



THE HISTORY OF ITC-ILO AND OF THE UN CAMPUS

1ST DECADE 1965 – 1975

- The original Centre's mandate was to support the efforts made by national training institutions to overcome their lack of managers, trainers, technicians and skilled workers.
- In October 1965 the first group of 40 participants arrived on campus from Africa, Asia and Latin America. The programme title was the following; "Directors of Training and Vocational Teaching Centres". It was followed by a second programme on "Instructors in Industrial Drafting". In November two new programmes were launched respectively on "Instructors in Automobile or Diesel Mechanics" and on "Instructors in General Mechanics".
- The initial duration of these "group training" were between three to six months and they all included short-term placing in enterprises and institutions in European countries.
- In their training programmes and on campus participants shared information and experiences from all over the world and benefitted from an intensive social life and cultural programmes organised by the Centre with the support of the Committee of Fellows, created in 1965.
- At the start the Centre delivered its training activities in two main areas; technical training and training for management. There was also an additional area of work called "Seminars and Symposia".

- The development of Technical and Vocational Training was targeting “highly skilled workers, instructors, technical teachers, foremen and technicians” and was mainly delivered in the following technical areas; electricity and electronics, general mechanics, maintenance, automotive mechanics, sheet metal welding, hotel industry, building, industrial drawing and agricultural mechanics.
- The training on management was also organised from the very beginning and it was focused on the following subject areas; business administration, marketing, productivity centres, production management, small and medium-scale industries, enterprises and cooperatives. These programmes were targeting managers and directors of centres of vocational training. Some good examples of these programmes on advanced management techniques were the courses organised on the development of new industrial production methods, such as the one introduced in these years by Olivetti. Another good example were the courses on the improvement of productivity, based on the development of the notion of maintenance planning for improving management and a smooth production process. These programmes were aimed at introducing advanced management concepts and practices from industrialised countries to developing countries.
- The third area of work was named “Seminar and Symposia” and it included in the delivery the following topics; “Economic and regional Development”, “Occupational Safety and Health” and “Modern Teaching Media and Methods”. Some of these topics, in particular training methodology, marked the history of the Centre and they are still relevant for its current development.
- In this first decade the Centre further developed activities on audio-visual aids with the support of teaching technologies as well as the adoption of active learning techniques based on the involvement of participants as part of their learning experience.
- In 1969 the Centre organised its first course on informatics as part of its management training offer and in 1971 the first programme was delivered for trade union instructors.
- The Centre also started to organise programmes and consultancy work in the field.
- In the first part of this decade vocational, technical and management training was provided directly to participants and the idea was to strengthen their national institutions or enterprises via their direct involvement. This approach gradually evolved and led to a process of training of trainers at the national level, with a positive multiplier effect and a greater educational impact.
- The Centre made an extensive use of individual fellowships, provided by the ILO, the UN System and Italy, for strengthening its training offer and increase the number of programmes delivered.
- The Centre received only voluntary contributions from member States and from the ILO. The financial situation became fragile in the 70's and the Centre expanded its operations with specific country projects supported by individual countries such as Libya and Iran.
- In this first decade almost 10.000 participants had been through the campus.