



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
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International Training Centre



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Outcome Document

**UfM Training activity on
Investment facilitation, decent work and sustainable
development.**

11 – 14 June 2024, Turin, Italy



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Introduction

The training on Investment Facilitation and Sustainable Development was organized by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) with the support of the German Development Cooperation) and implemented by the International Training Center of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Turin from 11 to 14 June 2024.

A number of relevant International Organizations including UNIDO, WAIPA, and UNCTAD were involved to provide a comprehensive overview of the critical intersections between fostering investments and achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The activity, mainly designed for professionals from Investment Promotion Agencies and related public institutions in selected countries, also benefited to participants from various sectors, including government entities, business support organizations, and NGOs. They engaged in an in-depth exploration of best practices, tools, and strategies for promoting sustainable investments. This report summarizes the key takeaways from the training while outlining the path forward.

The seminar covered key topics including policy developments relevant to IPAs and sustainable development, such as the 2030 Agenda, WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, and responsible business conduct. It also addressed thematic FDI issues like green and digital FDI, FDI in renewable energy, and employment generation. Additionally, the seminar focused on strengthening IPAs through KPIs for decent work, technology, digitalization, and regional networking.



Investment facilitation, decent work and sustainable development

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Main Takeaways

1. Integration of SDGs into Investment Strategies

- The importance of aligning investment strategies with SDGs was emphasized. Incorporating SDG-specific KPIs, such as the value of total investments in SDG sectors and the number of jobs created, can help measure and enhance the impact of investments on sustainable development.

2. Best Practices and Tools for Investment Promotion

- Establishing a centralized unit or committee to implement policy coherence, tackle challenges in attracting sustainable FDI projects, and digitalize legal procedures for investors was recommended. Tools such as the SDG Investor Map and digital investment platforms were highlighted as essential for streamlining investment processes and improving transparency.

3. Collaboration and Regional Cooperation



- Promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation between member states is crucial for sharing experiences and best practices. Creating a regional portal for information exchange on investment climates, new decrees, and incentives can foster a more collaborative investment environment.

4. *Balancing Investment Attraction and Labour Standards*

- Discussions highlighted the potential conflicts between attracting investments and maintaining high labour standards. Recommendations included establishing working groups for decent work and conducting regular audits to ensure compliance with labour standards.

5. *Impact of Digitalization*

- Digitalization plays a significant role in facilitating investments. Developing digital platforms for investment services and opportunities, such as investment map portals, can significantly enhance the efficiency and attractiveness of investment climates.

6. *Compliance with ESG Acts and Laws*

- The training underscored the complexity of complying with various ESG acts and laws, such as the EU-CSDD and the German Supply Chain Act. Simplifying these regulations for SMEs and providing extensive training on compliance requirements were suggested as ways to alleviate the burden on firms.

7. *Enhancing Employment and Decent Work Initiatives*

- Implementing employment programs and promoting decent work standards were identified as essential steps. Creating dedicated aftercare units and providing one-stop-shop services can improve investor relations and support the retention of investments.

Recommendations and Action Plan

1. *For Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs)*

- Establish a working group for decent work to set and monitor standards.
- Develop a comprehensive SDG Investor Map and include SDG analysis in the investment certification process.



- Create regional partnerships with other IPAs and institutions to foster cooperation and share best practices.
- Implement digital solutions to streamline legal procedures and enhance transparency.

2. For Government Entities and Policymakers

- Revise policies and strategies to integrate SDG KPIs and targets, ensuring that financial and non-financial incentives align with sustainable development goals.
- Analyse new ESG acts and laws to assess their impact on industrial investments and identify necessary policy interventions.
- Promote regional investment hubs and develop tailored marketing campaigns to attract investments in high-potential sectors.

3. For UfM and Regional Bodies

- Facilitate policy dialogue between the Mediterranean region and the EU on new directives and regulatory frameworks.
- Organize trainings and seminars on best practices for green energy transitions and investment outreach campaigns.
- Set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the impact of initiatives on sustainable development and decent work.

Conclusion

The training course on Investment Facilitation and Sustainable Development provided valuable insights and practical recommendations for integrating sustainable development goals into investment strategies. By adopting the recommended best practices, tools, and collaborative approaches, stakeholders can enhance the effectiveness of their investment facilitation efforts and contribute significantly to sustainable development. The path forward involves a concerted effort to align policies, promote regional cooperation, and leverage digital solutions to create a conducive environment for sustainable investments.



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