



Learning Employers Network *Lempnet*

Newsletter

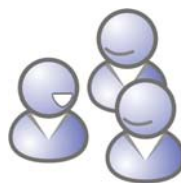
June 2009

Dear reader, welcome to the second edition of lempnet's newsletter!

Lempnet, the Learning Employers Network, was launched in January 2009 by the Programme for Employers' Activities of the ITCILO (International Training Centre of the ILO).

Lempnet is an Internet platform dedicated to the employer organisations' community around the world. Lempnet is a tool for knowledge sharing and learning amongst employers.

More information on the services provided on lempnet for employers is available here:
<http://lempnet.itcilo.org/en/programme-in-brief/document-employers/lempnet-what-for>



News

The International Organization of Employers and the global jobs crisis

A new section of the official IOE website newly opened to analyze the global job crisis. It publishes documents, statements and information from IOE members, the ILO, World Bank, the OECD and other important players.

The global crisis is deeply affecting the world economy and has a huge impact on employment levels. The International Organization of Employers is contributing to the debate on the analysis and solutions to this problem. It opened a new section within the official website to give its network an opportunity to share information, documents on the topic and to propose measures to overcome the crisis.



As a basis for IOE contribution to international policy debates on the global job crisis, a statement entitled "Economic Recovery and Employment" was drafted during an emergency forum, organized on February 2009, proposing several actions to be taken such as the improvement of liquidity, the promotion of fundamental principles and rights at works and the support to education and training. This statement was taken into consideration during the March session of the ILO Governing Body, with the participation of the IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn, together with a number of Labour Ministers.

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To help its members getting engaged in national level debates on the job crisis, the IOE website gives information on a number of forthcoming events. At regional level also, a series of event will take place on how EOs are responding to the crisis. For example, in May, the Federation of Kenyan Employers (FKE) in collaboration with the IOE will host a special session in Nairobi for African EOs. Also the IOE's annual European meeting to take place in Latvia and the Ibero-American Presidents' meeting, which will be organized in Latin America later in the year, will be devoted to the crisis and EOs responses.

The General Council of the IOE, meeting on the 2nd of June 2009, focused on the answers EOs can give to the crisis issue both at international and national level. The IOE also worked towards refocussing debates in the International Labour Conference of the ILO (June 2009) on how to deal with the global job crisis and on the formulation of exit strategies.

>>> For more information, please check the IOE official website www.ioe-emp.org and the ILO website to access the conclusions of the International Labour Conference (ILC) 2009 www.ilo.org

You can also access the presentation made by Mr De Koster, manager of the Programme for Employers' Activities of the ITCILO, during the ILC to all employers' delegates regarding the Programme activities here:

<http://lempnet.itcilo.org/en/news/our-programmes-presentation-during-the-ilc>



Occupational Health and Safety - a must for employers! The SAFESTART initiative is a practical tool to help employers' respecting OSH standards.

The ILO estimates that each year, about 2.3 million men and women die from work-related accidents and diseases. The cost of occupational accidents and diseases, including lost working time, compensation and medical expenses, amounts to an estimated 4 per cent of the world's GDP.

Employers' organisations (EOs) have a key role to play in assisting their members in implementing the existing legislation on OSH and in promoting safe working conditions. Providing OSH services to members is also an opportunity for EOs to enhance their image and to build revenue.

In 2007-2008, the ILO Turin Centre participated in a Leonardo Project with leading Belgian employers partners (FEB, BESACC and Prevention and Interim) which resulted in the development of a training package on OSH for company supervisors and line management.

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This “SAFESTART” training material aims at helping employers’ organizations to build capacity in this crucial area.

With the support of the Federation of Enterprises of Belgium (FEB), the ILO Turin Centre ran a pilot workshop from 22 to 24 April 2009 for 15 OSH and training experts from new EU Member States and candidate countries intended for sharing experience for assistance and services provided to members in this field.

The participants reviewed the main obligations resulting from EU and international standards and discussed the use of the SAFESTART training package in their EOs. It was found a relevant and flexible tool that can be used face to face or at a distance to enhance occupational safety and health in companies.

BIA (Bulgaria) and ACPR (Romania) will be the first EOs to adapt SAFESTART to use in their respective contexts.

The ILO Turin Centre and the FEB plan to adapt this training tool for use by EOs worldwide. The next workshop is scheduled in the autumn 2009 for EOs in South East Asia.

>>> For further information, contact us on lempnet@itcilo.org

European Council adopts ‘Blue Card’ system for foreign workers



On May 25th, the European Council has approved the new ‘Blue Card’ directive to attract highly-qualified workers from third-

countries to work in the EU member states as well as penal sanctions against employers who hire and abuse illegal immigrants.

The new directive is aimed to increase competitiveness and economic growth and to tackle demographic problems within the EU area. The new rules will facilitate procedures of the third-country workers’ legal entry to the EU job market and to improve their residency condition in the EU. The Blue Card applicants would have to meet a certain wage criteria by earning at least 1.5 times the average gross annual wage of the receiving country. Also, applicants must hold a diploma giving official recognition of at least three years of higher education or proof of five years of equivalent professional experience.

In return, the Blue Card holders will be guaranteed equal treatment with the nationals of the member states with a series of socio-economic rights and favourable condition for family reunification and movement across the EU countries.

The period of validity of the EU Blue Card will be between one and four years, with possibility of renewal. The EU Blue Card may also be issued or renewed for shorter periods in order to cover the work contract period plus three months. After eighteen months of legal residence in the first

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member state as an EU Blue Card holder, the person concerned and his family members may move, under certain conditions, to a member state other than the first member state for the purpose of highly qualified employment.

On the same day, the Council also adopted a directive “Sanctions for employers” to organize legal immigration and raise awareness of the struggle against illegal employment among the employer and workers. Under the directive, the EU employers will be penalized with fines or penal sanctions in case of infringement of prohibition.

Share an experience or a project which you are involved in, inform other users of recent developments in your region, promote a publication or an event, share any relevant news on lempnet by posting a news item here:

<http://lempnet.itcilo.org/en/newsletters/post-your-news>



Training

Here’s the recently extended list of our next months’ training activities in the 5 world’s regions – Check what’s up in your region?!

TRAINING COURSES FOR THE AFRICA REGION

- ✓ Effective Employers’ Organizations (EEO)
 - August/Sept. 2009 in Liberia and Sierra Leone
 - November 2009 in Kigali (Rwanda)
 - November 2009 in Congo
 - December 2009 for South African EOs
- ✓ Negotiation skills course and Training of Trainers
 - July 2009 in Rwanda
 - December 2009 in Uganda
- ✓ In depth training on lobbying and advocacy

- October 2009 in Turin for French speaking African EOs
- ✓ Employers’ organizations and employment policies with a focus on youth employment
 - Sept. 2009 for English speaking African organizations

TRAINING COURSES FOR THE AMERICAS

- ✓ Effective Employers’ Organizations (EEO)
 - June 2009 for the Fishing Sector in Turin and in Bamio (Spain)
 - June 2009 in Lima (Peru)
 - June 2009 in Santa Cruz (Bolivia)
 - June - July 2009 in Kingston (Jamaica) for the Caribbean region
- ✓ Maximizing the opportunities for Employers’ Organizations in the framework of Decent Work Country Programmes

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- July 2009 in Lima (Peru)
- ✓ Effective Strategy and planification for Employers' Organizations
 - September 2009 in Uruguay
- ✓ Services for trade and export promotion
 - October 2009 in Santiago (Chile)

TRAINING COURSES FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

- ✓ Effective Employers' Organizations (EEO)
 - November 2009 in China
- ✓ Employer Organizations and training services
 - July 2009 in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
- ✓ Training on Occupational Safety and Health for companies' managers and supervisors
 - September 2009 for South East Asian Eos in Sri Lanka
- ✓ In depth training on lobbying and advocacy
 - December 2009 in Pakistan

- December 2009 in Kathmandu (Nepal)

TRAINING COURSES FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- ✓ Introduction to macroeconomics for social partners
 - October 2009 Ukraine
- ✓ EU Project on strengthening EOs of the Chemical industry
 - Seminars in Varna (Bulgaria) and Riga (Latvia) in June, Final Conference in Turin in December 2009

>>> Don't forget to check our training catalogue for latest updates:

<http://lempnet.itcilo.org/en/training/training-catalogue2>



What's new on lempnet?

Quick links section – Creating reciprocal links between lempnet and your organisation's website, generates visibility and traffic both ways. Interested? Contact us here <http://lempnet.itcilo.org/en/contact-info?subject=organisation%20quick%20link>

Participants' opinion – Check the new video spot with former participants and learn more on their learning experience here <http://lempnet.itcilo.org/en/training/participants-opinion>

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Interview

This month, lempnet publishes a video interview with Ms Shakila Mohammadi from the Afghan Women Business Federation. Click on the link below to start the video and learn more about the

objectives, activities and hopes of this employer organization!

>>> <http://lempnet.itcilo.org/en/interviews/video-interview-awbf/view>

Lempnet, it's also ...

- **Regular polls on users' opinion**
- **RSS feeds from websites of interest to employers**
- **A customised Internet search engine**
- **An online survey on employer organizations' training needs**
- **A CVs database for trainers and experts**
- **An online learning platform for participants to our workshops**

... Make it yours!