

## Overview of ILO Programmes

The primary goal of the ILO is to contribute to the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people, a goal embedded in the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.

In order to support its member States and the social partners to reach their goals the ILO pursues a Decent Work Agenda which comprises four interrelated areas: respect for fundamental workers' rights and international labour standards, employment promotion, social protection and social dialogue.

Major ILO global policy frameworks such as the Global Employment Agenda (2003), the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008), and the Global Jobs Pact (2009), articulate the centrality of employment and the interrelated nature of the four strategic objectives. The resolution and conclusions of the International Labour Conference's general discussion on the strategic objective of employment (June, 2010) underscored that the inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive nature of the four strategic objectives is increasingly looked upon *"as the framework of a new social and economic development paradigm, characterized by employment-centred and income-led growth with equity"*. The Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122) provides the main normative framework for employment policy and also reiterates the "mutual relationships between employment objectives and other economic and social objectives".

Employment is also having a prominent role in the international policy agenda. The G20 leaders have recognized the role of employment policies in addressing both the economic and the human dimension of the financial and economic crisis. The Seoul development consensus on shared growth unveiled during the November 2010 G20 represents an important step forward towards proemployment macroeconomic frameworks.

The work of the ILO on employment is broad and encompasses a vast range of topics and at least six means of action (policy advice, policy research, development of tools, manuals and policy guidelines, technical cooperation, capacity building of ILO constituents, and expanded and strengthened partnerships). In order to better communicate to ILO constituents and to the general public the specificity of technical programmes, yet providing an overall vision, this folder contains a brief profile of each one of the main employment programmes of the ILO. These are the following:

1. Employment policies
2. Sustainable enterprises
3. Skills and employability
4. Labour market policies and institutions
5. Employment services
6. Economic and labour market analysis
7. Labour market information and trends
8. Employment-intensive investments
9. Social finance
10. Informal economy
11. Trade and employment
12. Industrial policy for productive transformation
13. Green jobs
14. Rural employment and decent work
15. Youth employment
16. Gender and employment
17. People with disabilities
18. Response to conflicts and disasters

These programmatic areas interact with each other and at the operational level they are combined under integrated approaches according to country circumstances and priorities in their National Employment Policies and Decent Work Country Programmes.

The description of each programme is short; it contains a synopsis of the main challenges, the nature and source of the ILO's mandate on the subject; the main programme components and a list of key tools and resources.

Electronic versions of these programmes' publications are available at <http://www.ilo.org/employment/Whatwedo/Publications>. More information on each programme can be found in the Employment Sector's website ([www.ilo.org/employment](http://www.ilo.org/employment)) or by following the specific links referred to in each profile.



José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs  
Executive Director, Employment Sector

Contact us:  
Employment Sector  
International Labour Office  
Route des Morillons 4  
CH-1211 Geneva 22  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 799 6111  
Email: [edempmsu@ilo.org](mailto:edempmsu@ilo.org)  
[www.ilo.org/employment](http://www.ilo.org/employment)