Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy: an opportunity to enhance youth employment

Agadir, Morocco
8 – 12 April 2013
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**Background**

The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation (2008) states that “productive, profitable and sustainable enterprises, together with a strong social economy and a viable public sector, are critical to sustainable economic development and employment opportunities”.

Today, the social and solidarity economy is a reality in many people’s lives because it promotes values and principles that focus on people’s needs and on their communities. In a spirit of voluntary participation, self-help and self-reliance, and through enterprises and organizations, it seeks to balance economic success with fairness and social justice, from the local to the global level.

The concept of a social economy cuts across all four dimensions of the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda. A high-level capacity building programme on Social Economy was proposed by more than 200 participants on the occasion of the ILO Regional Conference on Social Economy held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in October 2009.

The first sessions of the academy were organized by the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO) in Turin (Italy) in 2010 and in Montreal (Canada) in 2011. Known as the “ILO Social and Solidarity Economy Academy” (SSE Academy), this inter-regional training event has brought together more than 70 practitioners and policy-makers from around the world, to share their experiences and meet leading SSE specialists.

**Objectives**

The ILO coordinates the SSE reader formulated by a team of high-level experts from Africa, the Americas and Europe, with guidance, guidelines and technical inputs from ILO officials. Reviewed by high-level ILO experts and partner organizations, the ILO Reader on SSE constitutes the backbone of the training package that will be delivered during the academy.

The morning plenary sessions will be devoted to the following five thematic areas (Monday to Friday):

- What is SSE
- Governance and management of SSEOs
- Policy framework for developing the SSE
- Building the SSE through partnership and networking
- SSE contributions to the ILO Decent Work Agenda

In the afternoon, participants will be free to choose the elective topics they prefer (from a choice of three), based on their professional interest. The elective sessions will offer an opportunity to share knowledge, discuss concrete applications of SSE at national and regional levels, and learn lessons for future research, projects and policy-making.

**Contents and Learning Methodology**

The main objectives will be:

- to generate a better understanding of the concept of a Social and Solidarity Economy and its possible application to job creation for young people;
- to strengthen the impact of a Social and Solidarity Economy approach through the creation of a community of practice in this area.

At the end of the academy, the participants will:

- have a better understanding of the areas in which the Social and Solidarity Economy can be applied and implemented successfully, such as job creation, social protection, social dialogue, green jobs, legal and policy frameworks, the informal economy and local economic development;
- have been made aware of a multitude of social and solidarity experiences, strategies and tools from around the world, with a particular emphasis on South-South exchanges.

**Venue and dates**

The third edition of the ILO Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy will be held in Agadir, Morocco, 8 – 12 April 2013

**Participation costs**

- 2,750 Eur covering tuition fees (including meeting package, training materials and insurance) + full board and lodging (max 6 nights)
- 2,000 Eur covering tuition fees only (including meeting package, training materials and insurance)

**Who should attend?**

The academy is designed for practitioners and actors from Social and Solidarity Economy entities, as well as policy-makers and researchers from Africa, Asia, America, Europe and Arab states who are interested in learning more about the concepts and application of the Social and Solidarity Economy. This includes people who are willing to share their experience and learn from others, as well as get involved in the community of practice on SSE:

- SSE practitioners (leaders and managers of social and solidarity economy organizations).
- SSE promoters (UN organizations and development partners, foundations, SSE networks).
- Policymakers from different government ministries (labour, social affairs, cooperatives, women’s entrepreneurship, youth).
- Social partners (workers’ and employers’ organizations).

The course may also interest researchers who would like to get practical insights into the application of Social and Solidarity Economy in different regions.

**How to apply**

To enrol for the Academy, please register on line at: http://intranetp.itcilo.org/STF/A956065/en Click on “Apply Now”. For further information please write directly to us at: socialeconomy@itcilo.org

**Deadline for registration: 1 March 2013**