



The ILO Turin Centre's facilities

Located in an attractive park on the banks of the River Po, the Centre's campus provides a congenial environment in which to live and study.

- It contains 21 pavilions with fully equipped modern classrooms, conference halls and meeting rooms fitted out for multilingual simultaneous interpretation, a computer laboratory, and a computerized documentation centre linked to various data banks.

The campus has 287 study/bedrooms, all with private bathrooms, telephones and cable television. It also has:

- a reception desk open 24 hours a day;

- a restaurant, a self-service canteen and a coffee lounge, all catering for international dietary needs;
- a bank;
- a travel agency;
- a laundry service;
- a post office;
- an internet point;
- a recreation room;
- facilities for outdoor and indoor sports;
- an infirmary.

Social events are regularly held both on and off campus, so that participants from different cultural backgrounds can make the most of the stimulating international climate.

For further information, please contact

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Social Health Protection: addressing inequities in access to health care

Pre-course e-learning: 20 February - 11 March 2012

Residential phase: 12 - 23 March 2012

Turin, Italy with a study visit to Chambéry, France

English & French



International Labour Organization



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ITC

International Training Centre

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Social Health Protection: addressing inequities in access to health care



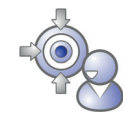
Background

As early as 1944 the International Labour Conference defined adequate medical care as essential element in social security and adopted the Medical Care Recommendation calling for a medical care service covering all members of the community, whether or not gainfully occupied. Still, nearly 90 per cent of people living in countries with very high vulnerability levels are not covered formally by any scheme or system. This has a tremendous impact on life expectancy, child mortality, maternal health and the spread of major diseases including HIV/AIDS. In low income countries out-of-pocket payments account for 45% of the total health expenditure implying that millions of people face catastrophic healthcare costs because of direct payments such as user fees, while 100 million are driven below the poverty line each year.

At national level, access to health care contributes to the improvement of the national health status overall, and to building human capital that yields economic profits through gains in productivity and higher macroeconomic growth. Though included in most national constitutions as essential service to their citizens, many countries struggle to make available healthcare services and ensure affordability for households. Universal access to health care can be provided through a variety of models though every system needs to master specific challenges (under-funding, raising costs, inefficiency, quality of services, accessibility, etc.).

Recognizing the importance and necessity of adequate social protection systems, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board adopted in April 2009 the Social Protection Floor Initiative aiming at providing minimum access to essential services and transfers to the population in need of such protection. Reaffirming the central role health-care services play for sustainable development, universal access to it constitutes a key component of the Social Protection Floor.

The course will identify inequities in effective access and main causes, review the importance of universal access to health care in crisis and post crisis situations, issues related to the feasibility of introducing a scheme and planning for implementation; designing the appropriate contribution levels and benefits, monitoring the provision of services and ensuring the sound governance and financing of the scheme.



Objectives

This course enables participants to

- know about main determinants of inequities of social health protection systems

- identify and analyse root causes of those
- assess (dis-)advantages of various financing mechanisms for social health protection through comparative analysis
- evaluate impact and costs of social health insurance and government tax-funded systems
- design and implement policy interventions to reform current schemes
- respond to the specific needs of vulnerable groups to progress towards equity in access to health care
- develop an international perspective on global initiatives on access to health care



Participants

The course is designed for executives, managers, planners, financial officers and other responsible professionals of health care and health insurance schemes, both in government and non-governmental sectors. Representatives of employers' and workers' organizations are particularly welcome. The course primarily addresses the needs of practitioners and policy-makers; however, persons in research functions within health systems also benefit from participation in this training activity.

As an organization dedicated to fundamental human rights and social justice, the ILO is taking a leading role in international efforts to promote and realize gender equality. In line with this ILO focus, women candidates are especially welcome.



Contents

Analysis of issues related to gaps in access to health care

- Dimensions of effective access
- Gaps in statutory coverage
- Limitations in the scope of benefits
- Gaps in financial protection

Root causes for inequities in access to health care

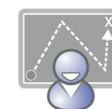
- Fragmentation of social protection systems, multiplicity of actors
- Incoherence of policies and strategies
- Links to the socio-economic context
- Impacts of global crises on national policy-making

Developing and implementing responses to achieve universal access to health care

- Extension of social health protection coverage and its impact on poverty reduction
- Progressing towards universal and equitable access to health services
- Main financing mechanisms, collection of funds and

- creation of fiscal space
- Coordination of different health financing mechanisms for sustainable schemes
- Impact of expenditures and use of resources
- Administration, cost control and good governance of social health protection schemes
- Developing coverage plans and national health budgets
- Affordability and availability of adequate benefits
- Provision of health care benefits
- National and community-based schemes
- ILO Conventions 102 and 130, Recommendation 69
- Social health protection and international initiatives: Social Protection Floor, Millennium Development Goals health outcomes, Decent Work Agenda

The multiple dimensions of inequity in effective access to health care for different population groups will be highlighted throughout the programme.



Methodology

Phase I: Pre-course e-learning on the internet-based learning platform – 20 February - 11 March 2012.

- During the initial on-line phase all relevant practical and organisational information about the activity is shared with participants on this platform. A pre-course survey is carried out to assess the specific learning needs and preferences which will be integrated in the face-to-face phase. Through modules and an assignment participants are introduced to the thematic focus of the learning activity.

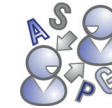
Phase II: Face-to-Face workshop – two week course, 12 - 23 March 2012 in Turin.

- Participants are expected to attend four sessions daily of 1.5hrs each.
- During the course an action-oriented, highly participative approach is used with particular attention to presenting good practises reflecting experiences already gained locally and internationally. Training methods will combine lectures and discussions, case studies, open space discussions, group work and individual exercises.
- A visit to a health insurance scheme in Chambéry, France will allow participants on-site questions and answers on operational issues.
- All presentations as well as other relevant information and materials are uploaded on the online platform to facilitate that participants can share with their institutions what they have learned.

Phase III: Post-training on the internet-based learning platform – following the face to face course.

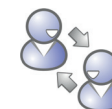
- During the follow up phase participants upload action plans and discuss their follow-up actions. New resources,

expertise and knowledge about the topic of the activity are regularly linked to the platform.



Languages

To foster interregional experience-sharing, the course is offered in English and in French, with simultaneous interpretation. All course materials are provided in both languages.



Faculty and training team

Practitioners with a long standing experience in design, financing and administration of health care schemes from United Nations Agencies, social security institutions, well-known universities, recognized research institutes and senior consultants.

The course is implemented by an activity manager and a course assistant from the ITC-ILO's Social Protection Programme.



Cost of participation

Participation in the course costs 3,250 Euros (course fees 1,920 Euros and participant subsistence 1,330 Euros), excluding travel expenses. The fee is payable in advance.

This covers: tuition fees; the use of training facilities and support services; training materials and books; study visit; accommodation and full board at the Centre's campus; emergency medical care and insurance.

Institutions enrolling more than two participants are eligible to a 25% discount on the tuition fee beginning with the third participant.



Applications

Applicants should use the online nomination form (http://socialprotection.itcilo.org/forms/A905003_EN/) to apply for the course. Application must be supported by a nomination letter from the sponsoring institution indicating how the participant will be financed. Applications need to be received **no later than 31 January 2012**.

Please note that if a Schengen visa for Italy is needed, the time required is on average at least five weeks.