

RIAL SEMINAR ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Rio de Janeiro, May 20 – 21, 2008

Panel 2: Summary of Presentation by COSATE

Strategies for promoting government alliances can be achieved through youth partnerships, the Brazilian federal government's youth job creation programs.

These partnerships are forged by executing agencies and the federal government's Ministry of Labour; execution projects for professional courses are presented and are then carried out under the supervision of what are called executing agencies. In reality, however, partnerships are forged with other entities that carry out courses; these are courses specifically targeted at low-income youth who would be unable to study these courses at professional schools on account of the high cost of that training at specialized institutes of learning.

Key stages for participation by social agents occur at every phase of the process: planning, implementation, and the diagnosis of potential shortcomings.

In certain cases, industries present the executing agencies with suggestions for specific courses and studies for a given area; these are then carried out and the graduates are employed by those companies. In others, the companies make part of their premises available and provide materials so the executing agencies can train the young people directly in the locations where, once the courses are completed, they can be selected for admission to the company staff or can be directed to another company in the same line of business.

A particularly successful example are those collective agreements signed with companies that require their statutes to contain clauses setting out a commitment to hire young people onto their staffs after they have earned qualifications at the companies themselves or through government training schemes. These agreements are signed by the unions and the companies involved, providing opportunities for first-time young jobseekers or for those unable to pay for professional education.

One very clear example of success was that of the Metal Workers' Union of Piracicaba, in the interior of the state of São Paulo: in its collective contract with the Caterpillar company, one of the clauses specifically addresses the company's commitment to hire young people as apprentices and to place some 30% of those young people in the company following a period of work experience, for whom this must be their first job.

ILO figures on youth in Latin America and the Caribbean

- There are almost 106 million young people; 58 million are a part of the workforce and, of these, 10 million are unemployed. The highest unemployment rate is found in the Central American subregion, in countries such as Panama (21%) and Costa Rica (15%).
- 30 million are employed in Latin America's informal economy. In Guatemala, for example, only 30% of young people work in small businesses, while 66.5% are employed by microenterprises, as independent workers, unpaid workers, and domestic employees.
- Another 48 million are inactive: in other words, they are seeking employment, frequently because they are still studying.
- An estimated 22 million young people neither study nor work. In other words, they are not currently occupied. This number includes 6 million unemployed who are not studying but are seeking work, plus another 16 million young people neither studying nor jobseeking. In this

subregion, it is estimated that in Honduras 32% of young people neither study nor work, the highest proportion in the whole of Latin America, followed by Guatemala with 30%.

- 81% of these 22 million young people live in cities, and 72% are women.
- Of the total youth population, 49 million study; of these, 13 million both study and work, 4 million study and unsuccessfully seek employment, and 32 million only study and are not in search of a job.
- This is the largest number of young people in the region's history. The population in this age group will continue to grow until 2015. It is also the young generation with the highest level of education ever.