

Development of an ILO Global Information Network

Objective: to strengthen the ILO's capacity to deliver high quality information to ILO officials, ILO constituents and users of ILO information by modernizing and harmonizing the ILO's information services.

It will:

1. **increase ILO field officials' access to information and knowledge** by making available the electronic information resources purchased by DCOMM/INFORM.
2. **improve the visibility of ILO knowledge and ILO values** as published in its knowledge products (publications or databases) by providing a centralized access point.
3. **improve the impact and reach of information and knowledge coming from the regions** both within the region and across the regions worldwide.
4. **ensure that local (regional) information is readily available to staff at headquarters** and across the regions, and **can be readily used in ILO research**.
5. **showcase the ILO as a centre of excellence** through its comprehensive, worldwide coverage of empirical literature on the world of work.
6. **ensure that ILO field offices will benefit more quickly from new information technologies** used to provide information services.
7. **reduce or eliminate costs to the field offices** by eliminating duplication of effort, eliminating the purchase of duplicate copies of electronic information resources, and reducing costs on software and IT support.
8. **simplify access to ILO publications** by creating a "one-stop shop": local databases will be integrated into Labordoc which provides direct access to the full text of ILO publications.
9. **allow information specialists in the regions and at headquarters to share their experiences** and exchange ideas on good practice.

The ideas which are driving the development of an ILO Global Information Network are to:

Encourage and provide a forum for ILO information specialists to work as a team

The Information Network is an example of knowledge sharing through a community of practice. Knowledge and information is crucial to the effectiveness of the ILO and the quality of its work, and information specialists need to work together within the regions and over regional boundaries so that ILO staff have the best possible information services.

Make ILO knowledge easier to access by constituents and other external users

The ILO's assets are its knowledge and expertise and we must make certain that access to it is as easy as possible. Although there is a huge interest in ILO knowledge, both in what it collects and what it produces, ease of access governs what information users will use. Information users will not spend lots of time trying to find information and they won't spend time making sure that they have everything. Making access as easy as possible is essential and a single database and easy to use online information resources are key to strengthening the visibility of ILO publications and knowledge.