



International Labour Office
Social Security Department
QUATRRAIN - AMERICAS



International Training Centre

QUATRRAIN NEWS

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IN THIS ISSUE...

QUATRRAIN AMERICAS, the actuarial and financial training programme of the ILO's Social Security Department and the International Training Centre in Turin, achieved some notable successes between March and June 2008. This issue of Quatrain News provides information on some of the most significant of these, as well as reviewing the new and more ambitious plans for this year. This issue also contains an updated list of the training courses offered by QUATRRAIN AMERICAS in the Americas and the Caribbean.

GENEVA

THE SOCIAL PROTECTION VIRTUAL CAMPUS IS LAUNCHED AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

(<http://socialprotection.etcilo.org>)

The Virtual Campus, which uses the most advanced distance learning technology available, was inaugurated on 9 June 2008 during the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference. This pioneering and unique virtual platform is a "one-stop shop" for accessing the training offered by the Turin Centre and QUATRRAIN AMERICAS. The Virtual Campus is multilingual and linked to the Social Security Department's other specialist platforms.

The Social Protection Virtual Campus is a portal for generating and disseminating interdisciplinary knowledge. Its aim is to develop institutional capacities and individual competencies in order to make social protection systems more effective and to extend their coverage. It will achieve this through distance learning, technical cooperation, exchanges of information and experience, and the

creation of contact and knowledge networks.

Professionals from social protection institutions, employers' and workers' representatives, academics, researchers, students, professionals from NGOs, as well as other interested parties, are invited to share this forum for continuing learning and communication.

social protection virtual campus campus virtuel de la protection sociale campus virtual de la protección social



Learning without borders
Apprendre sans frontières
Aprendizaje sin fronteras

<http://socialprotection.etcilo.org>



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SANTIAGO

A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE PILOT PROJECT IN CHILE

On 6 June 2008, the course held in Santiago on training in actuarial methods applied to social security for Chilean government officials came to an end. The final module, an introduction to programming with applications to the actuarial aspects of social security, was presented by Professor François Dufresne of the University of Lausanne in Switzerland.

During the closing ceremony at the headquarters of the Budget Department of the Chilean Ministry of the Economy, Alberto Arenas (Budget Director), Mario Ossandón (Undersecretary of Social Security) and Guillermo Miranda (Director of the ILO Subregional Office in Santiago) presented participants with their diplomas, which

were awarded jointly by the Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS), the International Training Centre in Turin and QUATRAIN AMERICAS.

The course will serve as the basis for the development of materials and methodologies used in other training activities in the region.

UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR TRAINING IN SOCIAL PROTECTION



QUATRAIN AMERICAS has established links with a number of universities and training institutions. The aim is to strengthen the training on offer by including the subject of social protection financing in university programmes, all in the general framework of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda and the follow-up to Decent work in the Americas: An agenda for the Hemisphere, 2006-2015. The following institutions are involved:

- University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain
- Latin American and Caribbean Center, Florida International University, United States
- University of the West Indies, Jamaica
- National Autonomous University of Mexico
- Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), State University of Rio de Janeiro

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neiro (UERJ), and Brazilian Institute of Actuaries (IBA)

- Training Institute of the Social Security Bank (BPS), Uruguay
- University of Buenos Aires, Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), ISALUD University, Argentina
- University of Chile

During the second half of 2008, links with other universities and training institutions will be established in Andean and Central American countries.

In order to maximize the impact of training and cost reduction programmes, QUATRAIN's strategy is based on training courses at different levels which will include both distance learning and classroom components at the subregional level. The three levels are intended for: (i) managers and decision-makers; (ii) intermediate-level technical staff from social

security institutions; and (iii) the future generation of actuaries, economists and social security finance specialists.

MONTEVIDEO

SENIOR SOCIAL SECURITY MANAGERS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION DISCUSS STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING THE COLLECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS

As part of the EUROsocial programme, some 49 participants from 18 countries in Europe and Latin America met in Montevideo to exchange their experiences of information management with a view to strengthening the institutional capacity of contribution collection systems. The workshop was intended to help participants to identify, share and understand current practices with regard to the moni-

toring of contributions, to examine some common problems and difficulties, and to apply sustainable solutions.

The main topics were:

- Information technology: Development and application in the audit and control of contributions
- Systems for gathering and recording information on contributing workers and companies
- Data transmission and storage technologies
- Strategies and fiscal intelligence in year-on-year operating plans for the audit and control of contributions
- Consolidation and use of information in planning inspection and large-scale audit and control activities
- Mechanisms for exchanging information and creating inter-institutional links
- Application of information technologies to debt management.

The workshop led to agreement on a pre-



Information management for auditing and controlling the collection of social security contributions
Montevideo, 19 to 23 May 2008

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Actuarial methods and social security financing
Recife, Pernambuco, 25 to 28 March 2008

liminary list of 20 measures that can be considered good practice for improving contribution collection systems. The discussion will continue through the virtual platform.

BRASILIA

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ILO SIGN A PROTOCOL OF INTENT TO STIMULATE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON SOCIAL SECURITY

On 26 March, Luiz Marinho, the Brazilian Minister of Social Security, on behalf of President Lula signed a Protocol of Intent with the ILO, represented by Laís Abramo,

the Director of the ILO Office in Brasilia,. The Minister of Social Protection of Sao Tome and Principe, Maria Tomé de Araújo, also attended the ceremony.

The Protocol will facilitate the organization of training activities, exchanges of experience, and technical cooperation on social security, through activities that may also involve the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa (PALOP) as well as other countries in Latin America. Two training activities were organized in Recife and Belo Horizonte, and the Ministry has created a working group to put forward measures to achieve a 20 per cent extension in coverage by 2015, in accordance with

the commitment made in the ILO's decent work agenda for the hemisphere.

RECIFE

ACTUARIAL THEORY AND PRACTICE FOR NON-ACTUARIES

In order to inaugurate the activities provided for in the Protocol of Intent, the first executive course of QUATRRAIN AMERICAS on actuarial theory and practice for non-actuaries was held from 25 to 28 March in the capital of the Brazilian state of Pernambuco. The aim of the activity was to present some of the basic actuarial and financial aspects of social security to social security professionals and managers who

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need to communicate with actuaries and take decisions based on actuarial studies, in order to formulate policies and administer social security schemes.

A total of 60 people took part, including 45 civil servants from state and municipal authorities and other Brazilian institutions, as well as 15 senior social security administrators from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe. Experts from Argentina, Brazil, Portugal and Uruguay were invited to share their experiences of actuarial forecasting models.

BELO HORIZONTE

CHALLENGES FACING PUBLIC SERVICE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES IN LATIN AMERICA

In Latin America, some countries, such as Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, face similar challenges in providing social security for public servants owing to the fragmentation and stratification of systems within a federal structure. The main challenges are to improve institutional coordination between different schemes, to promote financial and actuarial sustainability, and to improve management of the schemes.

In order to allow an exchange of experiences and knowledge with regard to the challenges facing public service social security schemes in an international setting, the Brazilian Ministry of Social Security, the Brazilian National Council of Senior Managers of the Public Service Social Security Scheme

(CONAPREV) and the Argentine Federal Council on Social Security (COFEPRES), in cooperation with QUATRRAIN AMERICAS and the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS), organized the first Latin American meeting of senior managers of public service social security schemes. The event was also supported by the Institute of Social Security for Civil Servants of Minas Gerais State (IPSEMG).

The meeting was attended by 56 participants from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Mexico. They discussed issues relating to actuarial analysis and funding, investments, organization and institutional coordination. The conclusions will be submitted to the next CISS



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General Assembly together with a proposal to create a permanent working group on this issue. The next meeting will take place in Buenos Aires during the first half of 2009.

MERCOSUR

TRAINING IN QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR LEGISLATORS AND JUDGES

QUATRAIN AMERICAS met in Buenos Aires with Dr Juan Carlos Díaz Roig, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Social Security Committee, and Dr Walter Arrighi, Secretary of State for Social Security, in order to assess the feasibility of running a course in Argentina, intended specifically for legislators and judges in MERCOSUR countries, on the actuarial and financial aspects of the Decent Work Agenda. The course could be held in the first half of 2009.

BUENOS AIRES

TRAINING ON RESULTS-BASED SOCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AT ISALUD UNIVERSITY

In May 2008, as part of the master's degree in social protection offered by ISALUD University, QUATRAIN AMERICAS gave an introductory course on results-based social risk management in the context of the Decent Work Agenda.

SAN JUAN

TRAINING FOR OCCUPATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS

A meeting of representatives from 70 occupational social security funds was held in San Juan, Argentina, on 29 May 2008. The QUATRAIN AMERICAS programme was presented and a basis was established for the development of specialist courses

on quantitative social protection methods for regional and subregional bodies.

URUGUAY

FORTHCOMING INAUGURATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY BANK'S TRAINING INSTITUTE

Ernesto Murro, President of the Social Security Bank, and Miguel Brito, the Bank's General Manager and project coordinator, presented Alejandro Bonilla García and Francesco Argentino of the Turin Centre with the approved refurbishment plans for the building which will house the Bank's new Training Institute. The Institute will be opened in 2009 with a joint course run by QUATRAIN AMERICAS and the Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS).



MEXICO

THE "OPORTUNIDADES" PROGRAMME

Following the successful presentation of the Mexican conditional transfers programme "OPORTUNIDADES" by its National Director, Salvador Escobedo Zoletto, at the March 2008 Session of the ILO Governing Body in Geneva, QUATRAIN AMERICAS and OPORTUNIDADES have continued to work on the development of a training module on evaluating the impact of social programmes, which will be included in the courses offered at the regional level. A meeting held in April in Mexico City was attended by participants from the Ministries of Labour and Social Security, Foreign Affairs, and Social Development, the OPORTUNIDADES programme, ILO-Mexico, and QUATRAIN AMERICAS. Discussions focused on the possibility of extending collaboration on training in order to identify good practices and exchange information on conditional transfers.



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INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SECURITY (CISS) AND INTER-AMERICAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY STUDIES (CIESS)

In Mexico City, academic coordination meetings were held between the CISS, CIESS and QUATRAIN AMERICAS, represented respectively by Gabriel Martínez, Secretary-General of the CISS, Miguel Ángel Hernández Pastor, Director of the CIESS, and Alejandro Bonilla García, Director of QUATRAIN AMERICAS. The aim of the meetings was to improve the efficiency of the quantitative social security training offered at the regional and subregional levels.

THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION

TRAINING FOR LATIN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS

In May, QUATRAIN AMERICAS participated in a training seminar for Latin American journalists organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in collaboration with the ILO on “World Trade and Sustainable Development”. QUATRAIN AMERICAS presented its regional training programme, highlighting the importance of quantitative evaluation and of training the social actors in the economic and social sustainability of different development models.

OECD

TRANSFER OF QUANTITATIVE METHODOLOGIES AND EXCHANGES OF EXPERIENCE

QUATRAIN-AMERICAS and the OECD are holding technical meetings with a view to including OECD methodology for the quantitative evaluation and monitoring of pension schemes in training courses held

in Latin America and the Caribbean. Sharing this methodology will enhance the comparability of systems used in the Latin American and Caribbean countries and those of OECD member countries.

Supplementary pensions are also being discussed as part of the cooperation with the OECD. QUATRAIN AMERICAS were invited to give presentations in Sao Paulo and Paris in May in order to raise awareness among pension fund managers of good practices regarding financial governance and the challenges of extending the coverage of social protection systems.

TURIN CENTRE

RECENT REFORMS IN LATIN AMERICA STIMULATE INTEREST IN OTHER REGIONS

On 17 and 18 April, QUATRAIN AMERICAS gave a presentation on recent reform trends in Latin American countries and the financial mechanisms for extending social security coverage. The event was attended by 32 participants from 12 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe as part of a Workshop on Social Security Financing organized by the Turin Centre.

One of the conclusions of the presentation reiterated the need to establish a universal social protection “floor” in order to legitimize the globalization process and face the new challenges posed by climate change and the food crisis.

IMPORTANT DATES 2008

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ACTIVITIES

Location

25/11/07
-
06/06/08

Pilot course on actuarial methods applied to social security financing (for Chilean government officials)
COMPLETED

Santiago and through distance learning

25-
28/03/08

Course on actuarial methods and social security financing for Portuguese-speaking countries
COMPLETED

Recife

05-
16/05/08

Occupational safety and health management in the enterprise - **COMPLETED**

Turin

14-
16/05/08

Seminar on financing social security schemes for civil servants
COMPLETED

Belo Horizonte

19-
23/05/08

Workshop on information management for auditing and controlling the collection of social security contributions - **COMPLETED**

Montevideo

30/06-
28/11/08

Policy-making and management of social security schemes

Distance learning

07-
25/07/08

Online Forum on good practices in the collection of social security contributions

Distance learning

23-
25/06/08

Third International Meeting of EUROsocial Networks

Mexico City

14-
18/07/08

Workshop on the extension of social protection to temporary rural workers

Belém

01-
05/09/08

Actuarial methods and social security financing, for Ecuadorian government officials

Quito

19-
29/08/08

Regional workshop on actuarial methods and social security financing

Cartagena de Indias

22-
26/09/08

Subregional workshop on actuarial and financial aspects of social security in Central America

Managua

21-
31/10/08

Strategies for the extension of social protection

Lima

10-
13/11/08

General Assembly of the CISS – ILO Day

Salvador de Bahia

17-
21/11/08

Social security actuarial workshops

Rio de Janeiro

24-
28/11/08

Good practices in the collection of social security contributions

Lima

01-
05/12/08

Workshop on actuarial methods and social security financing for English-speaking Caribbean Countries

Kingston