



ONLINE

INFORMAL ECONOMY

# MEASURING INFORMALITY

INTRODUCING THE NEW STATISTICAL STANDARDS  
ON THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

14 APRIL – 9 MAY 2025

 4 WEEKS, 40 HOURS

*Information Note*

# INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The *World of Work* is continuously evolving, perhaps never more quickly than in recent years. This means that statistical standards need to evolve as well to capture the complex realities of the world of work. **Informality remains a key concern of the Decent Work Agenda** and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the share of informal employment is part of the indicators selected to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, as SDG indicator 8.3.1). Addressing informality is also critical for women's economic empowerment and gender equality.

The 21<sup>st</sup> *International Conference for Labour Statisticians (ICLS)* adopted in October 2023 **A New Standard on the Informal Economy**. The new standard improves the coverage, usefulness, and comparability of informality statistics and sheds light on who are those in the informal economy, working conditions and contextual vulnerabilities in the informal economy, **which employs two billion people, or close to 60 percent of the world's employed population**.<sup>1</sup>

In many countries, informal employment and the informal sector represent a significant part of the economy and labour market and plays a major role in production, employment creation and income generation. The debate concerning strategies to support the transition from the informal to the formal economy gained new momentum worldwide, after ILO's constituents adopted, at the International Labour Conference in June 2015, the **Recommendation 204 (R204)**, the first international standard focusing exclusively on the informal economy and the strategies to adopt for the **transition from the informal to the formal economy**. Ten years after the adoption of Recommendation No. 204, the ILC will hold a general discussion in June 2025 on innovative approaches to addressing informality and facilitating the transition to formality to promote decent work. This can provide an opportunity to reflect on trends over the past decade. **Measuring and analysing informality remains a challenge** for still too many countries that hinders policy-making to address the consequences of informality and facilitate transitions to formality. The lack of data and statistics on the informal economy also means that its economic contribution is not taken into account.

Bearing in mind the **growing demand from countries** to better understand the functioning of the informal economy and the **measurement of informality**, the **International Training Centre of the ILO** in Turin (ITCILO) in close collaboration with **the ILO Department of Statistics** are **proud to offer the online training "Measuring informality: Introducing the new statistical standards on the Informal economy."**

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course aims to *"enhance national capacities to produce, collect and analyse data with a focus on informal employment and informal sector enterprises. The course also aims to promote the new standard to measure the informal economy adopted by the 21<sup>st</sup> ICLS in 2023."*

The specific learning objectives of the course will include:

- Ample understanding of the new statistical standard on the informal economy adopted by the 21st ICLS in 2023;
- Comprehensive understanding of the key international concepts, terminology, guiding principles, global trends related to informality;

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1 ILO. (2023). New Standards, Increased Visibility: Improving Measurement of the Informal Economy. URL: <https://ilostat.ilo.org/new-standards-increased-visibility-improving-measurement-of-the-informal-economy>

- Comprehensive understanding the operational definitions of Informal sector and informal employment;
- Better understanding of collecting data on informality in household surveys and understand the various measurement mechanisms;
- Better understanding of the framework of indicators on the informal economy and of the diagnostic of informality more generally;
- Comprehensive understanding of the essential indicators on persons, jobs and work activities in the informal economy;
- Improve understanding about the relationship between informality, working conditions, levels of protection and contextual vulnerabilities;
- Better understanding of the drivers of informality as part of the economic, legal and institutional environment in order to better transition to formality.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

National Statistical Offices (NSOs); Ministries of Labour and related Institutions (such as labour observatories); Governmental agencies in charge of labour market data analysis and SDG national reporting; ILO Social Partners (Employers' and workers' organizations) including those representing the informal economy, Research and academic institutions; International organizations; Development agencies; in addition to Non-governmental organizations.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course will cover the following technical topics:

- Statistical definitions: the Informal Economy;
- Statistical definitions: Operational definition of the informal sector;
- Statistical definitions: Operational definition of informal employment;
- Data collection instruments;
- From data to derived variables;
- Going from derived variables to indicators: presentation of the informal economy indicator framework and national diagnostic of informality
- Essential indicators referring to informal employment and informal sector;
- Informality, working conditions, levels of protection and contextual vulnerabilities;
- Contextualizing data and indicators to better support transition to formality: analysis of other drivers of informality as part of the economic, legal and institutional environment.

# TRAINING METHODOLOGY

The course is constructed as follows:

- **Lectures by experts and practitioners**
- **Hands-on exercises and group work**

The course will emphasize a unique learning approach, which is centralized around the following pillars:

- Expert presentations
- Practical exercises
- Group work and classroom discussion
- Interactive online learning platform

# DATES

**14 April – 9 May 2025**

# VENUE

The course will take place **online** as a *distance learning training*.

# LANGUAGE

The course will be conducted in **English**.

# COST AND FINANCING

The course is fee-paying. The **total training cost is Euro €990**.

# PAYMENTS AND CANCELLATION

- Payments need to be received latest 14 days before the beginning of the course. Payment modalities will be communicated in the letter of acceptance. In the event of a cancellation, a participant may be substituted with another candidate. Cancellations remain free of charge if communicated latest 14 days prior to the start of the course.
- For cancellations after this date, a penalty will be applied. For further information regarding payment, cancellation and refunds, please consult: <https://www.itcilo.org/applications-payments-cancellation>

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## HOW TO APPLY

To register, kindly fill in and submit the online registration form available here:

<https://oarf2.itcilo.org/DST/A9718138/en>

The selection of applicants will be based on the submission of:

- A completed **online registration** form
- An **official sponsorship letter** issued by their organization (or donor organization),

**Kindly note that we need to receive the above-mentioned documents in order to register you for the course!**

We strongly recommend applying early since admission is competitive and space is limited!

## DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

The application deadline is **7 April 2025**

## CONTACTS

- Administrative arrangements can be coordinated through the following email ([lmstats@itcilo.org](mailto:lmstats@itcilo.org));
- For the technical coordination, please also be in contact with the ITCILO programme officer Mr. Mostafa Mohamed ([m.mohamed@itcilo.org](mailto:m.mohamed@itcilo.org)).

## **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**

**International Training Centre of the ILO**  
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10127 Turin – Italy

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Technical coordination:

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**COURSE CODE: A9718138**