



International  
Labour  
Organization

# The ILO and the EU, partners for decent work and social justice

*Impact of ten years of cooperation*



# The ILO and the EU, partners for decent work and social justice

## *Impact of ten years of cooperation*

FOREWORD BY THE ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL .....	2
FOREWORD BY THE EU COMMISSIONER FOR EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION AND THE EU COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT .....	4
THE ILO-EU PARTNERSHIP .....	6
ILO-EU COOPERATION IN THE WORLD BY AREA OF ACTIVITIES .....	8
1. LABOUR STANDARDS .....	8
2. SOCIAL DIALOGUE .....	12
3. WORKING CONDITIONS AND WAGES .....	16
4. RESPONDING TO THE FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS .....	17
5. TRADE .....	18
6. SOCIAL PROTECTION .....	20
7. EMPLOYMENT CREAT ION AND YO UTH EMPLOYMENT .....	21
8. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT .....	22
9. LABOUR MIGRAT ION AND TRAFFICKING .....	24
10. CHILD LABOUR .....	27
11. PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE .....	31
12. PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY .....	33
13. GREEN JOBS .....	35
THE WAY FORWARD .....	36



---

International  
Labour  
Organization

# FOREWORD BY THE ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

*The world of work is everywhere confronted with challenges such as the intensification of globalization, demographic developments, persisting poverty, climate change and the impact of the global financial, economic and social crisis. We have a shared responsibility of responding to these challenges and seizing all opportunities for fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development aiming at realizing decent work for all.*

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Union (EU) share the same foundational values. The EU supports the promotion of decent work for all. The EU actively participates in ILO debates and negotiations on labour standards, frameworks, actions and supervision of standards. The EU supports ILO standards and the wider Decent Work Agenda through mobilizing its internal and external policies and actions such as development, policy dialogue and trade.

In this context the ILO and the EU have considerably intensified their cooperation, both within and outside the EU. While such cooperation dates back to 1958, during the last decade it has evolved into a genuine partnership involving concrete operations in the field as well as analysis and research. It has entailed reinforced advocacy, both at a European scale as well as at global level, such as in the G20 and the UN. I welcome this positive evolution.

ILO technical cooperation builds on the ILO tripartite constituents - employers, workers and governments - in 185 countries, including the EU Member States, as well as on a worldwide network of ILO field offices. By engaging with the ILO in technical cooperation, including evidence based policy development, the EU contributes to the realization of decent work in practice.

The ratification of core labour standards, for instance, has increased significantly during the last decade. But more efforts are needed for strengthening their application in practice. Social dialogue is part of the DNA of the EU social model and of the ILO. Our cooperation can be instrumental for rebuilding social dialogue where it has been negatively affected by the crisis, such as in some EU countries, or where it has been dysfunctional due to lack of fundamental freedoms and rights.

Our partnership also has much potential for orienting efforts towards a job- rich recovery, promoting decent jobs for youth and sustainable enterprises, greening the economy, extending social protection coverage and addressing informality.

This overview, published by the ILO Office, focuses on the multi-faceted dimensions of ILO-EU technical cooperation, both inside and outside the EU. It provides a glimpse of the increasing number of technical cooperation activities by illustrating tangible results of the concrete implementation of shared commitments.

Convinced of those promising results, I look forward to consolidating and expanding our partnership in the time ahead. I trust that this overview of our cooperation will contribute to that end.



*Guy Ryder*

A handwritten signature of Guy Ryder in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letters of 'Guy' and 'Ryder' being capitalized and prominent.

# **FOREWORD BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT**

*The European Union and the International Labour Organization share common values such as social justice and the genuine goal of combining economic and social progress. These common foundational principles have led to a considerably intensified cooperation during the last decade, both within and outside the EU.*

Most of the debates and initiatives at the ILO are relevant for the EU. Therefore the EU actively participates within ILO, through EU positions at the International Labour Conference, the ILO Governing Body and other tripartite meetings. The EU has progressively intensified its support in its internal and external policies and actions for ILO standards, frameworks and initiatives such as: support for core labour standards (2001, 2012), social dimension of globalization (2004), decent work (2006), global jobs pact (2009) and social protection floors (2012).

The Europe 2020 strategy, the EU Agenda for Change for development policy (2011), the April 2012 employment package (towards a job-rich recovery) are reflecting the importance of decent job creation, green jobs, social protection, social dialogue and rights at work for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Working together has led to reinforced advocacy at global and regional level, such as by providing assistance to EU neighbouring countries and other developing countries or engaging in G20 activities.

This publication by the ILO Office, focuses on the multi-faceted dimensions of ILO-EU technical cooperation. It provides a number of illustrations on the implementation of shared commitments since the first annual High Level Meeting in 2002 between the ILO Office and the European Commission, based on the renewed Exchange of Letters signed in 2001. This was complemented in 2004 by the strategic partnership in the field of development.

The coinciding strategic objectives, shared values and the added value of technical cooperation offer a solid common ground for enhancing EU-ILO cooperation in the future – a cooperation in friendship so much needed to address efficiently the global financial, economic and social crisis, the food security crisis and the transition towards a low carbon economy.



*László Andor,  
European Commissioner for Employment,  
Social Affairs and Inclusion*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andor'.



*Andris Piebalgs,  
European Commissioner for Development*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Piebalgs'.

# THE ILO-EU PARTNERSHIP

*The ILO and the EU have a longstanding and productive partnership on employment and social affairs. The first ILO-EU cooperation agreement was signed in 1958, reflecting the shared values, principles and objectives of both parties. For example, the principle of equal pay for men and women for work of equal value is protected both by the Treaty of Rome and by the ILO conventions.*

The EU intensified its involvement within the ILO, as from the 1980s, through for example expressing its position during tripartite negotiations on new ILO conventions or on recommendations on occupational safety and health. The International Labour Office, the permanent secretariat of the International Labour Organization, likewise contributed to EU legislative and policy initiatives in the field of employment, social policy and equal opportunities.

A range of factors, such as the need for a social dimension in globalization, the recognition of decent work<sup>1</sup> for all and broadening EU competences regarding employment and social affairs, led to enhanced cooperation.

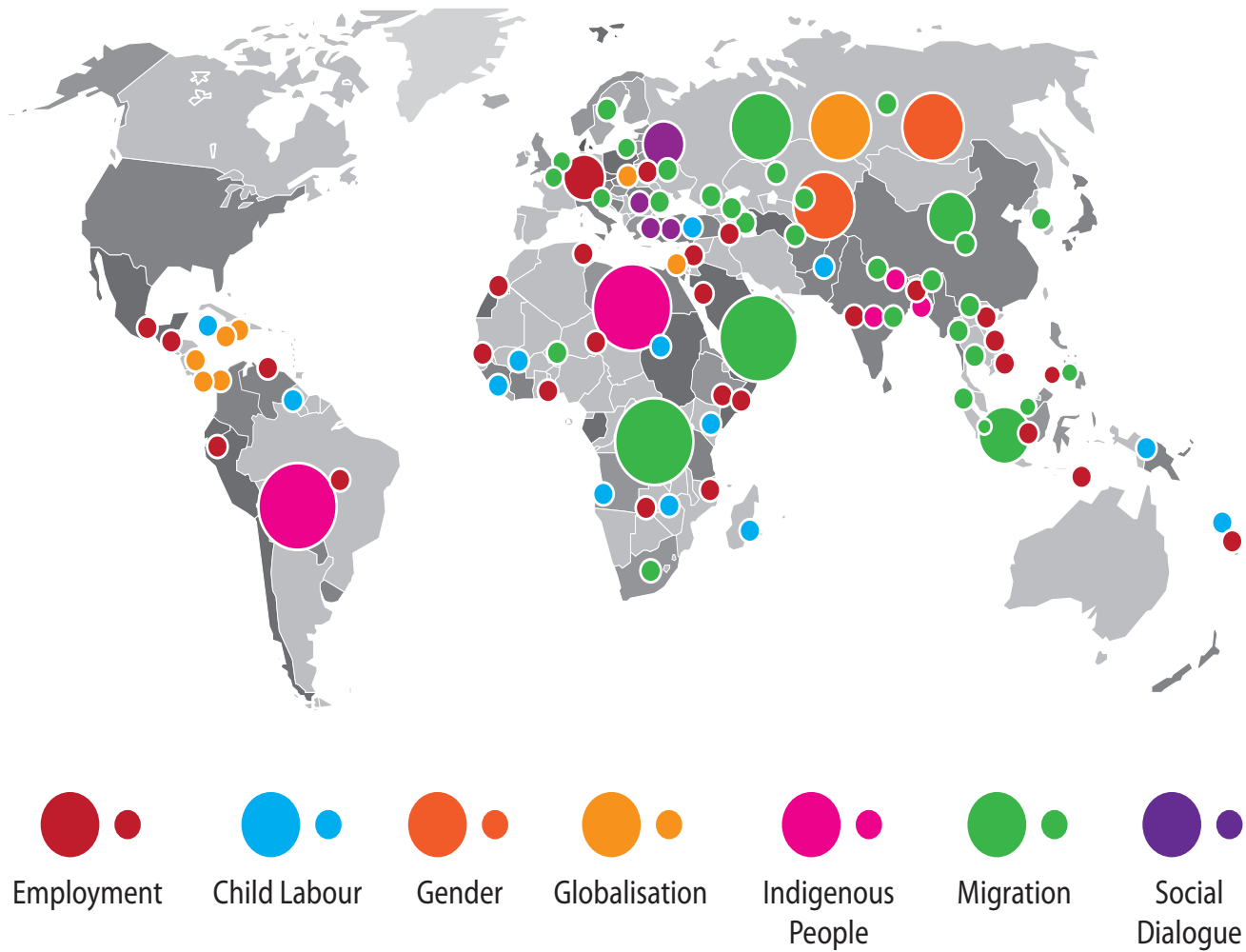
On 14 May 2001, the ILO and the European Commission (EC) renewed their formal cooperation framework. The partnership was widened to include policy areas such as EU enlargement, trade and development and external assistance. The policy dimension was complemented by technical cooperation. High level ILO-EU meetings, which have been held annually since 2002, ensure coherence regarding all relevant policies, actions and services.

The cooperation framework was complemented in 2003 by the EC-UN Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) to which the ILO adheres, and which facilitates the implementation of co-funded projects with the EC. This was followed in 2004 by the ILO-EC Strategic Partnership in the Field of Development, which has led as from 2005 to a progressive recognition of employment, social dialogue, social protection and rights at work in the EU programming of external assistance.

This publication, issued by the ILO Office, highlights some of the achievements which have flowed from the strong cooperation with the EU. The achievements illustrate the wide variety of themes, regions, countries and partners positively affected by this joint effort.

---

<sup>1</sup> Decent work includes four strategic objectives: job creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue, with gender equality as a crosscutting objective. These are inseparable, interrelated and mutually supporting.



*ILO-EU cooperation in the world by area of activities*





*Production line of textile industry in China. There is growing recognition of the need for international labour standards to regulate the social dimension of globalization*

# ILO-EU COOPERATION IN THE WORLD BY AREA OF ACTIVITIES

## 1. LABOUR STANDARDS

### Growing recognition of international labour standards

There is growing recognition of the need for international labour standards to regulate the social dimension of globalization and to foster inclusive development. International labour standards provide the legal framework for the Decent Work Agenda.

These include the ILO's eight core labour standards conventions<sup>2</sup> as well as other conventions and recommendations. The standards are backed by the ILO supervisory system and by ILO technical cooperation on the ground, which supports application in law and in practice.

### Role of the EU in promoting labour standards

The EU actively supports core labour standards and the other ILO conventions. The ILO-EU partnership has directly contributed to their ratification and better application by EU Member States.

All Member States have ratified the eight core labour standards since 2007 and the priority convention on labour inspection since 2009. Most have ratified the main social governance conventions, for example on employment policy and tripartite consultation. Many Member States have ratified other conventions underpinning the strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda.

The rights and principles enshrined in many ILO conventions are also protected by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Some are protected by non-discrimination legislation covering employment, equal opportunities for men and women, health and safety at work and the working conditions of seafarers. The EU increasingly

---

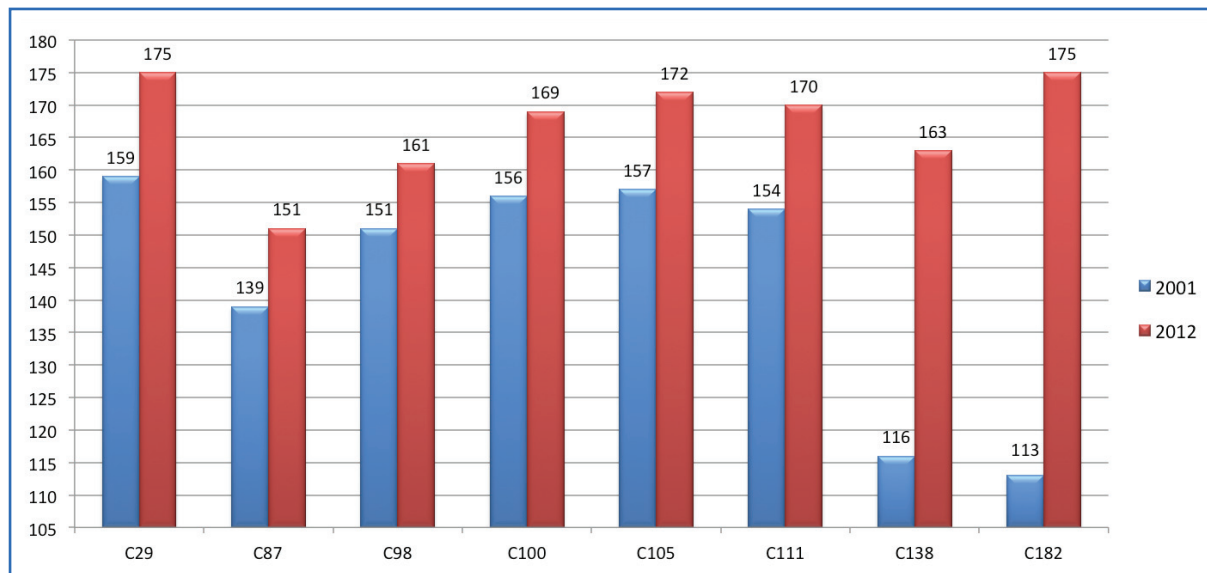
<sup>2</sup> The eight core labour standards conventions are: Conventions No. 87 and No. 98 on freedom of association and collective bargaining, No. 138 on minimum age in employment and No. 182 on worst forms of child labour, No. 29 and No. 105 on forced labour, No. 100 on equal pay for men and women for work of equal value and No. 111 on non-discrimination in employment

participates in the adoption of new international labour standards and supports the application of such standards.

The importance of international labour standards is reflected in key EU texts regarding the external dimensions of employment and social policy, in trade policy, in the 2012 EU strategy on promoting human rights and democracy and in the 2011 Agenda for Change setting the strategy of EU development policy. The EU's 2011-2014 strategy on Corporate Social Responsibility supports the application of labour standards by businesses and in particular recourse to the ILO Tripartite Declaration on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy.

### Increased ratification of ILO core labour standards

Globally, the ratification of the eight core labour standards conventions has increased significantly over the last decade, even if some large countries are yet to ratify all core standards. However, effective application is still needed. Improvements to social and economic governance and capacity-building of social partners and public authorities can help to achieve this. The EU has highlighted the need to support the ILO's technical cooperation and to ensure a better use of the findings of the ILO supervisory system.



#### *Ratification of the ILO's eight core labour standards conventions between 2001 and 2012*

The EU support of ILO outreach had a tangible impact on the ratification and use of core labour standards in some developing countries.



*The EU actively supports ILO core labour standards such as the conventions on minimum age in employment and on worst forms of child labour*



*A harvester in Rwanda. EU support had an impact on the ratification and use of core labour standards in some developing countries*

## **Ratification of standards on child labour**

The TACKLE (Tackling Child Labour through Education) program of the ILO and the EC in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries has directly contributed to the ratification of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, No. 182, and of the Minimum Age for Employment Convention, No. 138, by Sierra Leone in 2011. It has also resulted in a better application of the child labour conventions and recommendations in the 12 ACP countries covered by the program, and brought together labour and education authorities and organizations of workers and employers.

## **Ratification of standards on freedom of association and collective bargaining**

A combination of EU political dialogue and trade policy and the ILO's outreach to tripartite constituents, resulted in the ratification of the conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining by El Salvador in 2006.

The EU co-funded the publication of an updated version of the ILO's digest of decisions and principles of the Committee on Freedom of Association. The Committee's digest compiles the decisions and serves as a guide to the more than 2,500 infringement complaints submitted by governments, organizations of employers or workers. The regular updating of the digest helps to realize the full potential of the ILO's supervisory system on freedom of association and collective bargaining for employers, workers and governments.

### ***Maritime Labour Convention, strong involvement of the EU***

The adoption of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) in 2006 constituted a milestone for seafarers and ship owners throughout the world. It established a social floor in commercial shipping, set quality and safety standards and introduced an integrated inspection system for the most globalized economic sector in the world.

The EU was strongly involved throughout the process of adoption, ratification and implementation of the MLC. It co-funded both the 2006 international maritime labour conference which adopted the MLC and the ILO implementation guidance for the MLC. In 2009, the EU maritime social partners agreement, based on the MLC, became EU law. In 2012, the EC launched two proposed directives to implement the MLC on flag state responsibilities and port state inspection.

The ILO-EU partnership thereby contributed to the speedy ratification of the MLC by both developing countries and EU Member States.



*Seafarers on a cargo ship. The adoption of the Maritime Labour Convention was a milestone for seafarers and ship owners throughout the world*

### ***Domestic Workers Convention and EU-funded projects***

In 2011, the ILO adopted the Domestic Workers Convention, No. 189. This convention constitutes a landmark for the recognition and protection of over 50 million domestic workers around the world. The large majority of domestic workers come from developing countries.

The European Commission is supporting an ILO project in Lebanon to improve the working and living conditions of domestic workers and in particular migrant domestic workers, as well as a project to improve the integration of domestic migrant workers within EU countries.

## **2. SOCIAL DIALOGUE**

*Social dialogue refers to all types of negotiation, consultation and exchange of information between or among representatives of employers, workers and governments on issues in the field of economic and social policy. Social dialogue can be bipartite (between workers and employers and their respective organizations) or tripartite (with direct and formal involvement of the government). Social dialogue is at the heart of both the EU social model and the ILO structure. The promotion of social dialogue is thus a shared objective for the ILO and the EU.*

### **Promoting social dialogue and capacity-building**

Since 2003, both the Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) and the Bureau for Employers' Activities (ACT/EMP) of the ILO International Training Centre in Turin (ITC-ILO) have been involved in transnational projects supported by the EU. These projects aim to strengthen the capacity of workers' and employers' organizations, throughout Europe and notably those from new Member States and candidate countries, to participate in social dialogue at national and European level.

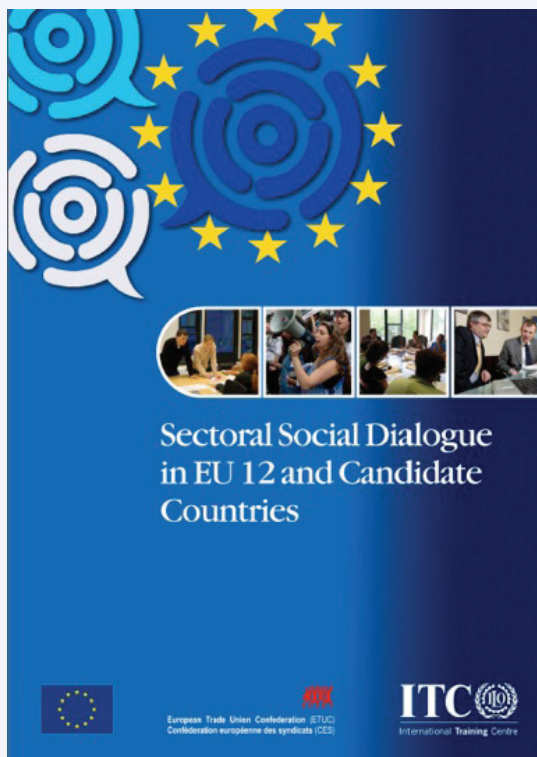
A recent example involves two parallel ILO projects delivered for the European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG) and the European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers' Federation (EMCEF). Following a capacity-building phase, both projects converged in a bipartite workshop that resulted in the adoption of a declaration on the involvement of social partners from new Member States and candidate countries of the EU in the European social dialogue. The declaration was ratified at the plenary meeting of the Sector Social Dialogue Committee of the European Chemical Industry in 2010.



## ***ILO-EU project on Sectoral Social Dialogue in new Member States and candidate countries***

### **Trade unions capacity-building**

By the end of 2011, the ILO had held more than 50 training activities covering many sectors, including post and telecommunications, construction and tourism. This resulted in a higher participation of trade union representatives from new Member States in EU Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees and positive developments at the national level. For instance, shortly after the completion of the ILO-EU's Decent Work for Transport Workers project in 2010-2011, one of the beneficiary organizations, namely Trade Union of Transport and Communications of Croatia, signed an agreement with employers to establish a social council for road transport, which is the first bipartite sectoral social council in Croatia.



In addition to training, research-based projects have been undertaken and they have resulted in policy papers, such as the one on “Sectoral Social Dialogue in EU 12 and Candidate Countries” and pedagogical materials designed for education at the national level, such as the “Social Dialogue Manual for Trade Union Education”.

*Policy paper “Sectoral Social Dialogue in EU 12 and Candidate Countries”, a result of the EU-ILO project on sectoral social dialogue in new Member States and candidate countries*

## Employers' capacity-building

From 2003 to 2011, six different capacity-building projects for employers' organizations were implemented in Europe by the ITC-ILO and the EU. The initial aim was to strengthen the organizations prior to the accession of their countries to the EU. Attention was then focused on organizations involved in large sectors of the European economy: the metal industry, the chemical sector, the agency work industry and the commerce and retail sectors. A real impact was obtained on the functioning and representativeness of employers' organizations at national and EU levels, making them more aware of the added value of social dialogue and better able to play their role as the voice of business.

In 2011, the ITC-ILO, with support of the EU, launched the Employers Young Professionals' Academy in order to develop high-potential staff members in employers' organizations in the EU. The three-year program is being implemented in close cooperation with BUSINESSEUROPE. Enhancing their skills will allow employers' organizations to better contribute to policymaking in the socio-economic field.



*A training course in the ILO International training Centre, Turin*

In Turkey, the ILO-EU partnership enabled the implementation of several joint programs to promote social dialogue in the textile sector. It contributed to the creation of a sectoral advisory committee, which is a forum for social dialogue bringing together international and national social partners.

In 2011, the ILO and the EU launched a multi-annual joint project to promote a balanced and inclusive recovery from the financial, economic and social crisis in Europe through sound industrial relations and social dialogue. It includes a stocktaking of social dialogue practices in the new Member States, with a focus on best practice, and it will identify possible gaps since the emergence of the crisis.

## **Social dialogue in EU external action**

The EU financially supported the holding of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) social dialogue forum held in October 2012 in Vietnam. Involving social partners, it is an EU outreach effort to emerging economies and industrialized countries. The EU equally supported social dialogue fora in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED).

There is also growing interest in social dialogue and core labour standards in EU development cooperation, as illustrated by the 2011 Agenda for Change and the renewed EU neighbourhood policy. Social partners are involved in the preparation and implementation of a range of ILO-EU joint programmes and projects in developing countries, such as employment and social protection in Honduras, Cambodia and Burkina Faso, job creation through local economic development in Tunisia, tackling child labour in ACP countries and assessing and addressing the interplay between trade and employment. In May 2012, the ILO contributed along with employers' and workers' organizations to an EU reflection on how to promote social dialogue and capacity-building through development cooperation. This will feed into the programming of development assistance in the future.

### ***Pro€invest, building the capacity of African employers***

The ILO-EU Pro€invest project was a capacity-building programme for employers' organizations in Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The aim was to improve advocacy skills, service delivery and network building. Through seminars, meetings, research and study, the participating organizations developed new training programs, human resource services and sustainable service management for their members. Networks were built amongst the organizations and there is increased cooperation between employers' organizations and other stakeholders.





*The EU and ILO have a longstanding cooperation on Occupational safety and health (OSH)*

### 3. WORKING CONDITIONS AND WAGES

*Working conditions refer to the context and conditions in which someone works. It includes elements such as occupational safety and health, working time, paid holidays, maternity protection and work-life balance. In this context, wages refers to setting wages, including minimum wages, and the protection of wages.*

#### Occupational safety and health (OSH)

The EU and ILO have a longstanding cooperation on OSH, both within Europe and in global and regional fora. The EU contributed to the ILO promotional framework for OSH convention, N° 187 (2007), the 2003 ILO global OSH strategy and the Safework programme. The ILO is an observer to the EU's Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work and the Senior Labour Inspection Committee and directly contributes to improving the functioning of labour inspection.

More recently, the EU's Investing in People program co-financed a pilot project to improve safety and health at work in Honduras, Malawi, Moldova, Ukraine and Zambia to foster national dialogue on OSH by setting up tripartite committees.

In addition to awareness campaigns such as the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, risk assessment and OSH management training was provided to the trainers who give OSH training to businesses. Training for labour inspectors and workshops on the economic benefits of safety and health at work, also helped to raise awareness. National OSH profiles were compiled using a tripartite approach and national action plans were developed.

As a result of the ILO-EU activities, the government of Malawi has decided to finance the development of a national OSH program despite economic hardship.

## Wages and income

At the request of the EC, the ILO analyzed the setting of minimum wages, as well as inequalities in income and in the labour market in times of crisis in Europe. This analysis documents the growing recognition of minimum wages within almost all EU Member states. The work has also contributed to an evidence-based public debate and to the preparation of the EC's biennial flagship Report on Industrial Relations in Europe.

### 4. RESPONDING TO THE FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS

*The financial crisis has pushed employment to the forefront of the political and societal agenda. Since 2008, the EU and the ILO have been jointly responding to the ongoing crisis. The ILO Global Jobs Pact, adopted in June 2009 at the International Labour Conference and the EU's 2020 Strategy on smart, inclusive and sustainable development form part of this response. Both entities supported a job-oriented approach to crisis recovery at the 2009 G20 Summit and the G20 labour and employment ministerials.*

In 2010, the ILO Institute for International Labour Studies (INST) embarked on a joint research project focusing on two main themes: addressing the short- and medium-term labour market and social challenges of the crisis; and preparing European labour markets to adapt to the long-term challenge of ensuring the social and environmental sustainability of globalization. The purpose of this second study is to better understand the implications on the labour market of greening the economy. It concluded that combining decent work opportunities and a greener economy is possible, provided that adequate complementarities between environmental, economic and social policy are established.



EU- ILO publication "Towards a Greener Economy: The Social Dimensions »



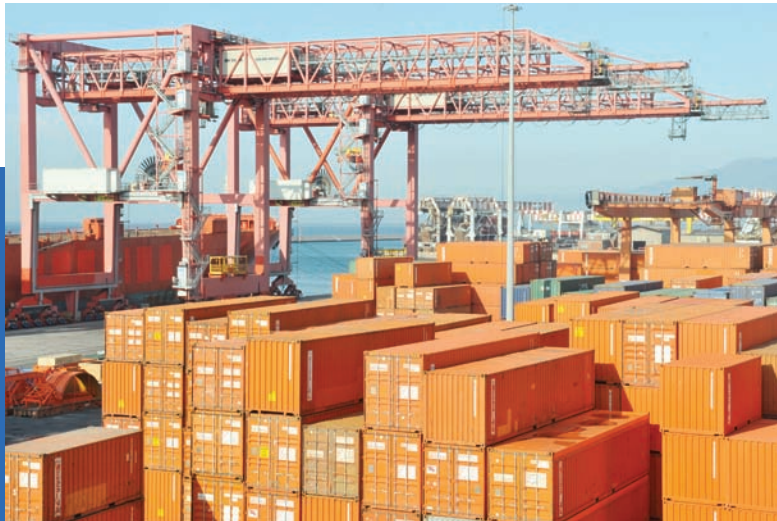
EU-ILO Publication « Building a Sustainable Job-rich Recovery »

By spring 2010, the global financial, economic and social crisis led to a sovereign debt crisis in some countries, strongly affecting the governance in the Eurozone. There have been notable effects on employment, social cohesion, public financing and social dialogue in the Eurozone and its periphery countries. An ILO and EC multi-annual joint project to promote a balanced and inclusive recovery from the crisis in Europe through sound industrial relations and social dialogue places particular attention on EU countries in the periphery. Related national tripartite workshops will take place as from December 2012 in Ireland, Greece, Spain and Portugal. In 2011-2012, the project analyzed public sector adjustment and reform resulting from the crisis, assessing the impact on wages and jobs as well as on social cohesion. It also evaluated the implications for social dialogue. The project contributed to the 2012 Report on Industrial Relations in Europe.

A joint EU project with the ITC-ILO examined the legal and procedural frameworks for restructuring in the 27 EU Member States. The project collected examples which were documented in 27 national background papers and seminars were organized with tripartite stakeholders in each country to discuss and evaluate the measures. The outputs from the national consultations and the ensuing debate have generated data and information which fed into the related EU synthesis report and contributed to the EU debate on restructuring.

## 5. TRADE

*The EU is the world's largest importer of goods and services and a key player in both international trade and development cooperation. Both the EU and the ILO wish to ensure that trade is coherent with development*



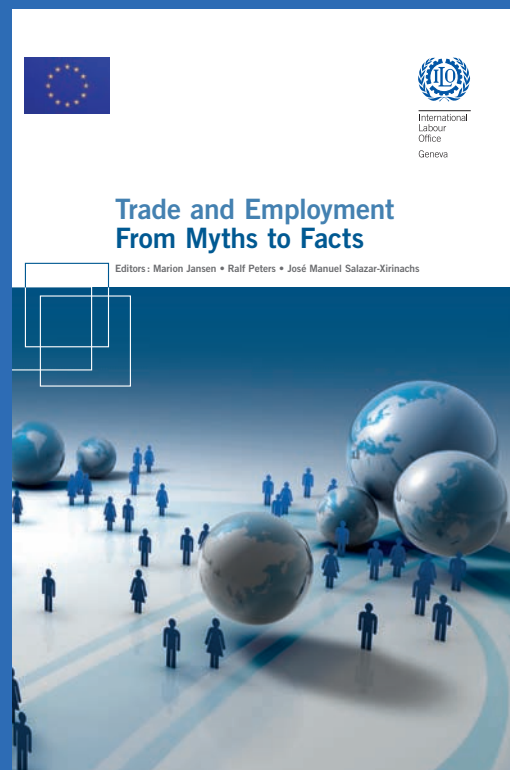
*and other policies at national, regional and international level. To monitor the application of its international labour conventions and recommendations, the ILO has a supervisory system in place and it provides technical assistance to remedy application problems in law and in practice.*

*Containers in port of Genoa. The EU is the world's largest importer of goods and services. Both the EU and the ILO wish to ensure that trade is coherent with development and other policies.*

To facilitate export from developing countries, EU rules permit lower duties to enter the EU market. This scheme is called the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP and GSP+). In these unilateral trade instruments the EU refers to the ILO's core labour standards, the findings of the ILO supervisory system and other relevant UN conventions. The EU had for instance suspended the GSP trade scheme benefits for Myanmar based on the serious and systematic violation of the ILO forced labour convention. The ILO dropped in June 2012 its restrictions on Myanmar because of the ongoing reform process including the government agreement to end forced labour. The EU is now working on the reinstatement of GSP benefits.

The new generation of EU free trade agreements (FTA) with third countries also includes the core labour standards as well as other conventions and the Decent Work Agenda. At the request of both contracting parties to the FTA, the ILO can provide technical advice.

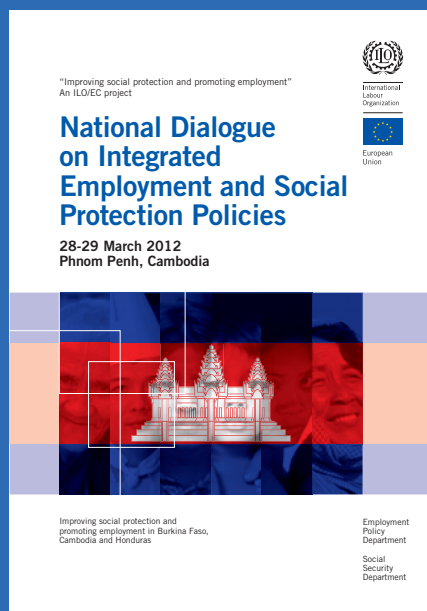
Recently, in the context of finding a way out of the economic, financial and social crisis, ILO-EU research has investigated the link between trade and labour in the edited volume "Trade and employment. From myths to facts" analyzing the impact of trade liberalization on both the quantity and quality of employment. Trade has an impact on different aspects of the labour market, such as job security, the informal economy, the gender gap, child labour, youth employment, social protection and worker-employer relations. An increasing number of governments are considering adopting compensatory policies to accompany trade liberalization and to improve the employment and work conditions of those left out from the benefits of trade liberalization, in order to spread the benefits of trade amongst a wider population and to gain wider public acceptance for their policies.



*The edited volume "Trade and Employment: From Myths to Facts" is the outcome of joint research by the European Commission and the ILO*



*The EU and the ILO cooperate in different countries to improve social protection. The main challenges of these countries are lack of a sound labour market, of social security institutions and of effective social dialogue*



*The government of Cambodia, in cooperation with the ILO and the EU, organized a National Policy Dialogue to discuss a national action plan to extend social protection coverage and promote employment*

The ILO-EU research proposes a widening of the number of indicators based on the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. On the basis of two pilot studies in Uganda and Ukraine, it was possible to develop a more sophisticated quantitative and qualitative analysis of the effects of trade on decent work. The pilot projects highlighted the importance of having a labour force survey. Such surveys provide essential information on the informal economy, which is key to analyzing the impact of trade liberalization and trade agreements.

The ILO and the EC have also jointly analyzed the interplay between trade and employment in Benin, Guatemala, Bangladesh and Indonesia. Both organizations were able to better understand how trade and Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) policies affect decent work opportunities. Country-specific tools have been developed in the four pilot countries and assessments of the employment effects of trade have been conducted, concentrating on strategic sectors such as agriculture and services.

## 6. SOCIAL PROTECTION

*As one of the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda, extending social protection is crucial to the work of the ILO. Sharing this view, the EC issued a Communication on social protection in EU development cooperation in August 2012 which refers to the ILO's Social Protection Floors (SPF) Recommendation (No. 202). Although the Communication has just been issued, technical cooperation between the EU and the ILO in the field of social protection began in 2008 and has yielded notable positive outcomes.*

Under its Investing in People program, the EU cooperates with the ILO in Burkina Faso, Cambodia and Honduras improving social protection and employment. The challenges these countries face are very similar. They embrace poverty, income inequality, lack of a sound labour market, of social security institutions and of effective social dialogue, gender inequality and the absence of integrated employment and social protection policies.

By fostering dialogue through tripartite workshops and capacity-building seminars, this project facilitates the elaboration of national action plans which extend social protection coverage and promote employment. It thus contributes to the development of coherent and integrated social protection and employment policy frameworks. Further to the work



accomplished by the ILO-EU project, the government of Honduras introduced a national tripartite agreement on economic growth with social inclusion. It has also begun procedures to ratify the ILO convention on social security minimum standards, No. 102. The lessons learned from such projects will feed into future projects as well as research on the topic.

Indeed, social protection research is another important pillar of ILO-EU cooperation. An ILO-EC project on decent work and promoting employment in the informal economy focused on how social protection coverage can be strengthened. Based on individual country assessment reports of six countries - India, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Thailand and Vietnam, combined with a summary of the main findings, a social protection roadmap to decent work in the informal economy was produced. This contributed to national reforms.

## 7. EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

*One consequence of the Arab Spring has been the highlighting to the international community of the need for decent jobs, in particular for youth. Many developing countries have registered high growth figures but low job creation and increasing inequality. The impact of the global financial, economic and social crisis, exacerbated by the emergence of the sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone, has resulted in a dramatic increase in youth unemployment, in particular in the Eurozone periphery. The ILO and EU have recently expanded their cooperation on job creation and youth employment in North Africa and in some other developing countries.*

### **Infrastructure development and employment generation in East Timor**

With 75% of the population of East Timor living in rural areas where subsistence farming is the main source of income, infrastructure development and employment generation are of major importance. Through rural infrastructure and employment generation works, almost 2,000 km of roads have been maintained and some 300 km rehabilitated.

Training sessions enabled maintenance supervisors to work independently and local companies were also trained. Employment opportunities for the vulnerable rural population were generated through the road works. For 83% of the workers it was the first time they earned cash for their labour. In numerous cases, this income was reinvested, as business owners were confident of being successful thanks to increased public transport and increased economic activity resulting from the works.



*Employment-Intensive infrastructure Works in East Timor, an EU-ILO project*



*The EU and the ILO support employment creation and the economic re-integration of young people in Tunisia*

## Youth employment

With young people being three times more likely than adults to be unemployed worldwide, ILO-EU efforts seek to address this pressing issue. The ILO and the EU cooperate in Tunisia, where 69% of the unemployed are below the age of 30, and the 2011 revolution aggravated this situation even further.

This cooperation aims at creating jobs in order to facilitate the reintegration of jobless youth and to boost local economic development in disadvantaged regions and urban areas. The programme includes the strengthening of the capacities of the Ministry of Regional Development as well as the implementation of employment-intensive infrastructure programmes.

## 8. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

*The ILO and the EU are striving to promote better quality of skills, broader access to training and education and better school-to-work transitions. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is of particular relevance in this context.*

The G20 training strategy and the position of skills in development cooperation also illustrate the renewed interest in this issue. In order to anticipate the skill needed for a transition to a low-carbon economy the ILO-EU cooperation undertook research and evidence-based policy development within the EU (see chapter 13 on Green Jobs).

An ILO-EU 'better information' project in Vietnam strengthened labour market intelligence and thus improved institutional capacity for human resource development planning at central and provincial levels. The data collected was used for research, employment trend reporting and formed the basis of a draft Vietnamese employment strategy. The project provided training for vocational teachers, increasing the overall quality of skills training. For the welding occupation in particular, strong progress has been made in improving skills standards nationally. Through the

context of rural economic empowerment, training was provided to 374 participants, 75% of which are women.

In Bangladesh, the EC funded a large scale ILO project to reform TVET institutions. The aim is to reduce poverty by enabling more people to obtain employable skills. Research was also undertaken to prepare a national skills development policy that was submitted to the relevant ministries. The project included trainings for practitioners, industry stakeholders and representatives of the public and private sector. Several priority sectors were identified. For each sector, industry skills councils were set up to bring stakeholders together to input to the TVET reform. Paying particular attention to the inclusion of disadvantaged persons, a first pilot program in cooperation with a company, Interfab Shirt Manufacturing Ltd and the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), trained disabled and underprivileged women in industrial sewing.



*European Commission staff unveiling the EU shield at the opening of a new training centre*



*The EU-ILO TVET project in Bangladesh focused on the inclusion of disadvantaged persons. This picture shows proud graduates at the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed*



### ***Developing skills of local authorities in Somalia***



Skills and employment can be a valuable tool for peace. Droughts are a major challenge for the population of Beeyo Dhadheer in Somalia. With the support of the EU, several UN agencies implemented a project to strengthen community-based water systems, providing more than 17,000 people with access to water. Some 3,000 representatives from local authorities were trained in delivering local basic services.

***Beeyo Dhadheer in Somalia: construction of a pumping station and water distribution kiosk, whose operation and maintenance costs will from now be covered by the District budget***

## **9. LABOUR MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING**

*There are millions of international labour migrants in the world today. Labour migrants in search of decent work face numerous challenges which render them particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Their work is frequently low-paid and their working conditions often hazardous. Some migrants are lured abroad with false promises and find themselves indebted and trapped in an employment relationship which they entered involuntarily and are unable to leave.*

The EC-ILO partnership to address such challenges and to ensure better protection for migrants has been extensive, covering numerous countries in many regions of the world. It includes the EU legislation and strategy on migration and trafficking and the 2006 ILO framework for a rights-based approach to labour migration.

Joint projects, often in collaboration with other stakeholders, have been carried out in Eastern Europe, Central and South Asia, Africa, Central America, the Middle East and within the EU. These projects have contributed to the promotion of a rights-based approach to migration and to better protection of migrant workers' rights in many instances.

An important part of the ILO-EU collaboration has been the provision of technical expertise to improve national legal frameworks on migration and to combat human trafficking. For instance, a project in Europe involved national legislative reform processes regarding anti-trafficking legislation as well as on the regulations of private employment agencies. These activities contributed to laws being revised or newly enacted in Germany, Moldova and the United Kingdom.

In Thailand, the partnership supported the provision of legal assistance for migrant workers who had been exploited in host countries and thereby helped them to successfully claim compensation. The result has been a breakthrough in the way the Thai courts view the rights of workers who go abroad and some modifications in the obligations of the Thai recruitment companies that send them there.

In Uganda, project activities contributed to statutory measures within the country's employment policy regarding the recruitment of Ugandan migrant workers abroad. The Ugandan model was seen as being a good practice and recommended for replication in partner states in East Africa.

In Moldova, workshops and consultations contributed to the drafting of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. Moldovan trade unions developed an action plan to combat trafficking, which was thereafter endorsed by the national confederation. Moreover, an expert group on labour migration comprising of key government actors drafted an action plan for the better implementation of the ILO Migration for Employment Convention, No. 97.

Through joint EC-ILO projects, substantive input was provided to the national action plans to prevent and tackle trafficking in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In Armenia and Azerbaijan, trade unions signed bilateral agreements with trade union federations to better protect migrant workers. The EC and the ILO are currently providing advice in India, Vietnam and the Philippines on policies to better manage migration schemes for health professionals.



*A young boy cleaning cars. ILO-EU collaboration focuses on combating human trafficking*



*Auto mechanic Pirom Boonyorat was sent to Spain by a recruitment agency in Thailand, but had to return after just one year because there was no more work. With the help of the EU-ILO project, supported by a Thai NGO specializing in legal assistance, his case was brought before the Thai Labour Court*



*A migrant worker in the construction sector. EC-ILO partnership to ensure better protection for migrants has been extensive*

Facilitating collaboration and capacity-building among stakeholders are key components of ILO-EU projects. Technical training workshops, consultations and high level dialogue at national and regional levels are also key to ILO action. For instance, in Asia the ASEAN forum on labour migration was co-organized as part of a project, as was a regional symposium on managing labour migration in East Asia. Within the same project, technical advisory missions to improve migration policy in Indonesia, South Korea, Vietnam, Nepal, the Philippines, Malaysia, Bangladesh, China and Japan were also carried out. In many projects, the ITC-ILO provides quality capacity-building activities for stakeholders.

By facilitating exchange, notable results have been achieved. In Ukraine, trade unions and employers' organizations were included in the composition of the inter-agency council on countering human trafficking. In Romania, labour inspectors are now involved in the monitoring of private employment agencies and in the dissemination of information to migrant workers.

Besides, in Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, labour migration information centers were established which provide information on work permits, legal rights and working conditions. Within the framework of the Russian project, a public commission to settle labour disputes between migrant workers and employers was established.

EC-ILO research is bridging knowledge gaps with regard to migration and human trafficking in many countries. More than 24 research papers analyzing key issues in migration in Asian countries were published and a regional database on labour migration was established covering 13 countries in Asia and the Pacific. In Nigeria, data on the dimensions of human trafficking from Nigeria to Italy has been collected. Indicators to help identify victims of trafficking were developed through a joint research project and successfully piloted in statistical labour force surveys in Moldova and Georgia. In Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, a survey on the living and working condition of temporary migrant workers has been created and implemented.

Research is currently underway in Moldavia and Ukraine to support the analytical capacity regarding skill shortages and oversupplies that occur

as a result of migration. In Spain, Belgium, France and Italy, joint research is being conducted to explore how the integration of migrant domestic workers can be improved.

## 10. CHILD LABOUR

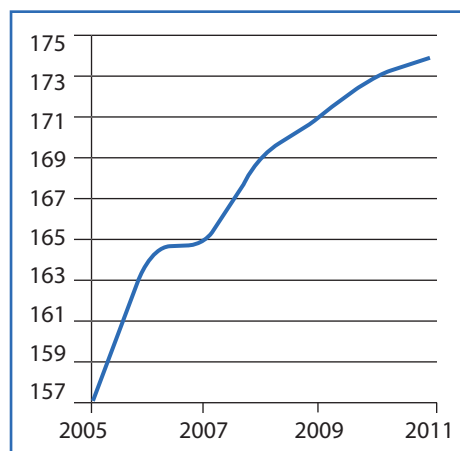
*The EU and the ILO share a joint commitment to the protection of children. The abolition of child labour is essential to ensuring that children can acquire the education and the skills they need for a better future.*

### EU and ILO frameworks on child labour

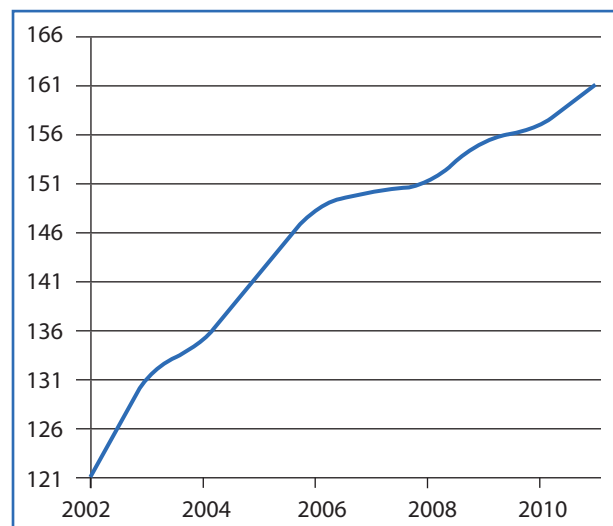
The EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy adopted in 2012 highlights the need to address child labour.

Guided by the principles enshrined in the Minimum Age Convention, No. 138, and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, No. 182, the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) works to achieve the effective abolition of child labour.

In July 2004, the European Commission and the ILO agreed on a strategic partnership to reinforce joint efforts to reduce poverty and improve labour conditions in developing countries. The first item to be delivered was a strategy for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to promote core labour standards and to link the fight against child labour with education.



*Ratifications of Convention No. 182, since 2005*



*Ratifications of Convention No. 138 over the last decade*





*Young boys working in Mali. The EU-ILO TACKLE project aims to tackle child labour through education*



*Young Zambian girl. TACKLE aims to reduce poverty through the provision of access to basic education for disadvantaged children*

## ***TACKLE: Tackling Child Labour through Education***

The TACKLE project was launched in 2008. The Committee of Ambassadors of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) identified 11 participating countries: Angola, Fiji, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sudan<sup>3</sup> and Zambia.

The key objective of TACKLE is to reduce poverty through the provision of access to basic education and training for disadvantaged youth. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities to implement policies to tackle child labour in coordination with social partners and civil society. The project supports the millennium development goal of universal primary education.

One of the achievements is the strengthening of the capacity of schools to keep children in education and to prevent child labour and the augmentation of the prevention capacity of teachers, social workers, community leaders and labour inspectors, through training and the development of training resources. The project also strengthened the national legal frameworks to promote children's right to education and to protect them from labour exploitation. Furthermore, the project promoted the economic re-integration of children associated with armed forces and groups and increased the awareness of possible solutions based on research reports in the participating countries.

The ILO-EU projects on child labour have focused on Pakistan and Turkey, as well as on ACP-countries (Angola, Fiji, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, North Sudan and Zambia). Almost all of these countries have now ratified Convention No. 138 and Convention No. 182. The cooperative work has had an important impact on child labour policy in all participating countries.

In **Sierra Leone**, the project led to the ratification of both ILO Conventions No. 138 and No. 182. In **Papua New Guinea**, TACKLE supported the national child labour forum held in July 2011 which resulted in the development of a national action plan to address child labour gaps in the Employment Act and in the creation of a hazardous child labour list and the development of national child labour policy.

In 2008, **Pakistan** renewed its effort to put an end to child labour. With the financial assistance of the EU, the government of Pakistan

<sup>3</sup> In July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan gained independence from Sudan, creating a 12th participating country for TACKLE. Out of these 12 countries, 8 are in sub-Saharan Africa.

and the ILO engaged in the 'Combating Abusive Child Labour II' project, which aims at the elimination of child labour in Pakistan's very decentralized administrative environment. In addition to prevention and withdrawal of children from the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL), the programme strengthened institutional capacity by establishing child labour units in four provinces. The ILO supports these units in conducting studies to identify the WFCL, to draft relevant provincial laws and to provide training and tools to the district authorities and local NGOs to mainstream child labour policy in district education plans. Accordingly, grassroots initiatives, including non-formal education centers and mobile vocational training units, address child labour at local levels.

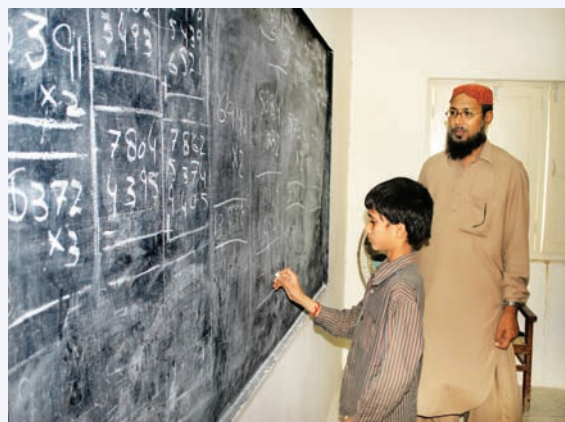


*A non-formal education centre set up under the ILO-EU 'Combating Abusive Child Labour II' project in Pakistan*

### ***The story of Farhat, a boy withdrawn from child labour***

Farhat lives in Pakistan, and has worked as a motor mechanic since the age of nine. He never went to school as his family struggled to earn enough to feed him and his three sisters. Farhat was identified by a teacher from a nearby non-formal education centre, who informed his parents of the center's free education program. They agreed to let Farhat attend the centre, and he was finally admitted to school. He now would like to become a doctor.

*Farhat attends a lesson in an education centre set up under the ILO-EU's Combating Abusive Child Labour II project in Pakistan*



**In Turkey**, the EU funded a succession of large-scale projects to eliminate child labour. According to the results of three surveys conducted during this period (in 1994, 1999 and 2006), the proportion of children working dropped from 15.2 per cent in 1994 to 5.9 per cent in 2006. As a legacy of these projects, a Child Labour Monitoring System is still operational and functioning well, targeting sectors and regions which record a higher incidence of child labour. Children identified by the system receive education and other rehabilitation services from local authorities and from workers' and employers' organizations.

These EC-funded programmes in Turkey and Pakistan have demonstrated successful and replicable interventions, such as: family economic empowerment through training of mothers' groups; the provision of in business management and livestock management training; the access to micro-finance, to alternative technology to reduce agricultural work hazards; the mobilization of employers of hazardous sectors in combating WFCL; and the engagement with the media about the issue.

### ***Promoting the economic re-integration of children associated with armed forces and groups***

From 2008 till 2010, the EU co-funded a project on child labour in conflict areas in Nepal, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Southern Sudan, Angola, Occupied Palestinian territories, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Implemented in collaboration with the ITC-ILO and ILO-IPEC, the project focused on improving knowledge on how to prevent the recruitment of children, and to support the economic reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups. It resulted in tools, recommendations and awareness-raising and educational materials.



***A child's drawing for the ILO project on child soldiers (a project coordinated by artist Bill Brookman)***

The project had significant influence on the reintegration of children and youth formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups. In Nepal, the government prepared a national action plan to address the reintegration needs of children affected by conflict, including children associated with armed groups and forces.

In Sudan, the national commission for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration shared the project recommendations on economic reintegration with government authorities. As a result, the newly adopted Child Act refers to economic reintegration.



## 11. PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

*There are about 370 million indigenous people living in more than 90 countries. They remain one of the most vulnerable groups in the world. They have their own traditions, languages and cultures. The lack of respect for their cultures and their land rights in many instances has led to social unrest and conflict.*

The only international legal instrument explicitly protecting such people is the ILO Convention No. 169 on tribal and indigenous peoples' rights, which was adopted by ILO in 1989.

During the last decade, the EU and the ILO have worked to protect rights in numerous countries in South Asia, Central Africa and Central and Latin America. The partnership has focused on improving legislation for indigenous people in line with ILO Convention No. 169 and other relevant ILO instruments. It allowed the ILO to respond to an increasing number of requests for input concerning the promotion and implementation of Convention No. 169.

In particular in Peru, the ILO has provided technical advice in the context of the conflict between indigenous peoples and the government. In 2010, a working group was mandated to guide the process leading to the ratification of ILO Convention No. 169. The ILO provided expert input throughout the elaboration of a Peruvian law on consultation with indigenous people, which was enacted in 2011.

An important focus of joint ILO-EU work has been the provision of capacity-building activities and training to indigenous peoples' organizations, key government agencies, women's groups, workers' and employers' organizations and other civil society stakeholders.

In August 2010, Nicaragua and the Central African Republic, as the first African nation, ratified ILO Convention No. 169. In both cases the ratification was the result of ILO-EU cooperation which permitted the delivery of extensive training, capacity-building activities and the provision of legal advice. Similar initiatives contributed to the adoption of a specific law on indigenous peoples in the Republic of Congo and resulted in targeted



*Indigenous people remain one of the most vulnerable groups in the world*



activities in Cameroon with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Nepal, a national dialogue seminar organized in 2008 led to the elaboration of a national strategy and a work plan for the implementation of Convention 169. Parallel to these developments a government task force was set up to coordinate further work.

In many cases capacity-building and training are an essential first step in the process towards ratification and adoption of legal measures to protect indigenous peoples' rights. For instance, multiple seminars, workshops and consultations led by experts were set up in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and other countries.

The ITC-ILO played an important role in developing training modules and workshops to bring stakeholders together. In addition, several training modules were translated in local languages. As a result of a regional seminar in Bolivia, roadmaps for the promotion of indigenous peoples' rights by the ombudspersons of the participating countries were developed.

The creation of national dialogue networks is another field where ILO-EU cooperation is leveraged. In Nepal, Bangladesh and India governments, civil society, workers and employers were brought together for exchanges on indigenous and tribal issues in their countries. In Bangladesh and India, increased awareness of relevant ILO conventions provided a point of reference to lobby the governments to respect international standards with regard to indigenous and tribal peoples' rights.

Research studies in more than 16 countries were initiated. Joint national and regional consultations were held, desk reviews carried out and country visits undertaken. Regional seminars in Africa and Asia on indigenous peoples' rights generated interest within a wider audience such as members of the parliament and the media. In Bangladesh, indigenous peoples' issues are now part of the official public discourse and a parliamentary caucus on indigenous people has taken the responsibility to advocate for the ratification of ILO Convention No. 169.

## 12. PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

*Gender equality is part of the EU Treaties and of EU internal and external policies and actions. The ILO has included non-discrimination and gender equality firmly into its Decent Work Agenda and promotes and implements a continuous gender review of its own structures and activities.*

The ITC-ILO, through continued collaboration with the EU and UN Women, is strengthening its methodological expertise on gender in development cooperation in general, and more specifically in the aid effectiveness agenda.

Between 2004-2006, the ITC-ILO collaborated with the EU to establish the EC Gender Help Desk which is still functional. The collaboration continued during the 2007-2010 period, along with UNIFEM (now UN Women), via the Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace project. The project targeted 12 countries (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Suriname and Ukraine) to provide examples of the value added of gender equality for sustainable development. The cooperation continued through preparatory work for the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Accra in 2008 and for the High Level Forum held in Busan in 2011. Mapping studies including stakeholder consultations were conducted for each country and served as basis for subsequent activities.

This collaboration has been extended until 2015 with the joint Increasing Accountability in Financing for Gender Equality project aimed at strengthening the knowledge base, at documenting methodological and example references regarding gender mainstreaming in the aid effectiveness agenda. It involves 16 countries (Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Senegal, Ukraine, Cameroon, Tanzania, Nepal, Peru, Bolivia and Rwanda and Zambia) and provides policy action, technical assistance on gender mainstreaming and training. An EU knowledge-sharing platform was also created to disseminate the findings of this project.



*Both the EU and the ILO have solid expertise in promoting gender equality worldwide*

### ***Women entrepreneurship in Ukraine***



Larysa Sereduk was one of the beneficiaries of the ILO-EU's women entrepreneurship programme in Ukraine. This project gave her the capacity and skills to develop a successful business. Besides, in 2011, she initiated regional conferences for businesses ('BizCamp') and an investors' club. She also co-funded a training centre. "When I signed up for the Start and Improve Your Business course I could not believe my success would become a source of inspiration for others, leading to new business opportunities for my community!"

***Larysa Sereduk (centre) celebrates with students during the BizCamp graduation ceremony. After participating in the 'Start and Improve your Own Business' program, Larysa set up the initiative to support entrepreneurship in her home community***

In Ukraine, the Gender Equality in the World of Work project supported gender mainstreaming and empowering activities for women. Twenty-four gender audit facilitators were trained to conduct audits in organizations. Their findings provided the basis for action plans on gender mainstreaming in the daily life of the organizations. The project produced concrete results, such as the preparation of the new national program for gender equality for 2011-16 and the preparation of amendments to the provisions on equal rights for women and men.

In addition to awareness-raising activities and trainings, the project launched the Start and Improve Your Business program. Through this program more than 500 women were trained on how to start a business and make it sustainable. Every fifth trainee started up their own business and every tenth has found new employment. A platform encouraging information exchange between the trainers and the former trainees was created. The experience was repeated with a second training on 'Improving Your Business' which supported 272 additional women.

In 2011, the ILO-EU project 'Promoting Gender-sensitive Labour Migration Policies in Costa Rica, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic' strengthened the capacity of policymakers and social partners to develop gender-sensitive labour migration policies as well as legislation and administration. Up to now, various tripartite meetings have taken place, publications to increase knowledge have been developed and capacity-building workshops have been held.

### 13. GREEN JOBS

*The excessive use of scarce resources and the adverse impacts of climate change make the transition towards sustainable economies an urgent priority. The promotion of green jobs is central to this transition. For the ILO, the green jobs concept summarizes the transformation of enterprises, workplaces and labour markets into sustainable, low-carbon economy providing decent work. The full involvement and participation of workers and enterprises is a prerequisite for innovative strategies that promote green jobs to be successful.*

In order to help address the transition challenges, the EU and the ILO expanded their cooperation in this area. In collaboration with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, a research project on skills for green jobs was carried out. Within the framework of the project the experiences of 21 countries that have started adjusting their training provisions to the demands of a green economy were documented.

Building on the results, an innovative EC-ILO research project was developed to gather knowledge on how skill shortages in key sectors for the transition to a low-carbon economy can be anticipated and identified. The two sectors selected were green construction and renewable energy. In addition, a comparative analysis of methods to identify labour market skills needs for a low-carbon economy was undertaken.

The research findings were validated in several technical workshops, and published. It was widely acknowledged that the research findings of the joint EC-ILO project significantly advanced the knowledge base in this field and that they had a beneficial impact on recent policy developments.



*ILO-EU cooperation led to the publication "Comparative Analysis of Methods of Identification of Skill Needs on the Labour Market in Transition to the Low Carbon Economy"*

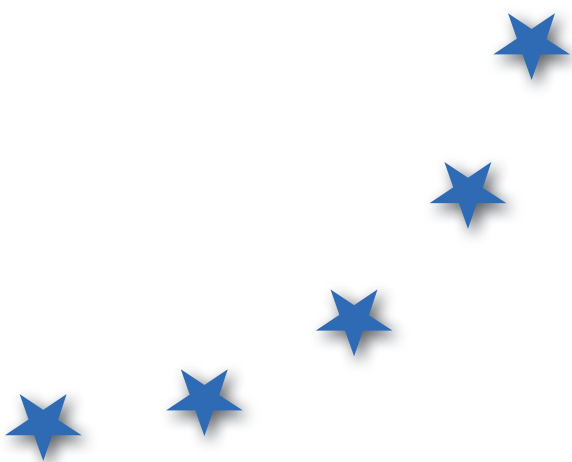
The employment potential of green jobs is part of the EC's April 2012 employment package and it is also recognized in the EU Agenda for Change and the RIO +20 outcome document.

## **THE WAY FORWARD**

There is a clear need for evidence-based policymaking and for greater capacity of labour market and social protection actors. Today, more than half of the world's population has no social protection; many young people are either unemployed or underemployed in the informal economy. The ILO's tripartite constituency, its presence on the ground, its 185 member states and its involvement with the G20 and in wider multilateral governance systems, present significant added value for EU policies and actions.

The impact of the global financial, economic and social crisis, both within the EU and elsewhere, alongside the orientation of the future EU and global development agenda will provide the framework for future cooperation.





[www.ilo.org/brussels](http://www.ilo.org/brussels)