



International  
Labour  
Organization

## DECENT WORK: AN ALLIANCE FOR THE FUTURE

### Public-private partnerships with universities, knowledge and research centres

The International Labour Organization is increasingly seen as the global centre for technical expertise and as an authority in the areas of labour statistics, research, analysis and policy advice. Knowledge-related public-private partnerships play an important role in sustaining the ILO's role as the lead organization in the world of work.

Since 2000, the ILO has signed 64 PPPs in 30 countries with universities, knowledge and research centres, of which 41 are in-kind partnerships and 23 have contributed funding. These PPPs cover the four strategic pillars of the ILO's mandate: employment, social protection, social dialogue; and principles and rights at work.

*Research is a crucial area for the development of knowledge and tools leading to a better understanding of world of work issues.*

#### Employment

Employment-related PPPs with universities, knowledge and research centres have focused on – or currently address – employment promotion, skills and sustainable enterprises.

Providing labour market analysis and statistics, policy advice, good practice reviews and evaluation of policy effectiveness:

- **Japanese Institute of Labour and Policy Training:** Created a network of national labour institutes in Asia and the Pacific that deal with issues such as designing appropriate institutional frameworks for social and economic development, identifying ways in which labour institutions can contribute to economic transformation and structural changes, producing analyses of elements of economic reform, and studying the economic impact of alternative industrial relations systems and economic globalization and employment creation.
- **University of Costa Rica (Centre for Research and Training in Public Administration):** Promoted strategies and methodologies for job creation in Central America and the Caribbean, based on research, and the design and implementation of training programmes and educational material for dissemination.
- **National University of La Matanza (Argentina)/National University of Cuyo (Argentina):** Focused on strengthening institutional capacity in the development of research projects, disseminating studies, organizing

conferences, seminars and workshops and facilitating access to academic, scientific, technical and cultural services.

- **Columbia University (School of International and Public Affairs) (United States):** Was set up to raise awareness of the importance of employment and work-related issues in the United States.
- **The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Research Foundation (United Kingdom):** Cooperated with the ILO and the WTO on a publication – Making globalization socially sustainable (2011) – which gives insight into links between globalization, employment uncertainty and inequalities, and how governments can contribute to the social dimension of globalization.
- **Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (United States):** Strengthened capacity among researchers and practitioners in the Middle East and North Africa by setting up training on impact evaluation for youth employment programmes.
- **University of Colima (Mexico):** Launched more than 100 good practices initiatives on youth employment from over 50 countries with the aim of identifying and sharing programmes, projects and practices.
- **Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russian Federation):** Provided statistical data on the youth labour market and policies in the Russian Federation to assess the current situation and support the development of a National Action Plan.



- Other institutions that have addressed employment promotion:

- **Latin America International Development Research Centre (Uruguay)**
- **Geneva International Academic Network (Switzerland)**
- **University of California (UC-Davis) (United States)**
- **International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, 3ie (India)**
- **University of Cape Town (UCT)(South Africa)**

Skills forecasting, skills recognition systems, skills development for disadvantaged groups, and employment services that boost employment:

- **Harvard University (United States):** Resulted in a large-scale skills project in India.
- **Swiss Network for International Studies and participating universities – University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern (Switzerland); the University of Northern British Columbia (Canada); the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, China); Griffith University (Australia); the Hong Kong Workers' Health Centre (Hong Kong, China):** Shared the findings of a project studying demographic change and private sector disability management in Australia, Canada, China and Switzerland (see fact sheet in employment).
- **Kennesaw State University (United States):** Undertook activities on the formulation of a curriculum on leadership through sport for youth.
- **Geneva School of Economics and Management (Switzerland):** Organized the Fourth European Research Conference on Microfinance.
- **Skolkovo Moscow School of Management of the Russian Federation:** Collaborated on a programme on the management of vocational training schools and a skills forecasting tool.

- **Social Fund for Development (Yemen):** Offered to start new – or expand existing – small businesses to 2,500 Yemeni women.

- **Neuchatel University (Switzerland) / Rutgers University (United States) / Sun Yat-Sen University (China):** Researched the changing labour market in electronic manufacturing industries in China.

- **Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany):** established a loan programme that enabled the Office to work more in depth on the issue of mental health at work.

Assisting constituents in implementing policy, legal and regulatory reform to support the development of sustainable enterprises:

- **Social Fund for Development (Yemen) / National Entrepreneurship Institute (RIYADAH) (Saudi Arabia):** Supported the Know About Business (KAB) training programme, designed to promote an entrepreneurship culture among youth in Yemen and Saudi Arabia and to motivate young people to feel that self-employment can be a career option.

- **Palestinian Welfare Association Ramallah / Business Development Centre (BDC) (Jordan):** Launched the KAB Programme in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Jordan.

- **Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Japan):** Teamed up with the ILO for research studies and training on green jobs

- **National Agrarian University – La Molina (Peru):** Designed and developed “My.COOP”, an online platform for agricultural cooperative members and other stakeholders in Peru.

- **London School of Economics and Political Science (United Kingdom):** Funded an International Grow Centre (IGC) focusing on entrepreneurship and finance accessibility for the poor by conducting an evaluation of issues that may constrain young entrepreneurs. The project has introduced microenterprises such as the ILO's Start



Your Business (SYB) programme in Uganda, which delivers business skills training to small business owners.

- **Foreign Trade Association (FTA) (Belgium) / Science and Technology Centre of Antioquia (Colombia):** Supported the ILO's Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) Programme, which trains Chinese suppliers, to set up a centre of excellence on the SCORE methodology.

- **Belgorod University of Consumer Cooperatives (Russian Federation):** Develops training and education and cooperative curricula, the promotion of social services through social cooperatives in the Russian Federation, and the preparation of a cooperative training package for migrant workers in Central Asia.

- **Canada International Development Research Centre / Latin America International Development Research Centre (Uruguay) / London Development Agency–Employment Creation (United Kingdom):** Partnered with the ILO to provide access to international expertise, best practices, and the latest entrepreneurship promotion tools, while ensuring commitment to decent work and building national capacities for sustainable impact.

- **University of Geneva (Switzerland):** Cooperates with the ILO in the field of social finance, combining the analytical, social and political talents of both institutions – a key strategy in the Global Jobs Pact and for achieving the Decent Work Agenda.

- **EU Business School (Spain, Germany and Switzerland):** Signed in 2015 – for the third year running – an agreement to launch a brand new programme on sustainability management, currently offering a Certificate Programme on Corporate Social Responsibility.

## Social protection

PPPs related to social protection mainly concern training, building institutional capacity, protection of youth and migrant workers, and prevention of HIV and tuberculosis.

The ILO gives priority to strengthening and expanding training programmes aimed at reinforcing the capacities of social security staff, analysts, policy-makers, and representatives of tripartite supervisory bodies.

- **University of Maastricht (Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Netherlands):** Offers Master's programmes on social policy financing and social policy design, public policy and human development, which are designed to train future specialists in social protection for social security institutions, academic institutes, governments and international organizations (361 participants from 69 countries over a twelve-year period) (see fact sheet in social protection)

- **University of Mauritius / University of Algiers (Algeria) / University of Bangkok (Thailand) / University of Montevideo (Uruguay):** Implement similar programmes as the successful Master's programme of Maastricht.

- **State University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil):** Strengthened the institutional capacity of governments and social partners in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

- **Kennesaw State University (United States):** Organized activities relating to the protection of youth.

- **University of Utrecht (Netherlands) / Geneva International Academic Network (Switzerland):** Promote the protection of the rights of migrant workers.

- **Stellenbosch University (South Africa):** Focused on strengthening HIV and TB prevention, treatment, care and support for the safety of health workers.

## Social dialogue

PPPs in the area of social dialogue focus on capacity building and enhancing decent work in economic sectors, including maritime, construction, agriculture and electronics manufacturing. Research is currently being undertaken on water fetching.

- **Japanese Institute of Labour:** This partnership has been designed to reinforce constituents' capacity in the areas of tripartite social dialogue, workplace and industrial relations, labour law reform, compliance with national labour legislation and regulations, international labour standards and applicable collective agreements.
- **Social Fund of the Construction Industry (Uruguay):** Carried out research on the job evaluation system and occupational certification process of the construction industry in Uruguay.
- **University of California (United States):** Set up the Global Action Network (GAN), which brings together a community of experts and practitioners to address obstacles to the responsible and sustainable scale-up of agriculture insurance.
- **Neuchatel University (Switzerland) / Rutgers University (United States) / Sun Yat-Sen University (China):** Joined forces to implement a project on "Governing labour standards in the Chinese electronics manufacturing industry: Labour market Institutions and governance of global production chains", to identify gaps and explore complementarities between different instruments to address decent work deficiencies in global production chains.
- **Cardiff University (United Kingdom) / Chung-Ang University (Republic of Korea) / University of Texas (United States) / International Maritime University of Panama:** Focused on promoting sustainable decent work and training in the port and maritime (shipping and fishing) sectors.

- **University of Stockholm (Sweden):** Focused on gathering and classifying existing data on time spent on unpaid water fetching by women, and related health and safety issues.

## Standards and fundamental principles and rights at work

Partnerships in this category focus on non-discrimination at work and working conditions.

- **University of Zambia\*:** Integrated the contents of the Guide on Legislation and the Training Manual (PEPDEL project) into selected undergraduate LLB degree and post-graduate degree courses on labour law legislation, human rights law, constitutional law, international law, labour rights and children's rights.
- **Hanoi University (Viet Nam)\*:** Developed an enabling legal and policy environment, such as the Act on Persons with Disabilities, with a particular emphasis on employment (PROPEL-Vietnam project);
- **University of Queensland (Australia):** Developed framework collaboration on research policy and programme approaches to improve productivity and working conditions in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

*\*(Both projects benefit from the collaboration of IrishAid)*



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