

ORGANIZING TEAM BIOS



Fernando Baptista is an international consultant and researcher in Development Cooperation, with emphasis on networks, collective intelligence and the impact of the Internet and social media on practices of socio-economic organization. Among his projects are the design, implementation and facilitation of Internet-based strategies for virtual learning, networking and collaboration in order to further ILO activities on Social and Solidarity Economy, on South-South cooperation, and on Labour Migration. Another of his relevant works is the design and implementation of e-communication and social media strategies for UNOSSC, which aim at creating synchronisms and synergy among complementary South-South cooperation activities carried out within the UN system and with external partners. Fernando Baptista has twenty-one years' diversified experience with private enterprises, government, international organizations, non-profits, social movements and network-based organizations, and an interdisciplinary background including International Development, Social Sciences, Management and Technology.



Francesca Biasiato. Gender expert with the ITC-ILO since 2018, managing face-to-face and online capacity-building activities. Her portfolio focuses especially on non-discrimination, pay equity and violence and harassment and she's a certified Participatory Gender Audit Facilitator. Before joining the ITC she worked within projects in the area of gender-responsive welfare management, with a focus especially on care services, both with managing and technical roles. She is passionate about technology applied to learning and as a tool to empower individuals and knocks down barriers to inclusion and participation.



Cátia Teixeira de Sousa Cohen. General Coordinator of CASES - António Sérgio Cooperative for the Social Economy, where she has been working since 2010. She held technical positions in CONFAGRI - Confederação Nacional das Cooperativas Agrícolas e do Crédito Agrícola de Portugal (2009-2010) and in INSCOOP - Instituto António Sérgio para o Sector Cooperativo (2003-2009). Throughout her professional career, she has been part of programmes and projects promoting the social economy sector, particularly among the young public. She graduated in Law, in 2019, from the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon, and in Social Policy, in 2002, from the Higher Institute of Social and Political Sciences.



Linda Deelen is the Manager of the Enterprise, Microfinance and Local Development Programme (EMLD) of the International Training Centre of the ILO, managing a portfolio of training and capacity building activities in the areas of SME development, financial inclusion, rural and local development, green jobs, global supply chains, cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy. Before joining the Centre, Linda worked as enterprise specialist for the International Labour Organization, both at ILO headquarters in Geneva and in different field offices in Asia and Latin America. For over 20 years she provided technical support, training and advisory services to public and private institutions on private sector development with a particular focus on small and medium sized enterprises. Linda is the author and co-author of publications on women entrepreneurship, enterprise formalization and SME finance.



Roberto Di Meglio is a Senior Specialist at the International Labour Organization in Geneva. He mainly works on Local development and Social and Solidarity Economy.

He began his career with the ILO in 1989 working on cooperatives and local development in Argentina, Bolivia, Central America and the Caribbean, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. From 1999 to 2003 he was assigned to the ILO in Geneva where he coordinated the activities of the Local Economic Development Programme for Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. As LED Specialist in the ILO Office in Chile, from 2003 to 2008, he published several titles and articles on local economic development, supervised technical cooperation programmes and projects and promoted networking with other international organizations, training centres and academic institutions. Prior to his current position, he led a Project - Promotion of Decent Work and social cohesion - within the ILO International Training Center in Turin, Italy.

He co-authored and edited several ILO publications, in particular, "Social and Solidarity Economy: -building a common understanding" (2010); "Social and Solidarity Economy: Our common road towards Decent Work" (2011); Social and Solidarity Economy: An opportunity to enhance youth employment" (2013); "Social and Solidarity Economy: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Development (2014). He is co-editor of a web site, the "Collective Brain"



Martin Gasser is Senior Programme Officer at the International Training Centre of the ILO with focus on Local Economic Development, Rural Development and Social and Solidarity Economy. He has more than 20 years professional experience in the ILO and ITCILO with assignments in countries such as El Salvador, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Zambia, Madagascar, Cameroon, Iran, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Liberia and Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Egypt, Laos PDR. Martin is a certified facilitator by the International Association of Facilitators (IAF).



Josée-Anne Larue is a youth employment and skills development specialist with 10 years of work experience in the United Nations system, at the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) working on skills development and employability, decent work, youth employment, career guidance and also in humanitarian affairs in different roles, settings and country offices (Switzerland, Italy, Lebanon, Egypt and Burkina Faso); including several years based in the field with regular missions in the Middle East, North Africa and Sahel regions. She is now back at ILO Headquarters with the ILO Employment Department. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Master's degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution studies.



Carlos Ledesma is a lawyer specialized in international labour law, with studies in labour economics and anthropology. He was regional coordinator of human rights on behalf of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), which represents over 50 million workers (48 national trade unions in 21 countries). He has 11 years of professional experience in human rights at international level, providing technical support to trade unions in their advocacy vis-à-vis the ILO Normative and Supervisory System, especially concerning the Commission on the Application of Standards, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Moreover, he has 12 years of experience as tutor of distance and residential training courses organized by the International Training Center of the ILO. Currently, he is the Lead Researcher on Teleworking Global Research for the International Lawyers Assisting Workers Network (ILAW). He is author of studies related to freedom of association.



Juliana Maziero Castro is Brazilian, but lives in Turin working as a Programme Officer for the Enterprise, Microfinance and Local Development Department of the ITCILO. Having a double degree in international relations and economy and a masters in diplomacy and development cooperation, she has been taking part in the SSE Academies since 2014 as organizer and facilitator. Juliana works in the facilitation of events and development of materials in themes related to circular economy, sustainable entrepreneurship, local economic development, social economy, sustainable development and South-South and Triangular Cooperation and has extensive experience working with the PALOP.



Giulia Melina is an international Research Consultant and e-Learning Specialist with over six years of experience working on the development and implementation of face-to-face training events and distance learning activities for international organizations such as the ILO (HQ and field offices), ITC-ILO, UNITAR and IDLO. She loves to apply her e-Learning and training facilitation skills to the topics related to sustainable development, which is the common denominator to her areas of expertise and research interests, in particular: informal economy and inclusion of vulnerable groups, social and solidarity economy, MSMEs development, just transition and green jobs. Giulia holds a master's degree in Local and International Cooperation and Development from the University of Bologna and Free University of Brussels, and an advanced master's degree in Public Policy and Social Change from the University of Turin. An Italian national, Giulia works in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Linked-in: https://www.linkedin.com/in/giulia-melina-1a6a75104/?locale=en_US



Rute Mendes is a Programme Officer in the Employment and Policy Analysis Programme (EPAP) of the ITCILO since 2016. She is responsible for the cluster of activities on Youth Employment. Rute has been working at the ITCILO since 2007. Prior to joining the Employment Policy and Analysis Programme she was a member of the Evaluation Unit, where she was responsible for monitoring and evaluating the ITCILO training activities. Between 2000 and 2007, Rute worked at several European universities developing empirical research in the fields of labour economics and econometrics. Rute holds a Master in Labour Economics from the Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands and a degree in Economics from the University of Minho, Portugal (her home country).



Deolinda Meira is Ph.D. in Cooperative Law. She is an Associate Professor at the Polytechnic of Porto/ Porto Accounting and Business School (ISCAP). She is the Director of the Master "Management and Legal-Business Regime of the Social Economy." She is a researcher at the Center for Social and Organizational Studies of the Polytechnic of Porto (CEOS.PP), responsible for a research group on Social Economy. Her main fields of research include Cooperative Law and Social Economy Enterprises, in which respect she has published three books, two edited books, and more than 140 articles and chapters in journals and books, and active reviewer and editorial member in several international scientific journals. Among others, she is a member of *CIRIEC Portugal- Centro de Estudos de Estudos de Economia Pública e Social* (CEEPS), of the Scientific Committee of *CIRIEC Internacional - Centre International de Recherches et d'Information sur l'Economie Publique, Sociale et Coopérative*.



Guy Tchami has been working for the ILO for the past sixteen years. He joined the organization in 2001 in its Cooperatives Unit in Geneva, mainly working on project formulation, project backstopping, research and publications, etc. Between 2008-11, he worked for a DFID-funded programme assisting cooperatives and other self-help groups in Eastern and Southern Africa, based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He is currently based in Geneva as Cooperative Policy and Research Specialist working on development cooperation projects on cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy enterprises. He holds a Master's degree in Development Economics. He speaks French, and English, and as well as has working knowledge of Spanish.



Valentina Verze works at ILO as Technical Officer on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and the Future of Work. She joined the Cooperatives Unit at the Enterprises Department of ILO in Geneva in 2018 and her main areas of work include a range of SSE-related issues, such as: elaboration of research, analyses and reports; identification, design, implementation, technical backstopping of development cooperation projects; development of capacity building tools and strategies; and networking with ILO constituents and other partners in the field of SSE, decent work and inclusive and sustainable development. Between 2014 and 2018, Ms Verze worked as a manager of international development cooperation projects in the Mediterranean and the Middle East regions focusing mainly on local economic development, creation and support of SSE enterprises in local value chains, women's empowerment and refugees' rights. She holds a Joint Master's Degree in Social Economy from the University of Bologna in Italy and Reims Management School (RMS) in France.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TEAM



Cristiana Actis holds a degree in interpreting. From 1995 to 2000, she worked in the private sector. She has been at the International Training Centre of the ILO since August 2000. She carries out the organizational arrangements for a range of courses and projects. In recent years, she has become expert at coordinating big events, such as donor conferences in Thailand, Egypt and Ghana, and international conferences in Greece, Jordan and Italy. Before joining the Enterprise, Microfinance and Local Development Programme, she worked briefly for the International Labour Standards (ILS) Programme and the Employers' Activities Programme. She is currently the Assistant of the EMLD Programme. Cristiana works in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian.

Stefania Perniola holds a degree in interpreting and translation. Before joining the ITCILO, she had been working in the private and public sector, and as a free-lance interpreter and translator. She joined the International Training Centre of the ILO in October 2000.



Over the years, she gained expertise in the overall coordination of large events and training activities on the ITCILO Campus and abroad. She is currently working as an Activity Assistant for the Enterprise, Microfinance and Local Development Programme. Stefania is fluent in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Croatian.



Agnese Pallaro is a communication and eLearning consultant. She focuses her activity on communication, sustainability and Systemic Design approach applied to several topics, from local development to training. She is experienced in developing brand image, graphic design and the design of eLearning experiences. As a trainer, she has a particular interest in communication skills and strategies and is interested in supporting both organisations and individuals in upgrading their capacities of effective communication. Currently a consultant for the ITCILO and professor of Eco Packaging at Politecnico di Torino, Agnese has a Master's Degree in EcoDesign and a postgraduate degree in fundraising.
