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Mobilizations of resources for Labor Market Information System (LMIS)

Addis Ababa, 20 March 2012 - A meeting on the Labor Market Information System (LMIS) project is being held at the African Union. This two day meeting aims at discussing the operationalization of the Action Plan (Technical and Financial) of the LMIS project, and the strategy for resources mobilization to implement the Action Plan for the production of harmonized statistics on employment and labor (October 2011).

The meeting was attended by representatives from the African Union Commission (AUC) along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-saharan Africa (AfriStat), the Economic Commission for African (ECA), the European Union (EU) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA). The implementation of that project was discussed with these institutions in order to gain insights on statistical production, to acquire best practices and ensure equivalences as well as harmonization of the data, but also to see the different ways in which they can be involved in its actual implementation on the field.

The LMIS was established because of the need for an African based statistical production with specific indicators to evaluate the performance of African countries, and study more accurately the causes of unemployment, their specific problems, and come up with solutions. This Action Plan is to be implemented by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Using the RECs allows a more flexible and regionally sensitive implementation of that plan. Another advantage is the fact that by using existing institutions, there is no need to create new organs that would have to be implemented later in time. In the African Union the project is led jointly, by the Departments of Social and Economic Affairs. In the African Countries it is led by the Ministries of Social Affairs, Employment, Labor and Education since they are at the core of the solutions. Whether it is by the compiling of the data or the training of the people who are seeking employment, their work is complementary.

It has now become crucial for Africa to produce its own statistical data in order not to rely on external sources. However, this production has to be harmonized on the continent in order to be comparable from one country to another. It also needs to be standardized so that it is also comparable to the statistics originating from the UN or other organs.

The meeting will end on March 21st. By then, tasks regarding the implementation of the project will have been allocated to the different actors present.