



International Labour Office
Social Security Department
QUATRRAIN - AMERICAS



International Training Centre

QUATRRAIN NEWS

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Quarterly bulletin, Year 1

This newsletter is dedicated to Lupe Caceda, former staff of the Regional ILO Office in Lima and our esteemed collaborator.

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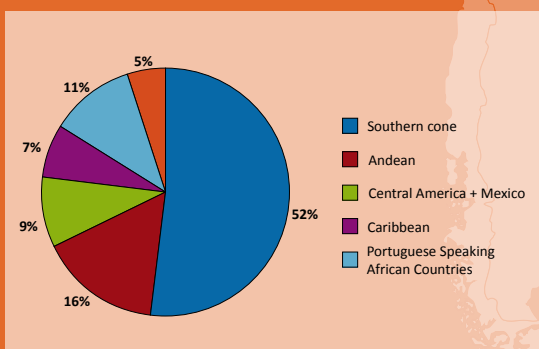
The December edition of QUATRRAIN NEWS focuses on the range of activities of the QUATRRAIN AMERICAS Program during the last four months of the year and provides a brief annual report of what was a very fruitful 2008.

Only one year after its foundation, the programme has implemented 15 training activities which have brought together over 600 participants from 35 countries. Of these, over 40% (253) were women.

The activities covered the entire range of the Latin American region and the Caribbean and were conducted in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

More than half of the participants were from the Southern Cone. The remaining 32% equally represented the Andean Sub Region, Mexico and the Caribbean. All of the participants benefited from a rich exchange of experiences, knowledge and information between them, developing a valuable network of contacts.

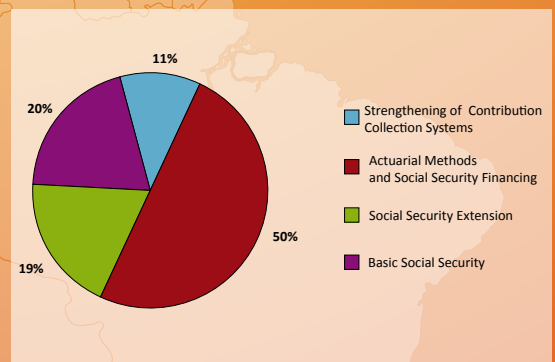
Graph 1: Distribution of the participants by subregion



They were trained following the framework and spirit of the Hemispheric Decent Work Agenda.

With the aim of strengthening South-South cooperation, the activities also benefited from the significant participation of renowned social security leaders from the Portuguese speaking African countries (PALOP).

Graph 2. Distribution of participants by training area



More than half of the participants (307) were enrolled in activities in the area of “Actuarial Methods and Social Security Financing” (See Graph 2). This remains the core training focus of the programme in line with the overall objective of extending and strengthening social security systems, as envisaged by the Hemispheric Decent Work Agenda. In order to consolidate and expand coverage, it is essential to guarantee the financial and actuarial solvency of the branches, including pensions, health, social welfare and professional risks.



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30% of the participants (182) took part in the training activities dealing with “Social Security Extension and the Strengthening of the Contribution Collection System.” The courses and workshops offered under these headings specifically discussed strategies to increase coverage by 20% by 2015, as envisaged by the Hemispheric Agenda.

The 20 remaining percent of the participants followed introductory courses covering the basic concepts of social security.

The extensive breadth of the program, despite limited human and financial resources, was a result of the successful initiative to multiply funding through cooperation with other institutions, notably the Turin Center, the Sub Regional offices of the ILO, the EUROSocial Program of the European Community and the Inter American Social Security Conference (CISS), the Ibero-American Social Security Association (OISS), as well as several universities and social security institutions, among others.

QUATRRAIN AMERICAS has further demonstrated its ability to combine efforts with employer and workers representatives, as is witnessed by its activities in Jamaica and Turin, which are summarized in the following section.

We dedicate the success of QUATRRAIN AMERICAS 2008 to our partners and participants!

KINGSTON

THE IMPACT OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS WAS THE THEME OF THE WORKSHOP PREPARED FOR THE TRIPARTITE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

QUATRRAIN AMERICAS' 2008 lecture program closed off with a four day workshop in Kingston at the beginning of December. This tripartite workshop, which focused on “Actuarial Methods and Social Security Financing for Decision Makers and Social Actors”, marked the beginning of QUATRRAIN AMERICA's active involvement in the English speaking Caribbean region.

The workshop was the outcome of the successful cooperation between the Sub Regional Office of the Caribbean, the MONA Business School of the University of West Indies, the Interamerican Social Security Conference - CISS, the Health and Security at the Workplace Fund (CSST), the Federal Province of Quebec (Canada) and the Jamaica Employers Federation (JEF).

37 participants attended the workshop, including public officials from labour and social security ministries and social security institutions, as well as employee and employer representatives, academics and

parliamentarians.

The teaching body was exclusively composed of expert international actuaries: Gilles Binet (CSST-Canada), Roland Longchamps (CSST-Canada), Hernando Pérez-Montas (Dominican Republic), Martha Miranda (CISS-Mexico) and Alejandro Bonilla Garcia (ILO-Geneva). The general coordination was headed by Luesette Howell, principal specialist of employer activities of the ILO Sub Regional Office in the Caribbean, with the support of Kathleen Hinkson.

The core subjects which were discussed were the following: i) the role of the actuary in the Hemispheric Decent Work Agenda; ii) the evolution of the pension reform debate and international social security financing trends iii) the basic elements to model pension systems, health and occupational risks; iv) the structure and interpretation of actuarial valuations; v) effective social security governance and investment in the context of the financial crisis.

LIMA

BEST PRACTICES IN SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTION COLLECTION

Notwithstanding high levels of informality, low contribution capacities and institutional barriers in the Latin American labour market, there is a consensus among specialists that contribution collection can be improved through greater administrative efficiency.

With this aim, a training module was organized in Lima from the 27th to the 31st of October which dealt with “Best Practices in Social Security Management and Contribution Collection”. It took place within the framework of the EUROSocial Fiscal



Participants of the Actuarial Methods and Social Security Financing Workshop for Decision Makers and Social Actors held in Kingston.

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and Employment sectors, and benefitted from the attendance of 24 participants from 14 countries. The module marked the final phase of a series of technical meetings which took place in Turin, Madrid and Montevideo, also under the auspices of the EUROSociAL programme.



Participants of the Best Practices in Social Security Contribution Collection Workshop held in Lima.

In addition to important conclusions regarding concrete measures to increase contribution collection, an agenda was set up to continue collaboration and exchange of experiences through the Social Security Virtual Campus.



Jorge Villasante, Peruvian Minister of Labour and Employment Promotion, officially closed the workshop together with Carmen Moreno, Regional Adjunct Director of the ILO in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In its closing session, the Peruvian Minister of Labour and Employment Promotion, Jorge Villasante, recognized the fruitful collaboration between EUROSociAL (Fiscality and Employment) QUATRRAIN AMERICAS and the Turin Centre. At the same time, he highlighted the im-

portance of effectively increasing social security funding to meet current targets, while noting the new challenges that the expansion of social security and the Hemispheric Decent Work Agenda pose in the midst of an adverse global macroeconomic climate.

LIMA

STRATEGIES TO EXTEND SOCIAL SECURITY

QUATRRAIN AMERICAS, in cooperation with the Turin Centre, the EUROSociAL (Health and Employment sectors) and the STEP program, organized a course on "Strategies for the Extension of Social Protection" which was held from the 20th to the 31st of October, 2008 in Lima.

Different mechanisms for including independent, domestic and migrant workers in social security systems were discussed and experiences were shared by the 27 participants of the course, coming from 13 countries.

The combination of contributory and non contributory models was also discussed, including universal systems, social security, social insurance, micro insurance and mutualism approaches.

The group also took part in study visits and had the opportunity to learn about



Participants of the Strategies for the Extension of Social Protection Course, held in Lima.



Salvador Escobedo Zoletto, general coordinator for the Opportunities Program in Mexico.

the social inclusion experiences undertaken by coffee producers and by the Peruvian health insurance and health care schemes.

Special attention was given to the recent Chilean reform, in particular with regards to the link between contributory and non contributory benefits. The conditional transfer programs of Chile, Brazil and Mexico were also discussed.

Throughout the course, discussion forums and group projects were conducted through the Social Protection Virtual Campus and the electronic platform "Global Extension Social Security" (GESS) of the Social Security Department of the ILO.



Participants of the Strategies for the Extension of Social protection Course conducting exercises using the GESS e-platform, under the guidance of Victoria Giroud from the ILO.

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SALVADOR DE BAHIA

XXIV GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CISS

A series of meetings pertaining to Decent Work took place during the 24th General Assembly of the CISS, from the 10th to the 13th of November, 2008.

José Pimentel, State Minister of Social Security and Jacques Wagner, Governor of the State of Bahia, inaugurated the event, welcoming close to 1.2 thousand participants from across the Americas.



Opening Session Panel of the 24th General Assembly of the CISS, which hosted Jose Pimentel, Minister of Social Security of, Jacques Wagner, Governor of the State of Bahia and other prominent national and international figures.

The advancements of the State of Bahia in the area of decent work were notably recognized and analyzed in conjunction with the provisional results of the joint work between the CISS, the ILO and the OEA in matters of social security for migrant workers.

A session on the topic of "Decent Work and Social Protection in the State of Bahia" also took place during the Assembly. It hosted a panel on Domestic Work and Formalization, composed of Walter Arrighi, Argentinean Social Security Secretary, Laís Abramo, Director of the ILO Office in Brazil and representatives of the Federation of Domestic Workers of Bahia together with the Secretary of Labour of Bahia.

Furthermore, QUATRRAIN AMERICAS organized a round table on different regional perspectives for attaining the goals set out in the Hemispheric Agenda of the ILO as well as other new social security targets in the region in the midst of the current financial and economic crisis.

The round table was conducted in a two part interview format. The first part benefited from the participation of Alfredo Conte-Grand, former ILO Senior Social Security Specialist, Helmut Schwarzer, former Social Security Secretary of Brazil and Eduardo Doryan, President of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund.

Mario Ossandon, Undersecretary of Social Protection in Chile, Carmelo Mesa Lago, ILO First Prize for Decent Work, 2007, Laís Abramo and Marta Cabrera, Director of the Cuban National Social Security Institute participated in the second part.

One of the most controversial issues discussed during the debate was the proposal to renationalize Argentina's private pension system, a topic which will undoubtedly be subject to further attention and analysis once more details about its conception are known.

QUATRRAIN AMERICAS also participated in the management board of the CISS, in which Miguel Angel Fernandez presented a report of its 2008 activities and its plans and expectations for 2009. QUA-



Mario Ossandon, Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Laís Abramo and Marta Cabrera participated at the round table organized by QUATRRAIN AMERICAS.



Labour and Social Security Minister of the Dominican Republic, Maximiliano Puig, during an interview with QUATRRAIN NEWS

TRAIN AMERICAS and the Pan American Organization of Health presented their respective joint activities and goals. Future areas of collaboration were concretely identified by the institutions which were represented in the meeting.

Maximiliano Puig, Labour and Social Security Minister of the Dominican Republic, offered an interview to QUATRRAIN NEWS, in which he highlighted the importance of achieving the goals outlined in the Hemispheric Agenda, and the relevance of educating and training all of the sectors involved. The entire text of the interview can be found in the GESS electronic platform at www.socialsecurityextension.org.

During the event, Vinicius Pinheiro, Principal Specialist of QUATRRAIN AMERICAS and former Secretary of Social Security in Brazil received an honorary recognition from the Ministry of Social Security and



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the National Association of Public Social Security Entities (ANEPREM) for his role in the development of social security in the Americas.

RIO DE JANEIRO

SOCIAL SECURITY ACTUARIAL COLLOQUIUM

136 participants came together in early November to take part in a week-long training session on “Actuarial Methods Applied to Social Security” at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). They included master students in actuary from three universities in Rio de Janeiro, together with professionals from Brazilian as well as African institutions.

This was the first Social Security Actuarial Colloquium and it was organized in cooperation with the Mathematics and Statistics Institute (IME) of the UERJ, the Brazilian Actuarial Institute (IBA), the Inter American Social Security Conference (CISS) and the Social Security Ministry of Brazil. The event was coordinated by Prof. Narcisa Santos of IME-UERJ.

The idea of the seminar stemmed from the necessity of incorporating social security into the contents of actuarial courses given at universities. It should be noted that these are, by and large, exclusively aimed at developing private sector professionals in the fields of health, life and private pensions.

The vision is for the colloquium to be organized annually and become a part of the established curricula of actuarial courses in Rio de Janeiro. Through this initiative, QUATRRAIN AMERICAS extends



Participants of the Social Security Actuarial Colloquium in Rio de Janeiro.

its influence to the development of future generations of actuaries who will enter the labour market with knowledge of the fundamental principles of social security systems defended by the ILO within the framework of the Decent Work Agenda.

In her closing speech, IBA President, Natalie Hurtado reiterated the commitment to continued collaboration with QUATRRAIN AMERICAS in training activities and with keeping abreast of innovations for current and future generations of actuaries. All of the materials presented at the seminars can be found at the event’s website: <http://www.ime.uerj.br/jornadaactuarial/>



Natalie Hurtado, President of Brazilian Institute of Actuaries (IBA), addresses the participants at the closing of the Social Security Actuarial Colloquium in Rio de Janeiro.

RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZILIAN PENSION FUND CONGRESS

QUATRRAIN AMERICAS took part in the Brazilian Pension Fund Congress which was held from the 3rd to the 5th of November. It was sponsored by the Brazilian Association of Pension Funds and brought together close to 2.5 thousand national and international participants in Rio de Janeiro.

Notably, expert Vinicius Pinheiro gave a presentation on the impact of the international financial crisis on pension fund yields in Latin America and on the recent reforms in Mexico, Chile, Argentina and Peru.

The expert from QUATRRAIN AMERICAS argued for the urgency of expanding basic social security for everyone, which is to serve as an anti cyclical social policy to cushion the effects of financial and economic shocks and to preserve social, political and institutional stability.

TURIN

TRAINING IN SOCIAL SECURITY FOR LABOUR UNIONS

Last October, QUATRRAIN AMERICAS collaborated with ACTRAV-Turin in the implementation of a Social Security Training Module for Trade Union Workers which was organized by Jesus Garcia. The first two weeks of the course in Turin hosted Ernesto Murro, president of the Bank for Social Protection of Uruguay, Walter Arighi, and Argentinean Secretary of Social Security among other experts in the program.

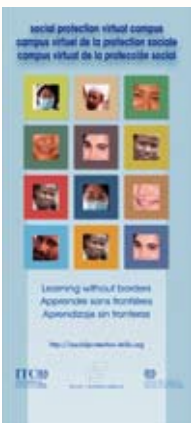


Ernesto Murro, President of BPS of Uruguay, presenting before the participants of the Social Security Training Module for Trade Union Workers .

On the 24th of October, a videoconference between Turin, Lima and Geneva was organized to exchange insights and conclusions between the group of trade union workers in Turin, the group of participants of the course on Strategies for Social Protection Expansion in Lima and QUATRRAIN AMERICAS in Geneva.

VIRTUAL SOCIAL SECURITY CAMPUS

E-LEARNING COURSE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT



18 participants from 9 countries completed the 5 month e-learning course on “Development of Social Security Policies and Management” which was conducted through the Virtual Social Security Campus.

The course was administered by Francesco Argenio from the Turin Centre and benefitted from the participation of Alvaro Castro Gutierrez and Pablo Casali as tutors.

The subjects covered included; introduction to social security, financing, social security management, pension and health systems.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION 1. PRAIA (CABO VERDE)

DEVELOPING SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES

Leonesa Fortes, president of the National Institute of Social Protection, participated in the Actuarial Social Security Colloquium in Rio de Janeiro.



Leonesa Fortes, INPS President of Cabo Verde and Hernando Perez Montas, Dominican actuary at the Actuarial Social Security Colloquium in Rio de Janeiro.

Her involvement is a result of the training event on “Policy-making on Social Security” organized by QUATRRAIN AMERICAS in collaboration with the Security Ministry of Brazil, the Sub Regional Office of the ILO for Sahel, located in Dakar, and the Turin Centre.

The course was aimed at 31 participants from the INPS, the Finance Ministry and the National Social Pension Centre. The topics covered ranged from principles and concepts of social security, benefit plan design, financing and financial management, the economic, social and demographic context of social security systems, to international reform trends and strate-

gies to expand social security coverage.

As a consequence of this event, a visit was organized between two members of the Finance Ministry and the Brazilian Social Security Ministry, which is offering its support in the development of actuarial valuation for public officials and in structuring the finance fund.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION 2 DILI (EAST TIMOR)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Upon invitation of the UNDP, QUATRRAIN AMERICAS participated in a technical assistance mission to implement a pension system in the youngest country in the world - East Timor, in cooperation with the Sub Regional ILO Office for South East Asia, located in Bangkok (Thailand).

Since its independence in 1999, this small country of a population of less than 1 million has received technical, financial and military support from the United Nations through its various agencies.

In September, within the context of South-South cooperation, the Ministry of Social Solidarity of East Timor received support from the Social Security Ministry of Brazil to implement a universal benefit program for the elderly of more than 60 years of age and for the disabled. The program is already in force and currently offers benefits equal to USD 20 per month to all those who fulfill the requirements, consistent with the basic social security pillar.

An East Timor delegation participated

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in an October workshop in Turin dealing with pension regimes and also conducted a study visit in Brazil to discuss different possible options for the country.

As a follow-up to the process, QUATRRAIN AMERICAS and the Sub Regional Office of the ILO in Bangkok were in Dili from the 2nd to the 5th of December, attending a working group of public officials from the government to develop a proposal for the new system.

The working group established the general framework of a social security system with a distributive regime and a scaled premium financial system which covers public officials, members of the military, policemen, parliamentarians, judges,

members of the judiciary and legislature as well as private workers in the formal sector of the economy with contributive capacity.

The proposal was presented to the Prime Minister, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, and to an audience composed of the primary ministers and authorities of the country, together with representatives of international agencies such as the World Bank, the IMF and UNDP among other United Nations agencies. They all came together for the workshop held at the Memorial Hall of Dili.

At the event's opening, the Prime Minister thanked the cooperation granted by the ILO and the UNDP throughout the pro-

cess and affirmed that one of the primary advantages of being a young country is to learn from, and avoid others' mistakes.

In this setting, an actuarial study will be conducted to substantiate the proposal and prepare a package aimed at developing the actuarial and financial fields in the country.



Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao and UNDP Director for East Timor Akbar Usmani at the opening session of the seminar dealing with Policy Options for Social Security.

Table 1: ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2007/2008

ACTIVITIES	PLACE	DATE	N° OF PART.	% WOMEN
1. Policy making and Management of Social Security Schemes	Brasilia & Rio de Janeiro	22-26/10/07	18	44.4
2. Actuarial Methods Applied to Social Security	Chile	25/11/07-06/06/08	10	30.0
3. Actuarial Methods and Social Security Financing	Recife	25-28/03/08	60	35.0
4. Social Security for Civil Servants	Belo Horizonte	14-16/05/08	56	30.4
5. Information Management applied to Collection of Social Security Contributions and Compliance	Montevideo	19-23/05/08	43	39.5
6. Informality and Social Protection	Mexico	23-25/06/08	56	35.7
7. Social Protection Extension to Rural Workers	Belem	14-18/07/08	32	40.6
8. Social Security Policies	Praia	21-25/07/08	31	48.4
9. Actuarial Techniques and Social Security Financing	Cartagena	19/08/2008	29	31.0
10. Actuarial Techniques and Social Security Financing	Quito	01-05/09/08	35	42.9
11. Policy-making and Management of Social Security	E-Learning Course	30/06-28/11/08	18	44.4
12. Strategies for the Extension of Social Protection	Lima	20-31/10/08	27	40.7
13. Actuarial Social Security Colloquium	Rio de Janeiro	03-06/11/08	135	47.8
14. Best Practices in Social Security Collection	Lima	24-28/11/08	24	50.0
15. Workshop on Actuarial Methods and Social Security Financing	Kingston	01-05/12/08	37	51.4
TOTAL			612	41.3

Table 2: List of participants by country

Countries	N° of Participants
Southern Cone	316
Argentina	24
Brazil	240
Chile	20
Uruguay	19
Paraguay	13
Andean Countries	95
Bolivia	6
Colombia	7
Ecuador	51
Peru	23
Venezuela	8
Caribbean	44
Antigua and Barbuda	2
Aruba	8
Barbados	2
Belize	2
Jamaica	13
Surinam	2
Bermuda	2
Guyana	3
Anguilla	2
Dominica	3
Saint Kits and Nevis	3
Saint Lucia	2
Central America and Mexico	56
Panama	9
Nicaragua	5
Guatemala	5
El Salvador	7
Costa Rica	9
Honduras	11
Mexico	10
PALOPS	69
Angola	10
Cabo Verde	44
Guinea Bissau	6
Mozambique	5
Sao Tome & Principe	4
Others	32
TOTAL	612

Contacts

Geneva

Alejandro Bonilla
✉ bonilla@ilo.org
☎ +41-227996633

Anne Drouin
✉ drouin@ilo.org
☎ 41+227996375

Vinícius Pinheiro
✉ pinheiro@ilo.org
☎ +41-227997154

Turin

Ginette Forgues
✉ g.forgues@itcilo.org
☎ +39-0116936545

Lynn Villacorta
✉ l.villacorta@itcilo.org
☎ +39-0116936790

Félix Martin Daza
✉ f.martin@itcilo.org
☎ +39-0116936576

Francesco Argenio
✉ f.argenio@itcilo.org
☎ +39-011 693 6938

Americas

Fabio Durán Valverde
✉ duanf@oit.org.pe
☎ +511- 6150300

Fabio Bertranou
✉ bertranou@oitcile.cl
☎ +562- 5805561

Sergio Velasco
✉ velasco@sj.oit.or.cr
☎ +506- 207 8700



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