



GLU

Progress report 2007 -2008

Three Masters Programs in Brazil, Germany and South Africa are offered within the GLU network. A fourth program will start in India in autumn 2008. Four years after launching the first GLU course there are now programs in four different continents. Three of the four GLU programs are based in the Global South. This provides the opportunity of a genuine global partnership, where the viewpoint of trade unions and researchers from many different parts of the world are reflected in the discussions, teaching and research of the GLU network.

A. International activities

1.1. International Secretariat

The four programs offer the opportunity for extensive mutual faculty exchange, exchange of students, joint curriculum development and research projects. The greater possibilities put also greater demand on international coordination. The GLU has opened a small international secretariat, hosted at the University of Kassel, to support the facilitation of international cooperation. Miriam Heigl, will start on a part-time basis to work in this office in March 2008.

1.2. GLU Publications

An editorial committee with colleagues from the Universities of Berlin, Kassel, Unicamp and Witwatersrand was established to guide the publication of a GLU Working Papers Series to publish research work that can also be used for teaching purposes at the different courses. The two first papers have been launched in February 2008.

No. 1; Seeraj Mohamed; ECONOMIC POLICY, GLOBALIZATION AND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT: CHANGES IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY FROM THE GOLDEN AGE TO THE NEOLIBERAL ERA

No. 2; Birgit Mahnkopf; EU MULTI-LEVEL TRADE POLICY: NEITHER COHERENT NOR DEVELOPMENT-FRIENDLY

The Journal Labour, Capital and Society will publish in a special edition research papers that were presented at the 2007 GLU conference in South Africa.

1.3. GLU Website

www.global-labour-university.org is the common website of the GLU. It provides basic information about the four programs. The GLU statute, Progress Reports, interesting Master Theses etc. are published on the website. A password-protected part, ILIAS, provides more extensive information for GLU students and partners about the courses as well as regular updated contact and e-mail addresses of current students and alumni. Within ILIAS outlines and reading material of GLU courses can be downloaded. Not all course material is yet available, as some lecturers need further encouragement to use this instrument. It is a potentially important tool to strengthen information sharing and further joint curriculum development.

1.4. GLU conferences

Annual GLU conferences are organized since 2005 to offer a discussion forum for practitioners from the trade union movement and academics. The 2007 conference in Johannesburg focused on « Labour and Development ». More than 100 researchers participated in this event.

The 2008 GLU conference will take place in Campinas, Brazil from the 28 – 30 April 2008 and focus on development strategies and the role of labour and on strategies of labour to deal with multinational companies. 80 people responded to the call for papers and some 100 participants are expected.

1.5. Joint Research projects

The GLU started a number of initiatives for international research cooperation. At the GLU Summer school 2007 three projects were initiated:

- a) Closing the representational gap in Micro and Small enterprises
- b) Strategies for trade union policy interventions on trade policies at national level
- c) Potential of major sport events to promote or defend wages and working conditions.

The first project includes a literature review and 15 country case studies undertaken by former GLU students. Prof. Webster from the University of the Witwatersrand

coordinates the project and a final report will be presented at the GLU conference in Brazil.

The second project will be developed in close cooperation with colleagues from the ITGWLF and the BWI. The group is currently working on a research concept in relation to a number of major sports events coming up in the next four years. Steve Davies from Cardiff University coordinates the project.

Prof. Scherrer from Kassel University coordinates the third project on the role of trade unions in national policy processes on international trade issues. The purpose is to identify best practice in making labor's voice heard in the trade policy arena.

In addition three further projects focusing on labour clauses in public procurement, minimum wages, and collective bargaining are in an early stage of development. The GLU conference and the 2008 GLU summer school will provide opportunities to discuss and conceptualize these and possible additional topics for research cooperation and joint activities.

1.6. Advertisement of the GLU Programs

A new flyer and a poster were circulated to advertise the program. The information was circulated through different e-mail networks. The number of applicants for all programs has exceeded the number of available places and/or scholarships. The European program is internationally better known and received more application. Most of the applications are coming from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. It should be discussed at the annual council meeting how to encourage more applications from OECD countries and from the Latin American region.

	Applicants	Selected	Women	Men	Scholarships
Brazil	20	5	2	3	5
Germany	90	20	10	10	20
South Africa	30	12	3	3 + 6	6

1.7. Exchange and networking activities

The existence of now four GLU programs provides more possibilities for international exchange programs. Faculty exchange between German, South African and

Brazilian universities has been intensive during the last years. The Indian colleagues will also participate in this from 2008 on. Faculty exchange becomes more important with the enlargement of the program. In particular for the new programs in Brazil and India more extensive guest teaching by other colleagues will be an important support in the first years of the program development. For the first time in 2008 students participate in two different programs doing one semester in Germany and a second semester in Brazil.

Within the Internship program of the German course some students had the possibility to go to Brazil and South Africa. An extension of these exchange possibilities depends on additional financial and logistical capacities.

Another option to strengthen the contacts between the students is the possibility to broaden the Summer School. Currently there is funding from the DAAD only for alumni from the German program.

1.8. Cooperation with trade unions

All programs are national build on a cooperation with the trade unions of the country. In addition there is a close link with global and regional trade union organizations through the internship program, research projects and guest lectures. Students expressed their interest to have stronger links with trade unions during the course. The curriculum workshop in April should be used to discuss what would be suitable instruments to address this.

1.9. Resources

A key resource has been the strong commitment of all partners to the Global Labour University project. The ILO, trade unions and universities have also made substantial provisions in kind (offices, infrastructure, provision of internships, staff time).

The German government, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Hans Böckler Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service provide financial support. The Otto Brenner Stiftung, the International Institute for Labour Studies and Public Service International are sponsoring scholarships. COSATU mobilized resources from the South African government for 10 scholarships for South African students to participate in the program at Wits.

To ensure the future sustainability of the program joint efforts to build a more diversified resource basis are required. In Germany the GLU was registered as a non-profit organization. The legal status was established to protect the GLU as a trademark and to broaden possibilities for fund raising.

2.0. Alumni

From the very beginning the GLU has been working on the creation of an alumni network. In 2007 the GLU organized the first GLU Alumni Summer School. 35 of 45 alumni participated in this two-week seminar, which was very successful in pioneering new network research activities.

Students reported that it was not always easy for them to reintegrate in the trade union work and sometimes also their expectations of a more interesting job were not met.

To address this issue, the courses should send a letter to the supporting organizations at the end of the course.

	Work for trade unions or labour projects	Labour orientated research	Other	Unknown
2004/05	16	5	2	0
2005/06	12	4	3	2
2006/07	12	1	4	3

2.1. Monitoring

Mike Waghorne was requested by the GLU steering committee in September 2007 to undertake a review of the GLU activities. He visited Johannesburg in December 2007 and Kassel in January 2008. Brazil will be visited in April 2008 and a first report will be given to the GLU annual council end of April.

In addition the German government funded GLU project of the ILO will be externally evaluated subject to the ILO evaluation rules.

B. Country Programs

1. Brazil

The Program in Brazil started a first pilot course with 5 international students and 2 guest students from Germany in February 2008. As in South Africa the course starts with a comparatively small group of students to test and develop the course in practice. The students are from Kenya, Uganda, Jamaica, Nepal, US and South Africa. The program is located with CESIT as part of the Institute of Economics.

Course implementation and Internship Program are developed in cooperation with the Observatorio Social and the CUT.

At the Steering committee meeting in September 2007 it was discussed that Brazilian students can't join the English language course in Brazil. This is unsatisfactory and the Brazilian colleagues are considering solutions to address these problems. The Brazilian colleagues will provide further information on this issue.

The University of Campinas is hosting this years GLU conference in April 2008. Some 80 participants are expected to discuss the role of labour in a broader development strategy.

Colleagues from Campinas were also involved in guest teaching in Germany and colleagues from Germany and South Africa visited the University of Campinas for some guest teaching

2. Germany

The German program welcomed in 2007 the fourth group of students. The Group of 20 students comes from 17 different countries. The course is well established in both Universities. For many students the language is a barrier for deeper insights in the work of German trade unions. Most of the Internships are therefore with organizations of the European and International trade union movement, where the working language is English. The Internships are a strong link of the program with the different trade union partners.

For the first time the Universities organized an Alumni summer school in 2007 to strengthen the network ties with former GLU students and to develop some joint research projects. Funding from the DAAD is available to organize a Summer School for the upcoming next two years.

Colleagues from Berlin and Kassel were involved in guest teaching in South Africa and Brazil and participated in a fact-finding mission to India in February 2007.

The Universities are currently exploring possibilities for additional funding to develop a shorter three-month post-graduate course to provide also study possibilities for trade unionists, who don't have the time to study for a full year. The credits gained in such a program could be accumulated and would be compatible with the Masters program.

3. India

The Tata Institute for Social Studies developed a course on Labour and Globalization. The course did meet high demand from Indian students. Starting from September 2008 the Tata Institute will offer this course within the GLU framework. Half of the students will come from trade unions and half will be enter the course through open advertising. Here already 700 candidates applied for the 10 places available.

A joint workshop between trade unions, the FES, the ILO and the Tata Institute was organized in December 2007 to discuss in detail a closer cooperation between trade unions and the Tata Institute in implementing the course. The course in India will be longer than the other courses and will require a 6-month internship with a trade union or another membership based organization..

4. South Africa

A Masters program on Labour and Development was launched at the University of the Witwatersrand in January 2007 and the first group of students will finish in February 2008. International Students from trade unions from Brazil, Ghana, Poland and Zimbabwe participated in the first course.

The University also hosted successfully the GLU conference on " Labour and Development" in April 2007. A publication of the most interesting contributions is currently edited.

For the new course that started in January 2008 the number of applicants increased substantially and there will be 12 -16 students in 2008. 6 -10 South African trade unionists will study part time at the Masters program. This will allow them to stay involved in their trade union work, while improving their academic skills.

The South African partners were fully involved in the international network development. They undertook guest teaching in Germany and Brazil, participated in a fact finding mission to identify an Indian GLU partner and are coordinating a GLU research project on “Policies to close the representational gap in small and micro enterprises”.

COSATU has mobilized substantial government support to provide scholarships for South African trade unionists to participate in the Program. However further efforts are required to mobilize resources to finance a project coordinator.

The networking with the South African trade unions needs to be intensified. In particular the linkages between the research work and the internships should be strengthened.

C. Other contacts

1. Ruskin College

Ruskin College expressed interest in joining the GLU. Christoph Scherrer and Frank Hoffer visited Oxford in June 2006 and Sue Ledwith presented the current MA of Ruskin at the GLU Steering committee meeting in September 2007. Ruskin College is offering in 2008 for the first time a full time Masters Program on Labour and Globalisation. In its announcement it makes reference to a possible cooperation with the GLU. Due to its long tradition in adult education Ruskin has a higher degree of flexibility than other universities to recognize prior learning by assessing the entry requirements in a Masters Program.

2) Rutgers University, National Labour colleagues

Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey, and the National Labour College of the AFL-CIO expressed an interest to explore possibilities of cooperating with the GLU. A fact-finding mission will be undertaken to present the GLU and explore in more detail ideas and interests of possible cooperation. A detailed report will be given at the GLU annual council meeting.

3. Mc Master University

Prof Charlotte Yates from the University of McMaster has been in contact with the GLU over the last years and is working on a proposal to mobilize resources for a Canadian/North American program.

All three are invited to participate in the GLU conference in Brazil.