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## Tripartite Workshop on Pension System in Serbia

15 – 17 July 2009  
Belgrade, Serbia

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# Tripartite Workshop on Pension System in Serbia



## Background

Reforming social security system is an unfinished agenda in Serbia. In 2008, three pension funds (for the employees, the self-employed and the farmers) have been merged into a single scheme. However, Serbia is facing a complex challenge in determining the right direction of the future course of social security system.

The Serbian pension scheme has already achieved a matured population structure. Only 1.25 contributors are supporting one pensioner. The relatively large number of pensioners is due to the pensioners who have short contribution periods but managed to be eligible for pensions and certain categories of workers who have higher pension rates at earlier retirement age. In addition, an increasing number of workers retire early on grounds of disability for work.

The pension scheme in Serbia is heavily subsidized by the general budget. The contributions from workers and employers cover only two-thirds of the total expenditure and the remaining one-third is financed by the transfer from the general budget. In the context of a rapidly ageing population, the present pension scheme involves a potential problem with its long-term sustainability.

Compliance with the social security legislation needs to be enhanced. Under-reporting of the contributory wages is wide spread. There is a lack of coordination between social security organizations and tax authority which is responsible for the collection of social security contributions. Weak coordination between the former three funds is another major problem. For efficient services, there is a need to establish a unified data-base of members' records.

Currently, pension reform is a high on the national agenda of Serbia. There is a plan to develop a new Law on Pension System in 2009. A Working Group has been established to develop the draft policy and strategy. Since 2008, there have been active debates on the level of pensions, retirement ages, and the method of pension indexation.

In order to support the process of pension reform, the International Training Centre of the ILO is delivering a three-day workshop in Belgrade, Serbia. The workshop will focus on the key issues related to pension schemes, including the relationship between public and private pension provision, the structure of benefits, sustainable financing and governance of pension schemes.



## Learning objectives

The aims of the workshop are:

o to understand the general principles of the pension system and to improve knowledge on international trends on pension issues through comparative analysis and experiences of other schemes.

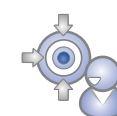
o to enhance the capacity of the government and social partners in formulating various options on pension reform and assessing them.



## Participants

The workshop is aimed at key staff of pension schemes, officials from key ministries responsible for the planning and supervising

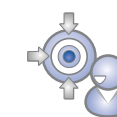
social protection systems, and representatives of the social partners involved in the activities related to social security.



## Contents

The contents consist of modules on the following topics:

- Principles of social security
- Key factors in old-age, invalidity and survivors' benefits
- The reform to sustain the pension system in the context of ageing population



## Methodology

An action-oriented, highly participative approach will be taken throughout the workshop, with particular attention to sharing international experience with a view to its adaptation and practical application.

Training methods will combine lectures, discussions and group work.



## Pre-requisites

Participants are expected to have basic knowledge of pension schemes and some working experience in the field of social security or public pension fund management. The teaching language of the workshop is English. Translation to Serbian will be provided.

## Dates and venue

The meeting will take place in Belgrade, Serbia, 15-17 July 2009.

The Conference venue is:

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Address: Beograd, Bilecka 57  
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