

NEWSLETTER

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ILO Global Employment Trends 2011 Report: economic growth but weak job recovery and high youth unemployment



With global unemployment, as officially measured, at record heights for the third subsequent year since the start of the economic crisis, the ILO warned in its [Global Employment Trends 2011 Report](#) that weak recovery in jobs is likely to continue in 2011, especially in developed economies. Despite a sharp rebound in economic growth for many countries, official registered global unemployment stood at 205 million in 2010, essentially unchanged from 2009, and 27.6 million more than on the eve of the global economic crisis in 2007. The report shows that 55 per cent of the increase in global unemployment between 2007 and 2010 occurred in the Developed Economies and European Union (EU) region, while the region only accounts for 15 per cent of the world's labour force.

The unemployment rate among youth aged 15-24 stood at 12.6 per cent in 2010, 2.6 times the adult rate of unemployment.

The report notes that globally, an estimated 1.53 billion workers were in vulnerable employment in 2009, corresponding to a vulnerable employment rate of 50.1 per cent. The incidence of vulnerable employment has remained broadly unchanged since 2008, in sharp contrast to the steady and significant average decline in the years preceding the crisis.

The report also finds there were 630 million workers (20.7 per cent of all workers in the world)

living with their families at the extreme US\$ 1.25 a day level in 2009. This corresponds to an additional 40 million working poor, 1.6 percentage points higher than projected on the basis of pre-crisis trends.

High-level Conference on Inequalities in the World of Work



A high-level Conference on 'Inequalities in the World of Work: The Effects of the Crisis' was organised in Brussels on 20 and 21 January. The Conference, organised by the ILO in cooperation with the European Commission (EC), was attended by representatives from governments, trade unions and employers and experts of 30 countries (EU27, Croatia, FYR Macedonia and Turkey). It provided an in-depth overview of the effects that the crisis may be having on inequalities in the world of work. Policy debates were organised between Ministers, high representatives of Ministries of Labour, European and international social partners, the EC and the ILO, including the ILO Deputy Director General.

A limited amount of free copies of the Conference Report can be obtained from Mrs Evelyne Andry at andry@ilo.org.

ILO Regional Overview on Decent Work in the Arab States

The ILO Regional Office in Beirut recently published a [Regional Overview](#) on Decent Work in

the Arab States. The document describes the needs and priorities for employment, social protection, social dialogue and rights at work in the region. It reflects also, where available, the main elements of the decent work country programmes (the tripartite nationally agreed employment and social policy agendas) and of the ILO initiatives in the region.

Ms Nada Al-Nashif, Director of the ILO Regional Office for the Arab States, presented the publication to representatives of the EU institutions during her visit to Brussels from 17 to 20 January. In the light of recent events the document has a high relevance for the Arab region and for EU external policies and operations.

ILO response on EC Green Paper on future EU development policy



The European Commission launched a consultation on the Green Paper: "EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development – Increasing the impact of EU development policy". During the consultation the UN team in Brussels provided a consolidated response to the green paper, fully supported by the ILO. In coordination with UN Brussels, the ILO concentrated on a number of specific issues for its response related to the tripartite functioning of the ILO and its role in the G20. ILO Director-General Juan Somavia welcomed the focus on inclusive growth and sustainable development but underlined that economic, employment, social and environmental

objectives should go hand in hand. Practice has revealed that economic and social sectors in EU development cooperation are often approached in isolation. EU development cooperation could strongly benefit from a more focussed support towards strengthening capacity building of employers and workers organisations and of social dialogue and labour administration institutions. The ILO response also includes a number of suggestions as well as more practical examples. The full version of the [ILO response](#) is available on the ILO-Brussels website.

Netherlands pledges up to \$84.3 million in support of the Decent Work Agenda



The Government of the Netherlands has renewed its significant engagement for the ILO and its Decent Work Agenda. A voluntary contribution of US\$84.3 million will be provided within the framework of the Netherlands-ILO Partnership for 2010-13. In consultation with the Partnership Department of the ILO, the Netherlands have chosen to support three areas of work of the Office.

A contribution of US\$63.8 million – representing the largest un-earmarked voluntary contribution by a Member State to the ILO - will support the Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) for the 2010-11 and 2012-13 biennia. This will increase the capacities of the ILO to respond better to the needs of its constituents in the current

unpredictable environment, where the ILO is expected to react swiftly and strategically to unforeseen demands by governments, employers and workers worldwide.

Additionally the Netherlands have also decided to carry on their engagement in the Better Work and the IPEC, ILO's flagship Programmes.

Eventually, a contribution of US\$13.8 million will be allocated to Better Work – a unique partnership between the ILO and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) aimed at improving labour standards and competitiveness in global supply chains - and US\$6.6 million will be allocated to finance projects combating child labour through education. The Government of the Netherlands is a longstanding key partner of the ILO in promoting efforts to combat child labour worldwide.

Focusing on the Benelux countries and the EU institutions, the ILO Office in Brussels recorded in 2010 an approval of approximately US\$51.9 million voluntary contribution from the Netherlands, US\$9.3 million for Belgium (federal level) and US\$6.0 million for Flanders, and US\$2.9 million for Luxembourg. The European Commission voluntary contribution amounted to US\$7.8 million.

Hungarian EU presidency sets growth and employment as a priority



The [Hungarian Presidency](#) of the Council of the European Union set growth and employment as one of its four priorities during the first half of



2011. The Presidency stresses that the Europe 2020 strategy has to have the creation of jobs and sustainable competitiveness in the focus if it wishes to improve or to preserve the living conditions of European citizens.

In the coming months the Presidency will organise several Conferences and Meetings on employment.

Joint EU-ILO programme on Strengthening Social Protection in Syria

Last year ILO implemented a technical cooperation programme in Syria focussed on enhancing national capacities to design, manage and govern social security, and to expand social security coverage, including an assessment of the impact of the global crisis on employment and social protection in Syria.

For 2011, a joint EU-ILO programme on Strengthening Social Protection in Syria will be implemented in cooperation with UNDP. This project will contribute to poverty reduction through enhanced social protection - in the framework of the Decent Work Country Programme -, through strengthened social security policies and administration, and through improved access to adequate levels of social protection for all workers and their families, including those in the informal sector.

EU-ILO technical cooperation programmes on Migration approved

The EC has recently approved 3 technical cooperation projects in Europe, Asia and Central America, all aimed at supporting third countries to develop and effectively implement rights-based migration policies and programmes, in line with the ILO International Labour Standards and the

principles and guidelines of the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration.

First, the project on Effective Governance of Labour Migration and its Skills Dimensions was initiated to support Ukraine and Moldova for the management of migration flows originating from these countries. This project aims to strengthen Ukraine's and Moldova's capacity to regulate labour migration and promote sustainable return, with a particular focus on enhancing human resources capital and preventing skills waste.

Second, the project Promoting Decent Work Across Borders is a pilot project in the Philippines, India and Vietnam for migrant health professionals and skilled workers. The project is set up to promote the circular migration of professionals and highly skilled personnel in the health care sector.

Third, the project "Promotion of Gender-sensitive Labour Migration Policies in Costa Rica, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic" has the objective to strengthen the capacity of policy-makers and social partners in Central America to adopt and implement gender-sensitive labour migration policies, legislation and administration.

The 3 projects fit within the broader ILO approach to address migration from a decent work and labour market perspective. The EC continues to be a key partner for the ILO to effectively deliver specialized advisory services and targeted technical cooperation projects to its constituents in this technical area. The results of these 3 projects, each with a foreseen duration of 3 years, are expected to positively contribute to the ongoing international and EU debate in the field of labour migration. However, ILO-EC cooperation in the field of migration could be more effective if designed and

implemented in partnership instead of being set up through a call for proposals.

Luxembourg's commitment to Maritime Labour Convention



On 6 January 2011 the 20th anniversary of the [Luxembourg Maritime Public Register](#) was celebrated in Luxembourg. This Register was created for ships flying the Luxembourg flag to evidence that the ship complies with the Luxembourg law. At the celebration the Luxembourg Minister of Economy and Trade, Mr Jeannot Krecké said that Luxembourg might be ready to ratify the ILO Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006 by May 2011. The MLC aims to achieve both decent work for seafarers and secure economic interest in fair competition for quality ship owners.

“I am aware that Luxembourg has been working hard to ensure that it can move forward to ratification and effective implementation of this innovative new labour Convention, which consolidates and modernizes 37 of the existing ILO Maritime Labour Conventions, many of which are, for the most part, already applied by Luxembourg”, said Ms Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, Director of the ILO International Labour Standards Department.

The year 2011 might also mark the achievement of the entry into force requirements of the MLC, 2006. As of today, the Convention has been ratified by eleven countries; nineteen more ratifications

must be obtained to achieve the entry into force formula.

Annual Report of the Private Employment Agencies Confederation



The 2011 Annual Economic [Report](#) published by the Brussels based International Confederation of Private Employment Agencies (Ciett) provides an overview on the evolution of agency work since the 2008 financial, economic and social crisis.

The 72,000 private employment agencies worldwide provide jobs for almost 9 million agency workers [employed on a full time equivalent basis] and employ over 741,000 internal staff across 169,000 branches with annual turnover for the industry amounting to €203 billion. The combined total country sales revenues for Europe account for 40% of global turnover in the industry.

The advanced [ILO Convention No. 181](#) on Private Employment Agencies provides the framework for the labour relations in the industry and for the promotion of the cooperation between public and private employment services. The promotion of the ratification and the application of this convention is supported by the social partners in the sector and by the EU as part of the 2008 renewed European Social Agenda and of the EU commitments on decent work. The ILO Office and social partners are increasing their efforts towards the fostering of the ratification and application of the Convention No. 181.

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ITC/ILO announces Master in Applied Labour Economics for Development



The ILO, together with the University of Turin and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, are launching the second edition of the Master of Science in Applied Labour Economics for Development (MALED) at the Turin School of Development (ITC/ILO). This Master program is intended to prepare students and professionals from both advanced and developing countries to become experts in designing, analysing and evaluating policies that place employment at the core of economic, social and development policy making.

The Master is intended for recent university graduates from developing and developed countries, officials and/or professionals in the public and private sector, UN Agencies, foundations and NGOs. It will take place from 31 October 2011 to 26 October 2012.

More information on the Master is available on: <http://maled.itcilo.org/>

The International Training Centre of the ILO has also issued its catalogue of standard courses for 2011. The catalogue covers a wide range of topics related to the Decent Work Agenda and can be consulted on:

<http://www.itcilo.org/en/2011-course-calendar-2>.

International Forum on Decent Work: Report of Proceedings

On 11-12 October 2010 the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, in close cooperation with the ILO, organised in Brussels a [Forum](#) dedicated to the Promotion of Decent Work in the external dimension of EU employment and social policies. The Report of Proceedings is now available on our [website](#).

Vacancy announcement – External Communication Assistant

ILO-Brussels is looking for a half-time (50%) External Communication Assistant (G-5). More information is available on our [website](#).

Scheduled meetings

[List of scheduled ILO meetings](#)

Contact us

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