**Project No. 1-1b**

**Region:** Global

**Project:**
ILO database on statistics of employment in the informal economy

**Project Description:**
Statistics are an important tool to support the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies. They also help to make the many workers around the world, who are employed in the informal economy, visible.

In the past, statistics on employment in the informal sector used to be the only statistics on the informal economy available at the international and national levels. They did however not include informal employment in the formal sector or in households. Moreover, the ILO did not collect these statistics by status in employment.

In 2003, the 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians adopted a statistical definition of informal employment. The definition complements the earlier definition of employment in the informal sector and is a prerequisite for the collection of statistics on employment in the informal economy as a whole.

The ILO is currently establishing a database on informal employment by country, sex, status in employment, branch of economic activity (agriculture vs. non-agriculture), and type of production unit (formal sector enterprises, informal sector enterprises, households). The objective is to make more and better statistics on the informal economy available at the international level. The data will be made widely accessible in user-friendly formats. They support current efforts to expand the list of employment-related indicators for monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Gender and Ethnic Components:**
To the extent possible, data will be disaggregated by sex and differences between women and men shown. The data will help to make greater visibility of workers, especially women, employed in the informal economy.

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**Project Website:**
The website has not yet been developed. Once completed, the database on informal employment by country, sex, status in employment, branch of economic activity (agriculture vs. non-agriculture), and type of production unit (formal sector enterprises, informal sector enterprises, households will be made widely accessible in user-friendly formats.

The ILO report "The compendium of official statistics on employment in the informal sector", prepared by Ralf Hussmanns and Brigitte du Jeu, containing official national statistics and related methodological information on employment in the informal sector for countries of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and the transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, to the extent that data are available, is available at http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/papers/comp.htm