



Sustainable growth, development and labour:

progressive responses at local, national and global level

Call for papers for the VIII. Global Labour University (GLU) Conference Brazil, September 2012

The Global Labour University is pleased to announce a call for papers for the 2012 conference on “Sustainable growth, development and labour” to be held in Campinas, Brazil from September 26 to 28, 2012.

After the world economy showed signs of recovery from the 2007-2009 crisis, there were great hopes that the era of neoliberalism was finally coming to an end. However, a feeble recovery and the continuous hegemony of the financial sector pose new challenges to workers throughout the world. Conservative forces are pushing the notion that governments should restrict their activities to a minimum, both as regulators and as participants in economic life, while allowing the unfettered operation of financial markets.

Given this context, the theme of the 2012 GLU Conference will focus on the analysis of development processes, policies and concrete experiences that shed light on possible global, national and local strategies to overcome neoliberal orthodoxy in theory and practice, creating the conditions for inclusive development that is based on a stronger role for workers organization, industrial democracy, and a democratically accountable government that actively participates in economic activities and regulates the economy.

Such discussion should be built on conceptual ideas about alternative models of growth and development, as well as on current national experiences, with emphasis on policies that have helped to raise people out of poverty and destitution. It should discuss the potential and the limits of those policies, in particular in those cases when policies were - or had to be - developed or designed within a dominant neoliberal framework that emphasizes minimal government participation or expenditures. As the history of neoliberalism clearly shows, many developing countries that embraced that ideology in general grew more slowly and experienced increasing income inequality. A particularly pressing issue is how to create conditions to protect low income countries from the extended hardships of economic crisis and trade imbalances, as those countries tend to suffer more from external shocks.

Thus, the Conference will address three sets of questions:

1. On National Progressive Policies: What are some valuable examples of alternative/progressive policies and practices for national development? Of particular interest for discussion are income security schemes, job creation, wage development and the quality of jobs created, how to direct financial markets towards long term investment, and other progressive policies around social and sustainability issues.

2. On International Policies and Regulation: What policies, regulations and standards at the international and global level would have the potential to stop a race to the bottom, while increasing policy space at national level? What have been successful initiatives by trade unions or other social movements in trying to shape international policy or set the international policy agenda? What could be the best economic, financial and institutional framework at the international context –including the actions of international agencies- that could foster development in middle and low income countries?

3. On Generation and Dissemination of Progressive Public Policies: How to generate, and disseminate progressive policies? What can be learned from experiences of successful alliances between, political decision makers, trade unions, other social movements and academic scholars to advance progressive policies?

The GLU Conference invites contributions from unionists and academics to discuss the issues outlined above, both from a theoretical and from a practical point of view. We welcome submissions for papers on any of these themes. While we encourage submission of papers that broadly fit into the themes, we will also consider papers that do not fit directly into one of the themes as long as they address the broad focus of the conference. The GLU encourages policy orientated research and therefore welcomes submissions that not only analyze the problem, but also offer some policy initiatives and solutions for debate.

Please send a one or two page abstract (which includes your methodological approach) by March 15, 2012 to glubrazilcoord@googlemail.com with copy to cesit@eco.unicamp.br.

The abstracts and papers may also be in Portuguese or Spanish.