated through a design exercise in which participants will collaborate in small groups to design PEPs for different contexts and regions.

WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

The course targets at people who are concerned with or work in the fields of public investment, employment strategies, active labour market policies, social protection, public employment programmes and rural and urban development. It aims to reach a mixed audience of development actors, including senior government officials, representatives of social partners, programme managers and staff of research and education institutions. A gender-balanced participation is sought.

It is therefore open to *donors, policy makers; planners; senior and middle-level officials from national agencies and programmes concerned with public employment.*

WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

By participating in the course, without prior exposure to PEPs you will:

1. Get introduced to PEPs and how it contribute to various up-to-date challenges;
2. Get concrete experiences on how PEPs programmes are implemented in some champions countries, and assess the elements to maximise impacts.

By participating in the course, as a practitioner, policy maker you, will:

1. Consolidate your experience on what is working and what is not in designing, and implementing PEPs;
2. Compare your experience with other peers from different countries and raise lessons;
3. Be in a position to influence and/or apply new approaches/ innovations in your own PEPs programmes, or maximise the component of public works in your multidimensional poverty alleviation/SDGs related programmes;
4. Have the opportunity to collaborate on a hands on design project to design a PEP and so think through the various design questions and potential trade-offs and synergies with other policies.

FORMAT AND TRAINING METHODOLOGY

This course is offered fully online through the ITCILO eCampus platform. It is implemented in an asynchronous modality where participants can plan their learning at their own pace. Furthermore, the course also offers opportunities for live debate and discussions through online webinars, which provide an platform for engaging with experts and peers.

Each module combines online materials, one webinar and learning activities to help participants learn more effectively. Modules are open on a weekly basis. While participants are recommended to complete the activities of one module before starting the next one, access to modules is not conditional on that. The course has been

designed according to a learner-centred approach in order to better involve participants and keep them motivated. Different methods will be used to make it highly interactive and engaging.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The course is offered in English.

HOW TO APPLY

Find the application form at <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/DST/A9714366/en> and apply before the **2 May 2021**.

The course is fee-paying. The total cost is **Euro 975**

ITCILO will offer a limited number of fellowships which may cover part of the fee. If eligible, early applicants will be given priority. Please enquire quickly!

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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COURSE CODE: A9714366