

Newsletter 2011.6 - DECEMBER

The Education and Solidarity Network, a partner for social protection education and training policies and actors !

The culture of social protection in many developing countries is still patchy at best or even virtually non-existent, both among the general population and in administrative and political circles.

Implementing social protection and/or extending this social protection is therefore not a technical issue to be resolved by experts, but a matter over which all stakeholders must take ownership. These stakeholders include:

- Political personnel responsible for choices and decisions regarding the system implemented;
- Administrative and management personnel responsible for implementing the deployment plan and managing new systems on a daily basis;
- Employers, trade unions and civil society organisations involved in developing social protection (joint management or through mutual societies etc);
- Finally, the general population which must familiarise itself with the issues involved. It may furthermore play a meaningful role in decisions relating to it. After all, it is this group that will use the system implemented.

The role of the Education and Solidarity Network is to support awareness-raising, training and education work needed for people to take ownership of the issues and for there to be effective commitment to implementing social protection systems. It is for this reason that we were so insistent that the Bachelet report should include two recommendations, one on the involvement of citizens and the second on training and education!

We have now achieved this goal and can further build on it.

Using the expertise of its members and in synergy with its partners, the Network can now offer a comprehensive and integrated service which deals with the issues of social protection training and education.

The issues and therefore the forms which proposals take vary by target group. Training for top political and administrative personnel is often taken into account, even though we believe that a financial and administrative vision is often favoured over an overall understanding of social protection issues. Therefore in our view it is important to offer modules which are more open to a comprehensive vision like that developed in the Bachelet report or in the approaches taken by the ILO.

However, civil society stakeholders and the population as a whole are often not involved from the outset, which is perhaps why social policies meet with so little public approval in some countries. This is where we believe we can make a difference by offering:

- Training for civil society stakeholders, employers, trade unions and heads of organisations such as mutual societies, healthcare cooperatives and non-profit making organisations;
- Implementation of awareness and consultation strategies which involve affected groups in the process;
- Promotion of a culture of social protection among young people and future generations.



Our campaigns are based on extensive work carried out over the past 2 years:

- In the area of mutual society training with the MGEN, the Institut Montparnasse, universities in Argentina and through pilots implemented in Morocco with the MGPAP and WAEMU countries;
- With the CIESS and the ILO and its training centre in Turin with regard to social protection programmes;
- With partners such as the ILO, EN3S and ISSA on training for political and administrative executives involved in social protection.

Above all else, we are counting on support from the education community and trade unions for education professionals to implement this work in the field and ensure that all citizens are able to take ownership of their social protection and the rights and duties which come with it. Indeed, this is what we intend to do in collaboration with SOLIDARITE LAIQUE and the CIESS in Haiti.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS ESN JOURNAL ISSUE 2

We are currently working on the second issue of the Network Journal “Cahiers du Réseau”, which provides details of research and projects relating to education and training on social protection and social economics.

The special report in the second issue will focus on experiences and perspectives on social protection education. At present, major progress is being made on social protection at international level with the adoption of the Bachelet report on social protection floors submitted on 27 October to the United Nations and the commitment to supporting universal extension of social protection made by the G20 at the Cannes summit. It is therefore an appropriate time to take stock and share experiences and ideas on tools for supporting strategies seeking to extend social protection.

Do you organise campaigns in this area or wish to share your vision of action needed to ensure the success of strategies for extending social protection? Please send your contributions to Thierry WEISHAUPT (tweishaupt@mgen.fr) or Gérard BONED (gboned@mgen.fr).

In addition to this special report, if you have any contributions relating to social protection education or training and social economics, please send us your submissions.

All texts submitted will be reviewed by the editorial board of the “Cahiers du Réseau”. They must comprise between 4,000 and 10,000 characters (spaces included).

Deadline for submissions: 16th January 2012.

Please contact Thierry WEISHAUPT (tweishaupt@mgen.fr) with any questions or for further information on this call for contributions.