Academy costs

The total cost of this Academy is € 3,250 per participant. This comprises:

- Training fees, covering training materials, programme preparation, implementation and evaluation;
- Subsistence costs, including full board and lodging at the training venue and minor medical care.

ITC-ILO will have a limited number of partial fellowships available. The amount of each fellowship is € 1,500.- To receive a fellowship, please enquire early!

Application

Applicants are kindly asked to send us:

- A completed online nomination form:
- An official “letter of commitment” issued by their organization (or a donor organization) stating that it will cover:
  - the cost of the Academy of € 3,250.- (or the remaining cost of the Academy of € 1,750.- if applying for a fellowship);
  - the international travel between the country of origin and the Turin Centre.

This letter should be sent to the below mentioned contact persons institutions that do not have enough funds to cover the course costs or the air fare might wish to seek co-funding by donor institutions in their own countries. ITC-ILO does not provide assistance in contacting donors.

Travel

The course fee does not include the cost of travel to and from Turin. Please note:

- Participants are responsible for obtaining the necessary Schengen visa. Visa applications should be made at least four weeks in advance.

Deadline for application

September 9th 2011

Kindly note that only candidates who present both of the aforementioned documents (online nomination form and “sponsorship letter”) can be considered.

The final communication on acceptance to the Academy and award of fellowships will be communicated latest on September 16th 2011.
Background

Sound national skills development policies and a good quality TVET provision are key factors in the employability of workers and sustainability of enterprises. Therefore, one of the objectives of skills development systems is to ensure that the skills acquired match the skills valued in the workplace. Skills development systems must also help workers and enterprises adjust to change and prepare for the future.

A “vicious circle” of inadequate education, poor training, low productivity jobs and low wages traps the working poor and excludes workers without relevant skills from participating in economic growth. It can represent an important obstacle for enterprise productivity and socio-economic development.

However, evidence shows that a development strategy based on improved quality and availability of education and training can engender a “virtuous circle” in which skills development fuels innovation, productivity, investment and enterprise development, diversification of the economy, and competitiveness that sustain and accelerate the creation of more and better jobs. Increasing accessibility to good training enables more people to participate in and benefit from economic growth and thus improves social cohesion.

The International Training Centre of the ILO and the ILO Skills and Employability Department, in co-operation with the the French Development Agency (AFD), German International Development Cooperation (GIZ), and the Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation (GIZ) are offering the second week of a two-week International Skills Development Academy. The Academy is aimed primarily at participants from developing and middle-income countries. Its purpose is to stimulate learning and knowledge exchange on major policy challenges and options for building effective, responsive and inclusive skills development systems to discuss some of the latest trends in the area of skills development and TVET.

Overall objective

The overall objective of this Academy is to examine existing challenges and discuss effective and innovative approaches to improving comprehensive skills development systems and related policies that respond to the needs of the individual, the society and the economy.

Specific objectives

By the end of the programme, participants will have:

- reviewed the approaches, experiences and good practices in different countries around the world;
- strengthened their capacities to formulate comprehensive skills development policies and strategies that support a virtuous cycle of training, productivity, decent work and employment growth;
- identified weaknesses and opportunities in their own country systems and analysed critical points and possible actions to improve skills development in their countries;
- explored new trends in skills development and discussed strategies for their practical application in their own context.

Programme

The Academy is composed of different components:

- Joint morning lecture
  Each morning, the programme offers a lecture on a relevant topic in the area of skills development policies and systems. In order to create a common level of knowledge and understanding among all participants, the total of eight morning lectures will be a required activity for all participants.
- Elective intensive courses
  Participants can choose four out of eight different elective intensive courses. Each course covers one topic in detail and comprises 5 sessions of 90 minutes each, distributed over two days. Modern interactive adult learning methodologies will be applied in these courses, involving group work, individual exercises, best practice sharing, expert facilitated sessions, etc.
- Summary lecture
  Upon completion of each elective intensive course a summary lecture will be offered to present in a much shorter time the contents of the elective course. This way, participants have the possibility to expose themselves to the contents of another elective course, thereby covering an additional topic of their interest.
- Inspiration sessions
  One day will be entirely dedicated to the presentation of innovative practices and latest research in Skills Development. Participants are invited to share an innovative practice within their institution, system or country or some latest research undertaken by themselves or their institution.
- Local study visit (1/2 day)
  On the last day of the academy, the group will undertake a study visit to a local training provider.
- Reader
  Participants will be provided with a thematic reader (electronic format) with background reading for each morning lecture and each elective course. All materials will be provided in English. In single cases, original articles or translations in French and Portuguese will be added.
- Training materials
  By the end of the Academy, participants will receive all training materials (reader, presentations by lecturers, other materials used) of all sessions in electronic format.

Faculty

Faculty consists of recognised international specialists, researchers and practitioners, including ILO staff and staff from international agencies, namely GIZ, Lux-Development and AFD. Lecturers from academia and international experts will complement the faculty.

Contents: Morning Lectures

- ILO Conceptual framework for skills development;
- Increasing access and participation;
- Formulating comprehensive skills development policies;
- Planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- Involvement of social partners;
- Enhancing youth employability;
- Workplace learning;
- Responsiveness of skills systems to crisis.

Contents: Elective Courses

- Anticipation of skills needs
  Labour Market Information (LMI) and LMI systems for identification of skills needs, methods to enhance the matching of skills with jobs, the role of Public Employment Services.
- Training for social inclusion
  Promotion of equality, access, second-chance training programmes, inclusion of specific target groups (disability, disadvantaged youth), application of a gender perspective.
- TVET related instruments and strategies for social inclusion in the European Union.
- Formal training provision
  Curriculum development, competence based training vis-à-vis orientation on work and business processes, standards and coherence in certification, role of NGFs, portable skills, RPL, teacher training systems.
- Skills acquisition in the informal and rural economy
  Non-formal training, informal apprenticeship, training for rural economic empowerment (TRE), improved transition to formal economy activities.
- Coordination in skills development
  Mechanisms and institutions for inter-ministerial coordination, linking education and employment, integrating training in employment policy, sector-based skills development systems and public-private partnerships.
- Financing of Training
  Training levies, co-financing of training, Public Private Partnerships (PPP), advantages and disadvantages of different funding mechanisms.
- Management of Training Institutions
  Creating a conducive environment and increasing autonomy of public training providers, mechanisms for increasing self-financing, relations with local industry and community, public vs. private providers, teachers’ training/staff development, quality assurance.

Methods of teaching

During the Elective Courses, the “Turin Learning Approach” will be applied. Dynamic, interactive and learner centred methodologies will be used to convey contents and stimulate the exchange of experience. Lectures will alternate with practical exercises, discussions, group work, knowledge sharing methodologies, case studies and individual assignments.

Academy language

The main language of the Academy will be English with interpretation into French and Portuguese for selected topics.

Participants’ profile

- Senior policy staff, technical staff and advisors to Ministries of Labour and Education, as well as other Ministries and national institutions involved in the development of skills and vocational training policies;
- Management and high level staff of National Training Authorities;
- Representatives of workers’ or employers’ organizations dealing with the formulation and implementation of Skills development and Technical Vocational Education and Training policies and systems;
- Programme staff of national, bilateral or multilateral development agencies working on skills development programmes;
- Directors of Skills Development institutions, curriculum developers and other practitioners.

This Academy particularly aims at participants from developing and middle-income countries.

We encourage the participation of women and of persons with disabilities.