Second training module in Guatemala

This module, held on 20-24 January, was carried on through four sessions animated by Giancarlo Canzanelli: 1) the PASC methodology for identifying endogenous competitive and sustainable potential; 2) The method of the chain of value, for fostering interactive systems of SMME’s; 3) The PROANI method for including vulnerable people in the economic circuit; 4) the elaboration of strategic development projects at local level. 32 people participated, representing local and national public and private organisations.

Lectures were given by Prof. Jesus García Ruíz (University of Paris 8) on “The social and cultural heritage for poverty reduction strategy in Guatemala”, and Prof. Carlos Cazali (University of Valле) on “Thesis for combating poverty in Guatemala”.

A follow up activity was identified: 5 groups will elaborate strategic territorial projects, involving other persons in the groups. The teacher will provide technical assistance on distance.

Juan Pablo Corlazzoli (UN RES-REP) concluded, underlining the very big question for Guatemala is the weakness in capacity of identifying and implementing sustainable, long term strategies to fight against poverty, through combination of social support, and provision of economic opportunities.

Universitas in Cuba

Main guidelines of the Programme, started operating in February, are:
- Capacity building, through a 8 weeks course for forming 30 Local Development Agents; through diffusion of knowledge at provincial and national level; and through support to the Reflection National group for analysis and production of appropriate tools.
- Transfer of innovative practices, for South-South cooperation, through the identification of demand and offer, organisation of a catalogue, and support to transfer projects. Support to the Master on Human Development organised by the University of La Habana, through facilitating exchange of knowledge with the Universitas university network, and improvement of assets. Support to the sub-regional network for following up the Social Summit, through the realisation of seminars and workshops. The programme works in partnership with MINVEC and the UNDP/PDHL.

February Appointments

3-8: Training Module for supporting 15 LEDAs in Central America on “The elaboration of local development projects” in El Salvador, animated by Walter Romero (ILO); 16-18: First International Conference on Sport and Development in Mugglingen-Macolin (Switzerland). A panel on “Local development and social dialogue” will be chaired by Mr. Di cola, Universitas programme coordinator and ILO Focal Point for Sport; 19: Meeting of the ILO internal task force on Sport, with the participation of Mr. A. Dosal, Under-Secretary General in Charge of Partnership, and Mr. A. Ogi, UN Secretary General Special Advisor on Sport for Peace and Development 17-21: First training module in Cuba “Strategy for local development in the globalised world” animated by Prof. Antonio Vazquez-Barquero (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid). 24: C. Lenoci, Director, ILO Rome office, will open the meeting of the Italian universities.

Universitas in South Africa

The mission 25-29 November 2002, through 30 meeting with 40 South African stakeholders, rose strong interests from State Departments, social partners, international programmes), universities, and public institutes. According to the preliminary informal agreements the above-mentioned partnership will triple the ILO Universitas budget.

Universitas will address weaknesses relying on the gaps between the national strategy and its implementation at the local level, in terms of delivery, and coordination among different departments; the lack of a national validated learnship scheme about Local Socio-Economic Development, the distance between the academic world and the operational needs, especially at local level.

Guideline of the Programme will be capacity building, transfer of innovations, and support to South African universities.

Theory and Practice

The local integrated approach for fighting poverty

The majority of the strategies for fighting against poverty in underdeveloped and developing countries are commonly characterised by a significant weakness of actions addressed to provide sustainable and decent jobs for poor people, while prioritising their fundamental access to basic social services and infrastructure. On the other hand economic development strategies focus their objective in reinforcing existing excellence resources or attracting new ones from the abroad, but leaving apart poverty issues. These approaches risk the enlargement of fractures within the population and the increment of exclusion.

Fight against poverty cannot be faced through separated policies regarding social and economic development, and growth cannot be pursued excluding a major national human resource, constituted by the majority of the population.

The Universitas Programme pursues an integrated approach, which combine and address simultaneously specific differentiated needs, efficiency and effectiveness of actions, direct monitoring and control.