



The European Union ILO Cooperation

As a long-standing priority, with roots in European integration efforts, development cooperation occupies an important place in the European Union's (EU) agenda. The European Economic Community (the predecessor of the EU) signed its first cooperation agreement with the ILO in 1958, reflecting common values, principles and strategic objectives. Since then, the EU has had a significant impact on employment and social affairs related issues through its development work carried out jointly with the ILO. With activities in more than 150 countries, the EU through its partnership with the ILO benefits from a large geographical scope, experience and credibility established over time.

EU-ILO strategic partnership

The shared vision premised on a belief that economic and social progress should go hand in hand and the common support for 'Decent Work' foster many fruitful joint initiatives. Key areas include the promotion of Rights at Work, Employment, Social Dialogue and Migration. This close relationship also involves different modes of cooperation from knowledge-sharing and policy dialogue to development cooperation projects and programmes.



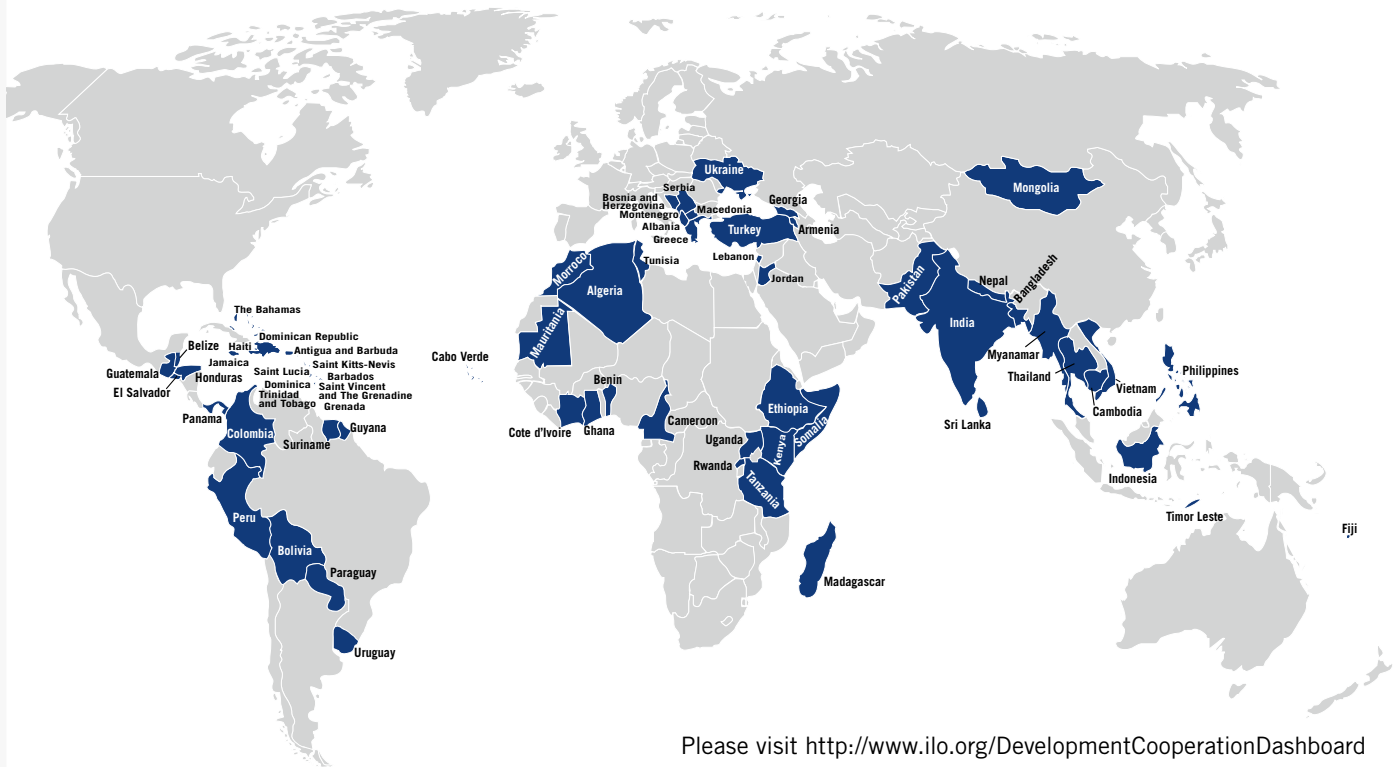
EU DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The New European Consensus on Development (adopted June 2017) is the cornerstone of the EU's revamped development policy addressing in an integrated manner the 2030 Agenda. It outlines commitments to working closer together including through greater coherence between the EU and its Member States' activities and through strengthened partnerships with multilateral organizations. Moreover the new EU Global Strategy underlines EU support to multilateralism on issues such as climate change, sustainable development, security, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and global governance. In relation to this the EU has launched an ambitious European Fund for Sustainable Development which will be the main instrument for the implementation of the EU External Investment Plan. This aims to support job creation in Africa through cooperation between the EU, IFI's, donors, civil society organisations, public authorities and the private sector.

The EU's financial contributions: facts and figures

In addition to individual Member State contributions, the EU finances the ILO through extra-budgetary technical cooperation (XBTC): The XBTC contribution is crucial in supporting the development priorities of the EU while helping the ILO to advance the Decent Work Agenda throughout the world. Such funding supports specific global and national projects and programmes. With funding to the ILO amounting to USD 193.8 million between 2012 and 2017 (as of October) the EC was the largest donor to ILO's development cooperation programme covering over 60 countries.

EU and ILO Collaboration: Countries covered, 2012-2017



Improving Social Dialogue

Social dialogue is a shared value of both the ILO and the EU and an essential tool in the achievement of inclusive growth. Collaboration in Turkey aims to improve social dialogue at all levels by enhancing the capacity of social partners and public institutions including the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS). Trainings and research addressing international labour standards, social dialogue tripartite and bipartite mechanisms and

best practices have improved institutional capacities of social partners and MoLSS. EU-ILO collaboration in Georgia significantly contributed to promotion of labour relations and social dialogue, especially by re-activating tripartite dialogue.

A regional initiative focusing on the enhancement of the technical and organizational capacity of employers and workers in the 15 CARIFORUM countries represents a direct contribution to the

region's socio-economic development and its integration process. It also supports the monitoring foreseen in the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). Likewise in Eastern Europe, the collaboration focuses on strengthening institutional capacities and regional cooperation, thereby enabling the partners to implement labour market and social policy reforms as part of the EU neighbourhood policy.

POLICY DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE

The EC and the ILO engage in knowledge sharing and advance policy dialogue on development priorities during their annual High-Level Meetings (HLM). As a result of the 2017 edition, both institutions agreed to reinforce contributions to each other's work and intensify exchanges on jobs, growth & investment, youth employment, gender equality, social protection, working conditions in global supply chains, including Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), migration, social dialogue, and in setting international labour standards in the maritime and fishing sectors. .

Exchange on research activities is another component of the ILO-EU cooperation. Areas of common interest include the changing nature of jobs, non-standard forms of employment and the sharing and digital economy. Analytical work on long-term changes in the world of work is being carried out with the goal of supporting job-rich and sustainable growth as well as upward social convergence among the EU member states. This cooperation informs the EU initiative for a European Pillar of Social Rights as well as the ILO Future of Work Centenary Initiative.

Labour Migration and Fair Recruitment

Recognizing that fair recruitment is critical to prevent forced labour, reduce labour migration costs and thus improve development outcomes for migrant



workers and their families, the ILO and the EU have joined forces to implement the ILO Fair Recruitment Initiative. The initiative focuses on enhancing knowledge on recruitment practices, promoting fair business practices and improving the laws and policies governing recruitment agencies at origin and destination countries along major migration corridors. Programmes are also being implemented to enhance the capacities of employers, trade unions, civil society organisations and the media to provide more reliable information and services to migrant workers with regards to the recruitment process thus improving their access to justice with a view to better protect, reduce potential vulnerability to abuses, labour exploitation and human trafficking.

Additionally, with the support of the EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), the ILO is implementing a number of initiatives in the field of labour migration and vocational training. In Ethiopia, the focus is on improving labour migration governance and addressing the root causes of migration, by providing reintegration

assistance, smoothening the school to work transition and increasing evidence on migration, employment and decent livelihood.

In view of the importance of the fisheries sector to Mauritania's economy and its development, the EU and the ILO cooperate with the government to strengthen social dialogue, provide in-service training and improve working and safety conditions in the sector. By making the sector attractive for young workers, the aim is to generate economic opportunities and regional stability, thereby addressing the root causes of migration. Other initiatives in Mauritania focus on fostering youth employment opportunities through the promotion of strong Small and Medium Enterprises in the construction sector, and through vocational training courses in road maintenance.

In the IGAD region (an eight country trade bloc in Africa) the ILO is creating opportunities for regulated labour mobility and decent work within the member countries, hence contributing to regional integration and development.

Combatting unacceptable forms of work in the Thai fishing and seafood industry

Numerous reports of serious human and labour rights abuses committed in the Thai commercial fishing and seafood industry (a U.S. Dollar seven billion industry) have led to recurrent warnings of international trade sanctions towards Thailand in recent years. Reports indicate a number of workers with irregular status, trapped in forced labour or facing exploitation.

In that context, the ILO and the EU are working together to strengthen legal, policy and regulatory frameworks, to enhance the capacity of Thailand's labour inspectorate, to improve compliance with ILO's core labour standards and to empower workers with training and legal assistance. The project is gathering important results in revising key labour law and policies related to the fishing and seafood industry, improving availability of data on working conditions, and increasing the number of migrant workers with regular statuses.



Implementation of Fundamental Conventions

The EU contributes to the work of the ILO regarding the application of the fundamental ILO Conventions in a number of partner countries, including those that are beneficiaries of the EU preferential Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+). These countries include Armenia, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines and Vietnam. Interventions include awareness-raising and capacity building of the national administration, representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, judges and par-

liamentarians as a mean to improve the implementation of International Labour Standards (ILS) and compliance with reporting obligations. The ILO also conducts research to generate information on the status of implementation of ILS and provides legal advice on the revision of national legislation.

Moreover since 2015 the EU joined the *Labour Rights Initiative* in Myanmar which aims to promote fundamental labour rights and responsible business practices. The EU is supporting the country's labour law reform by strength-

ening the capacity of the government, employers and workers organizations. Specific actions are also underway in Vietnam to enhance the existing legislative framework with a view to improve the application and implementation of International Labour Standards by raising awareness of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, identifying legislation gaps, and strengthening capacities of policy makers to better understand the ILO's supervisory mechanisms and in particular within the frame of Free Trade Agreements.

Skills Development, Employability and Youth Employment

The ILO and the EU in partnership with the Governments of Bangladesh, Algeria, Sri Lanka and Tunisia have initiated skills development programmes and decent employment initiatives, thereby contributing to the vocational integration of women and men in the most disadvantaged regions.

In Bangladesh the collaboration aims to strengthen the National Skills Development System (NSDS) working with TVET institutions to introduce the reform of quality assured programmes, newly trained instructors and management as well as services for career guidance and job placement. The project will further

support alliances between companies and relevant training providers to implement demand-driven education and training programmes. Similarly, programmes in Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Algeria are improving access to quality vocational training for women and men with fewer opportunities. This is contributing to poverty reduction and bridging socio-economic gaps within the countries, while helping these regions to transition from relief to reconstruction and economic recovery.

In 2016, Jordan and the EU signed a trade agreement which relaxed the EU Rules of Origin, hence facilitating Jordanian companies' access to the EU market, allowing Jordan to diversify exports, boost investment and balance trade deficits. The agreement also includes the access of 200,000 Syrian refugees to the Jordanian labour market. The Jordan's Ministry of Labour is collaborating with the ILO and the private sector to support decent job creation in exporting sectors and achieve its target for Syrians to comprise 15% of the workforce in exporting companies. The ILO is supporting the private sector with Employment Service Centres, and is also expanding its compliance programme "Better Work Jordan" to non-garment sectors to ascertain that jobs created through this trade agreement are decent jobs.



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