

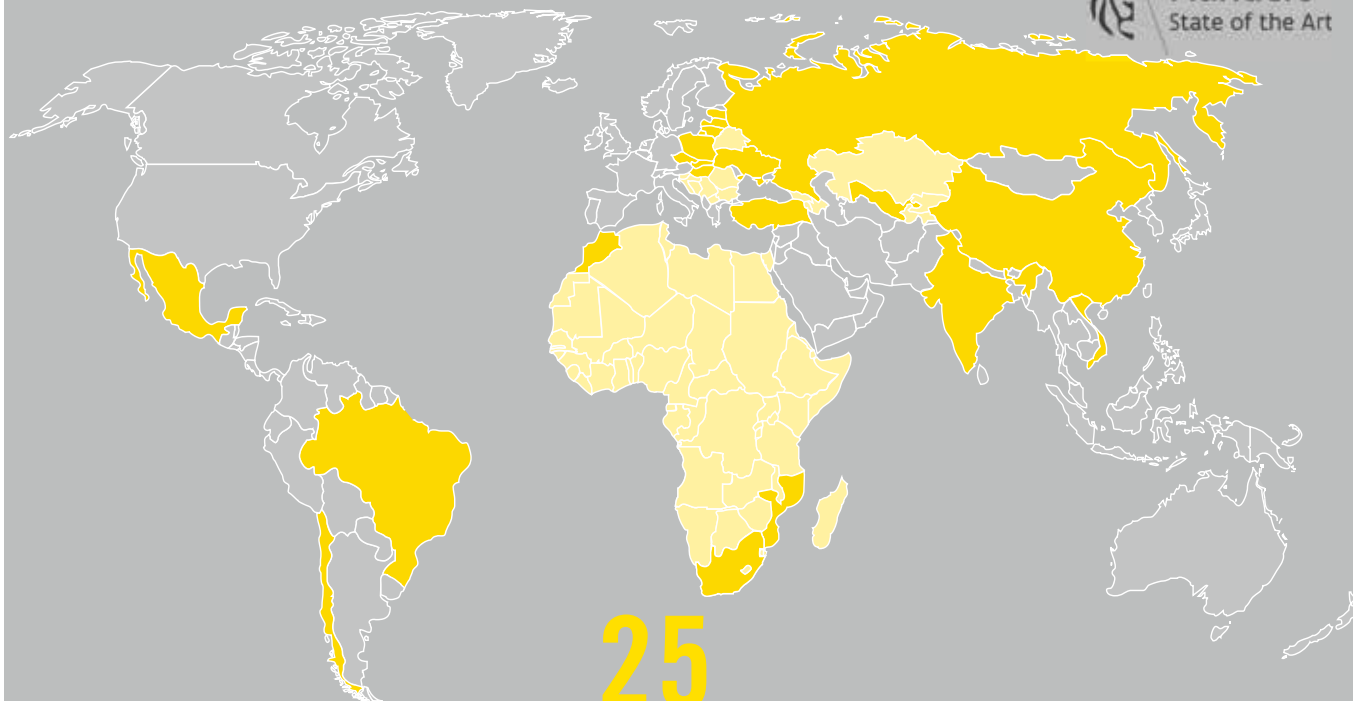


International
Labour
Organization

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS



Flanders
State of the Art



25
years of
cooperation
1991–2016



Foreword by the ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder

Flanders is a long-standing partner of and donor to the ILO. Our cooperation began in the early nineties, firstly with the International Training Centre in Turin, and developed gradually into a full-fledged development partnership. In 1997, the ILO became the first official multilateral partner of Flanders. Our collaboration has intensified since, and we have been able to work together on a variety of shared priorities such as the promotion of tripartism and social dialogue, entrepreneurship and environmentally sustainable development. We have implemented targeted actions in many countries, including South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi, Brazil, India and Central and Eastern Europe.

Today, the government of Flanders remains an important partner of the ILO in its pursuit of Decent Work for all. This brochure, published by the ILO Office, commemorates our 25 years of cooperation: it highlights the main milestones, from the early initiatives through to our most recent joint actions.

I look forward to consolidate and strengthen our partnership in the time ahead. The signature of a new cooperation agreement between the Government of Flanders and the ILO this March will most certainly contribute to that end.

Guy Ryder

ILO Director-General

Foreword by the Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Geert Bourgeois



My government is happy and proud to be celebrating 25 years of cooperation between Flanders and the International Labour Organization this year. Our first cooperation agreement dates back to 1991 and at the time it was merely focused on training and the exchange of expertise in order to promote decent work.

As time went by however, ties between Flanders and the ILO grew stronger. Over the years, we have implemented projects in Africa, Asia, South America, as well as Central and Eastern Europe. In the period between 2010 and 2014, Flanders was ranked the 18th extra-budgetary donor worldwide of the International Labour Organization which underscores the importance the government of Flanders attaches to this partnership and to reaching the goal of decent work for all.

With the new cooperation agreement, which ILO Director-General Guy Ryder and I signed on the 7th of March 2016, our cooperation will focus even more on the most vulnerable members of society when it comes to decent working conditions, namely women and youth.

I look forward to further develop and strengthen Flanders' partnership with the ILO in the years to come. It is with great pleasure that I present the following overview of the longstanding and fruitful relationship between Flanders and the International Labour Organization.

Geert Bourgeois
Minister President of Flanders



1991: Signing of the first cooperation agreement with the International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training of the ILO (from left to right: Diane Verstraeten, Eric Maertens, François Trémeaud)

Some History

In 1991 Flanders and the International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training of the ILO in Turin (now ILO's International Training Centre) signed their first agreement. The relations initially focused on study tours to Flanders and training sessions in Geneva and Turin organized with the support of the Government of Flanders. Gradually, Flanders started financing long-term projects implemented by the Training Centre in Turin and the ILO headquarters.

The first fully fledged Cooperation Agreement between Flanders and the ILO was signed on 2 October 1997 by the Minister-President Luc Van den Brande and the ILO Director-General Michel Hansenne.

On 11 December 2001 the Director of the International Training Centre, Mr. François Trémeaud, and the Flemish Minister of Internal Affairs, Civil Service and Foreign Policy, Mr. Paul Van Grembergen, signed a new Agreement setting up an ILO-Flanders Trust Fund, open to fund proposals both from the Turin Centre but also from ILO departments. The Fund was valid for an initial 5-year period (2001-2005) and was renewed on the basis of a joint review for another five years. The Fund received contributions from Flanders to be used to finance ILO projects all over the world.

In March 2011, the Government of Flanders and the ILO signed a new Framework Agreement, which provided a broad and coherent policy framework for all voluntary contributions from the Government of Flanders, both Trust Fund contributions and technical development assistance.

In March 2016 that agreement was replaced by a new cooperation agreement between the Government of Flanders and the ILO. From now on, financial support contributed by the Government of Flanders to the Flanders / ILO Trust Fund will be used for ILO's activities in the field of decent work with a focus on women and youth. Moreover, the agreement creates room for voluntary contributions via Flanders' bilateral development cooperation programmes, in which specific priority countries are targeted (South Africa, Mozambique and Malawi).



*Mr Kris Peeters,
the Minister-President
of the Government of Flanders,
and Mr Juan Somavia,
the Director-General of the ILO,
signing the new Framework
Agreement in March 2011
at the ILO Headquarters in Geneva*

1988

First transposition
of an ILO Convention
(159) by Flanders

1992

Study visit in Flanders
focussed on female
workers

19



1991

Cooperation Agreement between Flanders
and the International Centre for Advanced
Technical and Vocational Training of ILO
in Turin. First study visit in Flanders and
training in Turin and Geneva

1994–1995

Collaboration with the ILO liaison
office in Brussels. First technical
cooperation programmes with
Central and Eastern Europe



*Mr Michel Hansenne,
Director-General of the ILO,
and Mr Luc Van den Brande,
Minister-President of the
Government of Flanders,
signing the first fully-fledged
Cooperation Agreement
on 2 October 1997.*

97

First Cooperation Agreement between Flanders and the ILO

2005

Extension of the ILO/Flanders Trust Fund Agreement

2016

New Cooperation Agreement between Flanders and the ILO

2001

Establishment of the ILO/Flanders Trust Fund Agreement

2011

Framework Agreement between Flanders and the ILO



Overview of the development projects supported by the Government of Flanders

Baltic States

(2002-2006)

Social dialogue, gender equality, people with disabilities, entrepreneurship

Central and Eastern Europe

(1993-2010)

Gender equality, social protection, vocational training, employers' activities, SMEs development, social dialogue, employment services

Morocco

(2003-2006)

Women entrepreneurship

Mexico

(2013-2015)

Green jobs

Brazil

(2011-2013)

Forced labour, green jobs, social inclusion and sustainable development

Chile

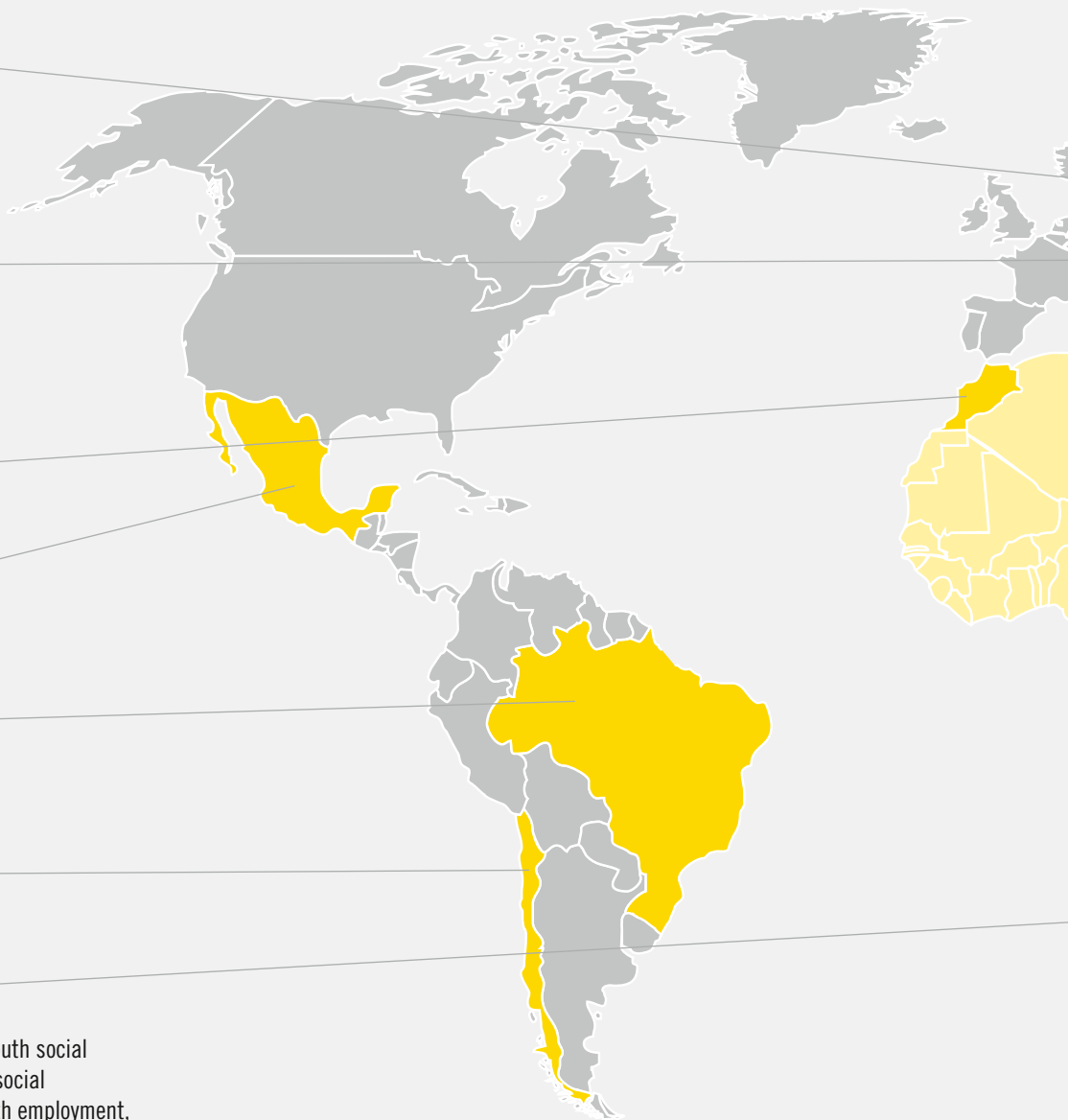
(1997-2006)

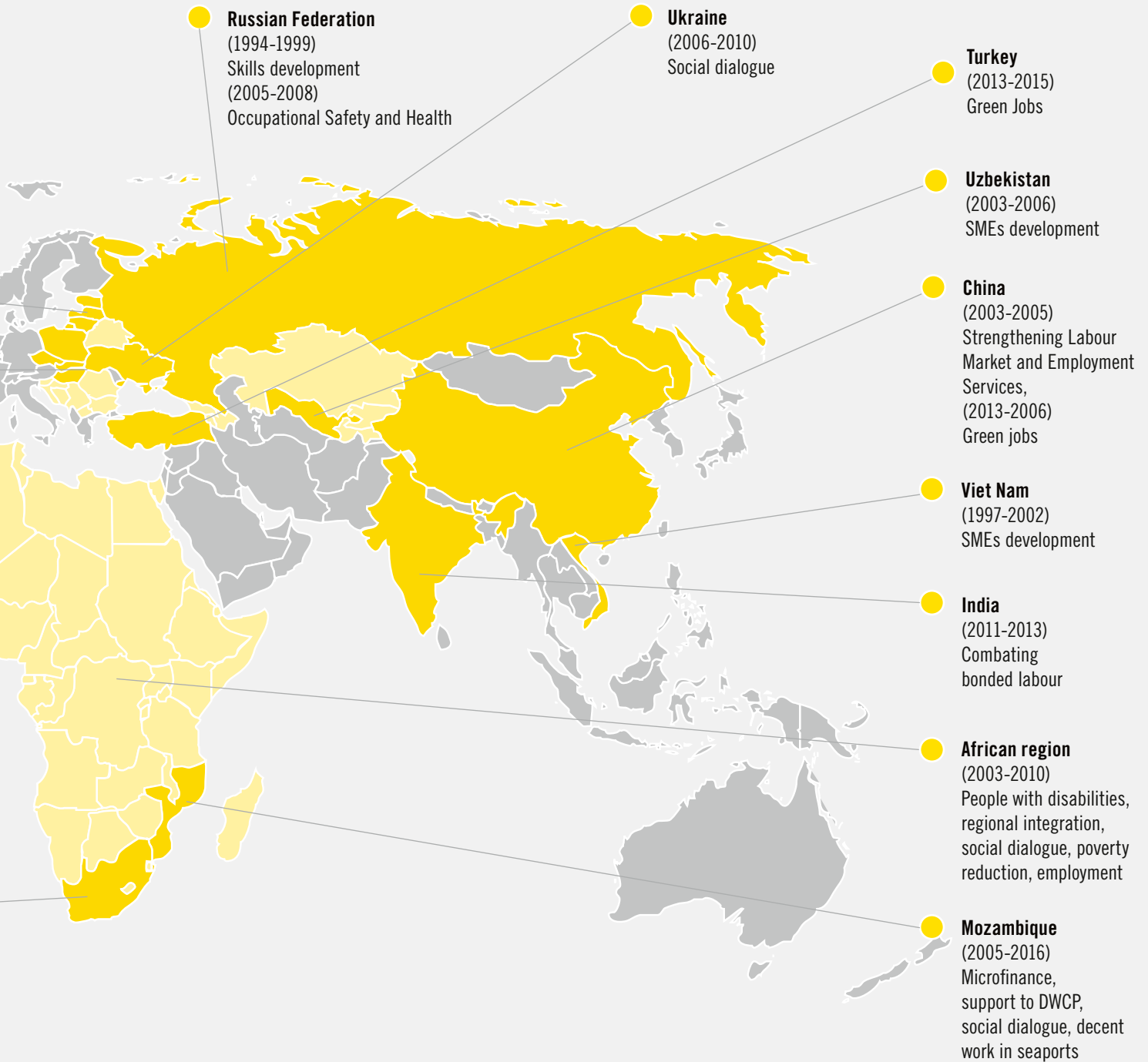
SMEs development

South Africa

(1995-2017)

Anti-discrimination, gender equality, youth social entrepreneurship, SMEs development, social economy, decent work in seaports, youth employment, poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS prevention





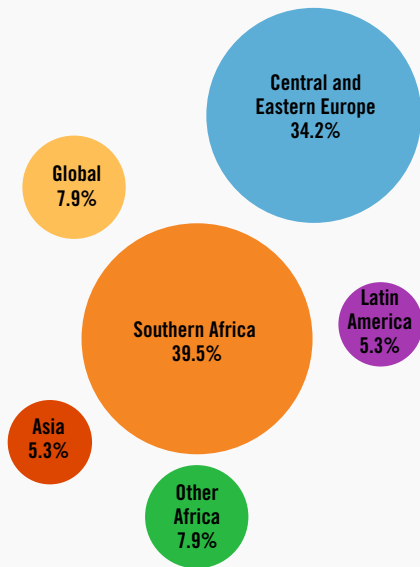
Major multi-bilateral Development Partners of the ILO (plus the EC) in 2010-2015

	1	United States		16	Finland
	2	European Commission		17	Germany
	3	Australia		18	Belgium (Flanders)
	4	Netherlands		19	Luxembourg
	5	Norway		20	Brazil
	6	Sweden		21	Republic of Korea
	7	Denmark		22	Italy
	8	Canada		23	Russian Federation
	9	Switzerland		24	Portugal
	10	France		25	New Zealand
	11	Belgium (Federal level)		26	Kuwait
	12	Japan		27	Algeria
	13	United Kingdom		27	China
	14	Ireland		28	Panama
	15	Spain		29	Czech Republic

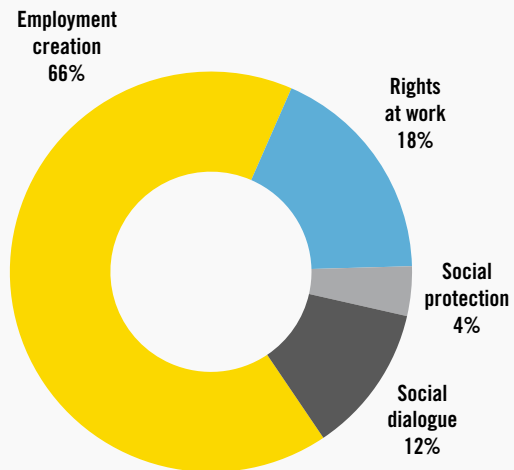
Flanders' funding to the ILO is mainly invested in the creation of decent jobs. A considerable share is also dedicated to the protection of fundamental rights at work and the promotion of social dialogue. Comparatively fewer projects are financed on social protection, as this remains largely a federal competence.

Initially, Flemish development cooperation did not focus on a particular geographic region. Numerous projects were therefore undertaken in Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. Starting from the second half of the 2000s, Flemish development cooperation focused mainly on three partner countries in **Southern Africa**: Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa. Flanders' cooperation with these countries is concentrated around the sectors **of employment, health care and agriculture and food security**. Moreover, several other projects were implemented with a specific thematic focus at the global or regional level.

Flemish contributions by geographic region



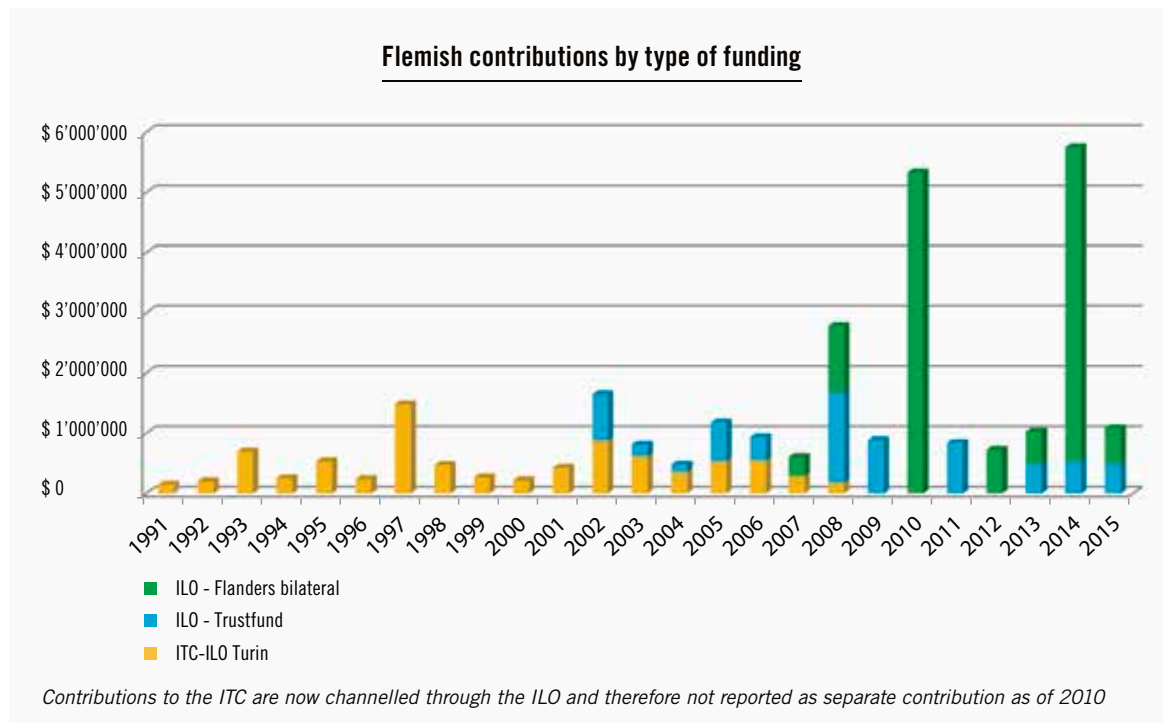
Flemish contributions by strategic objective



A long-lasting and robust cooperation

Assistance from the Government of Flanders to the ILO comes in the form of Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation (XBTC) programmes, a funding modality on top of the regular budget provided by Member States which is entirely dedicated to development cooperation projects. Contributions are channelled either through the Flanders / ILO Trust Fund or via Flanders' bilateral development cooperation programmes, with priority to South Africa, Mozambique and Malawi.

Since 1991, the Government of Flanders has provided more than US\$ 28 million to the ILO and the ITC in voluntary contributions.



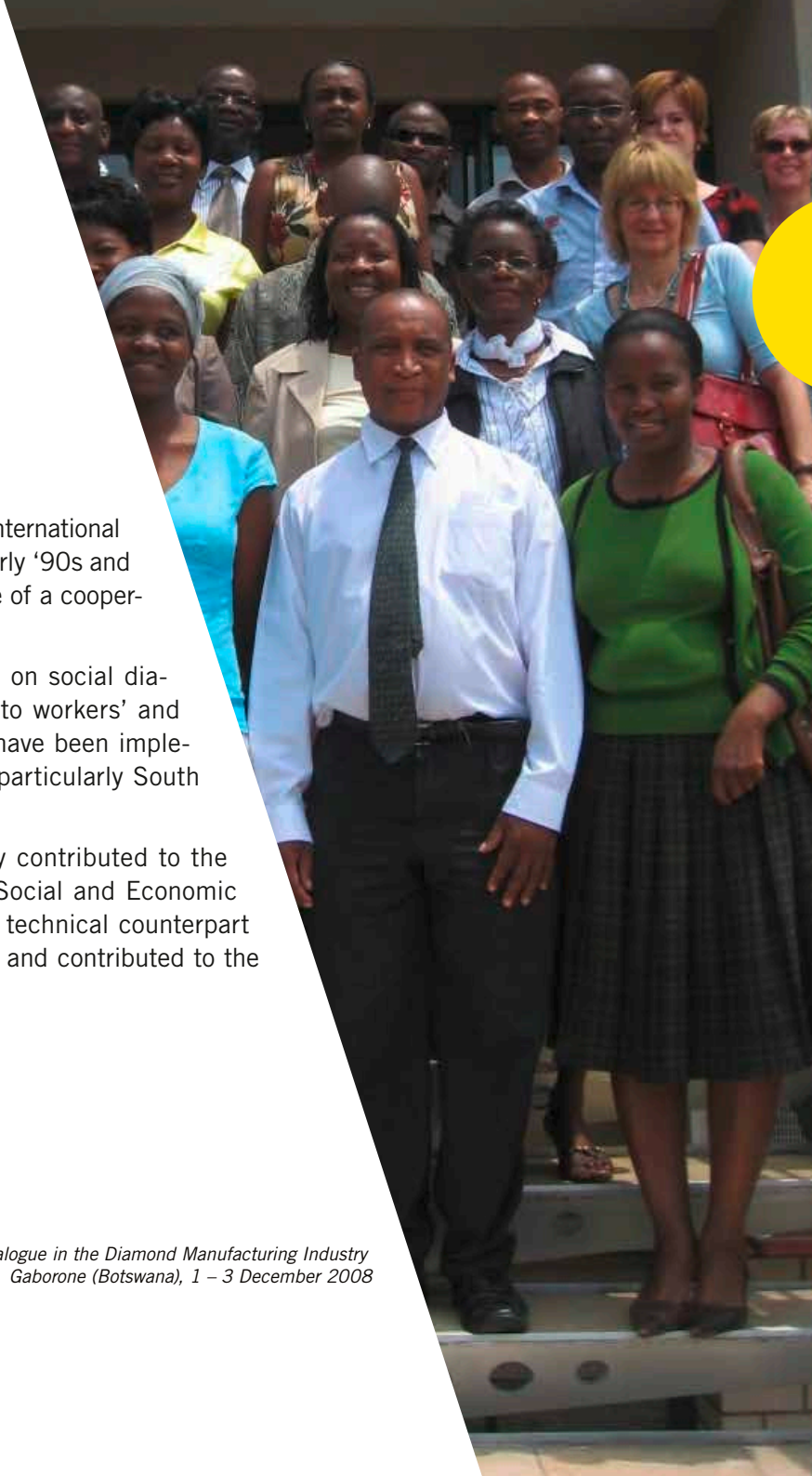
Cooperation with the International Training Centre of the ILO

The cooperation of Flanders with the ILO International Training Centre in Italy goes back to the early '90s and was formalised in 1991 with the signature of a cooperation agreement.

The main areas of collaboration focused on social dialogue, enterprise creation, and support to workers' and employers' organisations. Most projects have been implemented in the Southern African region (particularly South Africa) and in Eastern Europe (Ukraine).

Flemish partner institutions have greatly contributed to the training programmes. In particular, the Social and Economic Council of Flanders (SERV) acted as the technical counterpart for projects in the field of social dialogue and contributed to the delivery of all training workshops.

*Participants to the raining Course on Social Dialogue in the Diamond Manufacturing Industry
Gaborone (Botswana), 1 – 3 December 2008*



A photograph of two workers in high-visibility green and yellow clothing and hard hats. The woman on the left is wearing a yellow hard hat with a logo and safety glasses. The man on the right is wearing a yellow hard hat with a red logo and safety glasses. They are both wearing green jackets with yellow reflective stripes. The man is holding a walkie-talkie. They are standing in front of a large industrial structure, possibly a building or a piece of machinery, with a yellow circle partially visible on the left edge of the image.

Highlights: Strengthening Social Dialogue in Ukraine

The project was implemented in full collaboration with Flanders between 2006 and 2007. Two national workshops to strengthen the capacity of the National Tripartite Socio Economic Council in formulating employment policies were organised in Kiev and were complemented by study visits to Flanders. 119 participants benefited from this activity. The Social and Economic Council of Flanders actively participated to all activities and the University of Leuven contributed to the workshops.

Thanks to its success, a second phase of the project was implemented in 2008-2010. The project aimed at strengthening social dialogue in the design, implementation and monitoring of employment policies and labour legislation.

On-going cooperation projects in Southern Africa

Private and Public Procurement and the Social Economy - PPSE (US\$ 2.4 million - 2014–2016)

The promotion of Decent Work goes hand-in-hand with social enterprise development. The project focuses on social economy businesses operating in the KwaZulu-Natal and Free State Provinces (South Africa) and develops partnerships with a range of local actors such as procurement and CSR officers in governments and businesses, and trainers and training coordinators in social business development's organisations.

Promotion of Decent Work in Southern African Ports – Phase II (US\$ 590,000 - 2013–2016)

The scope of the project is to boost competitiveness in the transport sector through encouraging social dialogue, workplace improvement and skills training in the ports of South Africa and Mozambique.

Job creation through SME development - A knowledge-sharing project (US\$ 730,000 - 2015–2017)

This project is expected to establish a knowledge-sharing network around the common goal of job creation through the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa, Malawi and Mozambique. This will result in an improved environment for SMEs, which will facilitate their formalization and development.

Sustainable Enterprise Development Facility for Job Creation - SEDF (US\$ 4.5 million - 2014–2016)

The project aims to create more than 2,500 decent jobs for men and women in two South African provinces through entrepreneurship promotion and the development of micro, small and medium enterprises in sectors and value chains with employment potential. For more information visit: www.sedfafrica.co.za.



Highlights: Promotion of Decent Work in Southern African Ports

The project, co-funded by the Flemish and Dutch governments, aimed at boosting competitiveness and improve conflict resolution in the transport sector through encouraging social dialogue, workplace improvement and skills training in the South-African Ports of Durban, Richards Bay and Maputo. The project started in 2011 and will be concluded in 2016. The Social and Economic Council of Flanders (SERV) hosted several delegations of the social partners of the ports of Durban, Richards Bay and Maputo for study trips to different ports in Flanders (Antwerpen, Gent, Zeebrugge) and the Netherlands (Rotterdam).

The partners are reviewing possibilities to continue the collaboration by extending the project further with a third phase in the port of Maputo.



Most recently started project: Decent Work and the Care Economy

With the support of the Government of Flanders, the ILO launched on 1 January 2016 a new project on decent work in the care economy. The project will span across eight countries and three geographic regions and targets primarily men and women working in the care economy.

The project aims at promoting a more equitable redistribution of care-giving responsibilities among genders and the recognition of women's unpaid contribution to the economy through the provision of both short- and long-term care. An awareness-raising campaign – “Share the Care” – will be developed in conjunction with key international events, global and regional dialogues will be organized with multiple stakeholders, and technical assistance solutions will be piloted to promote family-friendly policies.

In the near future, the care economy is expected to become an important driver for employment generation also in the formal sector. For this reason, the project aims also at strengthening the capacity of the ILO to promote decent care jobs, by contributing to the ILO's global initiative Women at Work. This initiative, one of seven being launched ahead of the ILO's 100th anniversary, will generate innovative evidence-based research and promote large-scale advocacy in favour of decent work for women.



Beyond funding

Over the years, many Flemish partner institutions were involved in the cooperation between Flanders and the ILO. This collaboration involved numerous resource persons from Flemish institutions, who contributed with their expertise to the planning and implementation of joint capacity building programmes. Herewith is an overview of the most prominent ones:

The Social and Economic Council of Flanders (SERV)

The social partners in Flanders are involved in the implementation of technical cooperation projects, and they are represented by the Social and Economic Council of Flanders (SERV). The SERV is a leading European institution in the field of industrial relations and capacity building for social dialogue.



The International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin (ITC/ILO) and the SERV have been working together for years, developing a collaboration that has proved beneficial to both institutions. Cooperating with the SERV has allowed the Centre to mobilize and benefit from the expertise and best practices by a pre-eminent European institution in the field of industrial relations and capacity building in the area of social dialogue. Similarly, partnering with ITC/ILO has enabled the SERV to gain international expertise and to join an international network of technical cooperation providers, leading to new opportunities and its involvement in other international projects.



Antwerp / Flanders Port Training Center (APEC)

APEC, Antwerp / Flanders Port Training Center, is a non-profit organization with almost 40 years of experience in all aspects of port training on management level. Over the years, and thanks to a scholarship scheme supported by the Government of Flanders, the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation/Belgian Technical Cooperation (DGDC/BTC) and the Antwerp Port Authority, more than 14,000 people from 150 countries have come to Flanders to attend APEC standard seminars, tailor-made programmes and study visits.

Through the cooperation between APEC and the ILO – and in particular with its Training Centre in Turin – a large number of training courses and workshops have been organized, covering issues such as Safety and Health, Security, Working Conditions and Decent Work in the Maritime Industry. The main beneficiaries have been port workers, primarily from South Africa and Russia.

Flanders Trainee Programme

In 2001, the Government of Flanders launched a special programme to support the participation of young people from Flanders in internships at UN organizations, including at the ILO. So far, 43 candidates have undertaken an internship at the ILO with support from the Flanders Trainee Programme.

These interns have been based either at the ILO Headquarters in Geneva, at the ILO-Brussels or Pretoria offices, or at the International Training Centre in Turin.



*ILO interns photographed with the Director-General Mr Guy Ryder during the 2015 Interns Development Day
To the Director-General's right hand-side is Ms Amber van Dessel, beneficiary of the Flanders Trainee Programme*



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