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Editorial

During this period, COOP has been active on several fronts. We provided advisory services on cooperative and social and solidarity economy (SSE) policy and legislative reforms in partnership with relevant regions and field offices (e.g. in Greece and Tunisia).

We have advanced on research initiatives on provision of care through cooperatives (with Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch), cooperative statistics (with STATISTICS Department) and formalization of informal economy (with *Women in Informal Economy: Globalizing Organizing network*).

In November, the ILO and the International Co-operative Alliance (the Alliance) Committee on Cooperative Research (CCR) organized a research conference on cooperatives and the world of work with 112 researchers, practitioners and policy makers from 26 countries. We are currently working on an edited volume of articles emerging from the conference with CICOPA and the CCR.



From left: Numan Özcan, Jürgen Schwettmann, Sonja Novković, and Simel Eşim at the Cooperatives and the World of Work Research Conference in Antalya, Turkey on 9-10 November 2015.

Considering the high labour force participation rates of women in cooperative enterprises, we delivered an elective course on advancing gender equality through cooperatives at the Gender Academy of the International Training Center in Turin. In response to requests a standalone course on the topic is scheduled for early 2017.

On cooperative news from the field, our technical cooperation with ILO field offices and development cooperation projects have moved forward in a range of countries and regions (Algeria, Bolivia, the Caribbean, Ethiopia, Jordan, South Africa, Tanzania and Turkey) on transitioning from the informal to the formal economy (waste pickers, domestic workers, home-based workers), and tackling issues such as cooperative responses to migrant and refugee crises, and youth and women employment.

In addition, two new projects are getting started. In Algeria, ILO COOP will provide technical backstopping to a new EU funded project in advancing employability and occupational integration of young people in two wilayas. At the global level, and in partnership with the ILO's Social Finance Unit, a research initiative on the role of social and solidarity economy and social finance in sustainable development and the future of work is also under way with funding from the French government.

The cooperative champion featured in this issue is Emanuela Pozzan from ILO Beirut who has been supporting cooperative enterprises of Palestinian women in West Bank and Gaza. She is also involved in supporting a pilot initiative on care cooperatives for advancing women's employment in Jordan, with the government.

My.COOP training package for agricultural cooperative management is being translated and adapted to the Mongolian context for testing and roll out with herder cooperatives. COOP also continued to engage in developing training materials on financial cooperatives with the Social Finance Unit, ITC

Turin, FAO and other partners. The SSE academy, co-coordinated by ITC Turin and the COOP Unit took place in Mexico at the end of last year and another academy is scheduled for the end of 2016 in Costa Rica.

COOP Unit will continue to deliver on engaging cooperative enterprises as platforms for job creation and decent work. As needs of the world of work expand and become increasingly

complex, we are confident that cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy enterprises will find more and more space to meet them, advancing social inclusion and creating jobs for the future in the process.

Simel Esim
Programme Manager
Cooperatives Unit

Cooperatives and the World of Work Research Conference, Antalya, Turkey, 9 -10 November, 2015

The ILO and the Committee on Co-operative Research (CCR), a thematic committee of the International Co-operative Alliance, co-organized the *Cooperatives and the World of Work Research Conference* in Antalya, Turkey on 9-10 November, 2015. The conference brought together 112 participants from 26 countries. There were 66 papers from policy makers, researchers, and practitioners covering a wide range of themes including:

- Cooperative enterprises and labour legislation
- Cooperative enterprises and employment
- Worker cooperatives, multi-stakeholder cooperatives and trade union relations
- Cooperative enterprises and formalization of informal economy
- Rural and agricultural cooperatives
- Cooperatives, organizational change and impact
- Cooperatives, gender equality and women's empowerment
- Cooperatives, sustainable development and social innovation & inclusion

On the 8th of November, the Young Scholars Programme was held with support from the International Summit of Cooperatives and ILO COOP. During the day, current research trends were presented by four senior researchers in the areas of workers' cooperatives, behavioural economics, cooperatives and employment and cooperative research and practice.

The opening session started with a welcome speech by ILO Ankara Director Numan Özcan, as well as ILO COOP and CCR. The session included a keynote speech from Jürgen Schwettmann, ex-ILO officio, on cooperatives and the future of work and followed by discussion.

On the 10th of November, a second keynote presentation was made via video recording by Camila Piñeiro Harnecker, a professor at the Centre for Studies on the Cuban Economy at Havana University which focused on the state of cooperatives in today's Cuba.

Throughout the research conference, cooperative response to refugee crisis came up strongly as a theme. Several side meetings were held with researchers and practitioners who are interested in moving ahead with pilot projects for refugees. In response, the ILO has put together an initial stocktaking as to where cooperatives stand with respect to support

for refugees and internally displaced persons. A two page summary has been produced by ILO COOP on the topic.

In 2016, a joint ILO, CICOPA and ICA CCR e-publication will be produced from selected papers at the conference. In addition the International Labour Review is welcoming papers for a special issues on the topic.

During the conference, a series of blogs and features articles was launched by Coop News, UK. These are available at:

>> See the conference website at: <http://ccr.ica.coop/en/co-operatives-and-world-work-ccrilo-2015-international-research-conference-antalya-turkey#overlay-context=en/news-and-events/upcoming-events>

>> See presentations and papers: <http://ccr.ica.coop/en/co-operatives-and-world-work-presentations-and-papers>

>> See press release from ILO Ankara Office: http://www.ilo.org/anکارa/news/WCMS_423646/lang--en/index.htm

>> See two page note on cooperative response to refugee crisis : http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/genericdocument/wcms_455734.pdf

>> See CICOPA website : <http://www.cicopa.coop/Cooperatives-and-the-world-of-work.html>

>> See news release from Coop News, UK :

- **Cooperatives and the World of Work: Youth:** <http://www.thenews.coop/99113/news/co-operatives/co-operatives-world-work-youth/>
- **Cooperatives and the World of Work: Refugees:** <http://www.thenews.coop/99196/news/co-operatives/blog-syrian-refugee-crisis-co-operatives/>
- **Eight tips for emerging co-operative research scholars:** <http://www.thenews.coop/99179/news/global-news/eight-tips-emerging-co-operative-research-scholars/>
- **How can co-operatives contribute to the future of work?:** <http://www.thenews.coop/99161/news/co-operatives/can-co-operatives-contribute-future-work/>
- **Coops and Behavioural economics:** <http://www.thenews.coop/99260/news/business/explaining-co-operative-performance-neo-classical-behavioural-economics/>
- **Iranian women cooperators in education sector:** <http://www.thenews.coop/99275/news/co-operatives/blog-co-operative-education-heart-tehran/>
- **Prison coops for social integration:** <http://www.thenews.coop/99345/news/community/blog-social-co-operatives-prison-systems/>

Elective on “Leveraging the cooperative advantage for women’s empowerment and gender equality”, Gender Academy, Turin, Italy 23-25 November, 2015

From 23 to 25 November, a cooperative elective course on “Leveraging the cooperative advantage for women’s empowerment and gender equality” was held at the Gender Academy, International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, Italy. The three-day workshop brought 28 representatives from international organizations, governments, trade unions, universities and research institutes from 21 countries.

The elective provided an overview as to how cooperatives, as value and principle driven businesses, can and do promote women empowerment and gender equality. The three-day workshop employed participatory methods (group work and discussion) and highlighted three themes: cooperatives in agriculture and rural economy, formalization of informal economy through cooperatives, and care provision through cooperatives.

The plenary session on the 24th of November was chaired by MariaGrazia Rocchigiani from the FAO. Simel Esim, Head of ILO COOP provided an overview presentation on the relevance, current use and potential of the cooperative model in advancing gender equality and women empowerment. Following her overview, Yoseph Aseffa, then Senior Social Finance Specialist in ILO Addis Ababa presented the experience of the Mekele prison cooperative in Ethiopia which provided training and income generating opportunities for women and men in prison.

The elective received one of the highest scores at the ITC Turin Gender Academy. ILO COOP and ITC Turin are discussing a stand-alone course of 3-4 days as well as repeating it as an elective in the next edition of the gender academy. Requests for training on women in cooperatives are also being received at ITC-Turin.

>> For more information on Cooperative Elective: Advancing women empowerment and gender equality: the cooperative way: <http://gender-campus.itcilo.org/academy/index.php?mod=program&act=detail&id=164>

>> For more information on Plenary on Cooperatives: Advancing women empowerment and gender equality: the cooperative way: <http://gender-campus.itcilo.org/academy/index.php?mod=program&act=detail&id=175>

>> See a video on Mekele prison cooperative in Ethiopia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPkiO0huKw>

>> See “Cooperatives and the World of Work No.1, Leveraging the cooperative advantage for women’s empowerment and gender equality”: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_307217.pdf



On Day 3 of the elective, Vittoria Burton, Consorzio Copernico presented Italian experience on care provision through cooperatives.

News from the field

EXPLORING DOMESTIC WORKERS’ COOPERATIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Domestic workers in South Africa constitute 5 per cent of the total South African workforce. Almost all (96 per cent) of the domestic workers are women and they account for almost 15 per cent of all South African women’s workforce, making the sector the biggest employer of women in the country. Domestic workers face isolation and potential restrictions in movement. Many work informally, in particular migrant workers, and without contracts. They do not have access to information on the protection that employment legislation offers them. While the ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) by the South African government has led to an upsurge of organizational activity among domestic workers, NGOs and other agencies working to support them, the capacities to respond to their needs remain limited.

In 2015, ILO COOP commissioned a study to look at the viability of developing domestic workers’ cooperatives in South Africa based on requests from the constituents. The findings of the report indicated that a number of possible opportunities exist for cooperatives of domestic workers (employment services, training, catering, frail care, child-care, hospitality, production and marketing). During a validation workshop, it was agreed that domestic workers and their representative organizations need to be the ones driving the process. Since then a community organizer with experience in helping set up and incubate domestic workers’ cooperatives has worked with the constituents to develop an implementation strategy to guide the development of two pilot cooperatives of domestic workers in South Africa. Once the implementation strategy report is reviewed by the constituents the ILO will work with them to move the initiative forward through two pilot cooperatives, one in Cape Town and the other one in Johannesburg.

ILO AND FAO PARTNERSHIP ON RURAL ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH COOPERATIVES IN ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, the agricultural sector plays a central role in the life and livelihood of the majority of Ethiopians, where 12 million smallholder farming households account for an estimated 95 per cent of agricultural production and 85 per cent of all employment.

Cooperatives in Ethiopia provide farmers with inputs and ensure members' social cohesion and economic empowerment. The Federal Cooperative Agency (FCA) reports that the number of cooperatives in the country has increased from 26,672 in 2009 to 53,982 at the end of 2014 showing a growth rate of 17 per cent per year. Of these 16,000 are Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives (RUSACCOs).

In response to the changing needs of farmers-members in today's dynamic business environment, the Ethiopian government instituted an overarching strategy for Agricultural Cooperative Sector Development (2012-2016). The strategy identifies the main challenges faced by cooperatives in the country as follows:

- Most cooperatives have low capacity to efficiently deliver support and advisory services to their members to enable them to increase yields and incomes;
- Cooperatives' provision of services is often financially unsustainable;
- Most cooperatives do not attract substantial membership;
- Quality of cooperatives' services, provision at all cooperative tiers, is not keeping pace;
- Many cooperative leaders have low capacity as managers to engage as competitive market actors;
- Women's participation in agricultural cooperatives is still very low; and
- Many rural financial cooperatives are weak in using ICT, maintaining data and producing timely reports.

The ILO through its Regional Office for Africa, its Cooperative Unit and its Social Finance Unit in Geneva have initiated a needs assessment that would feed into the design of a project proposal that aims to strengthen the capacity of RUSACCOs and their apex institutions in the country.

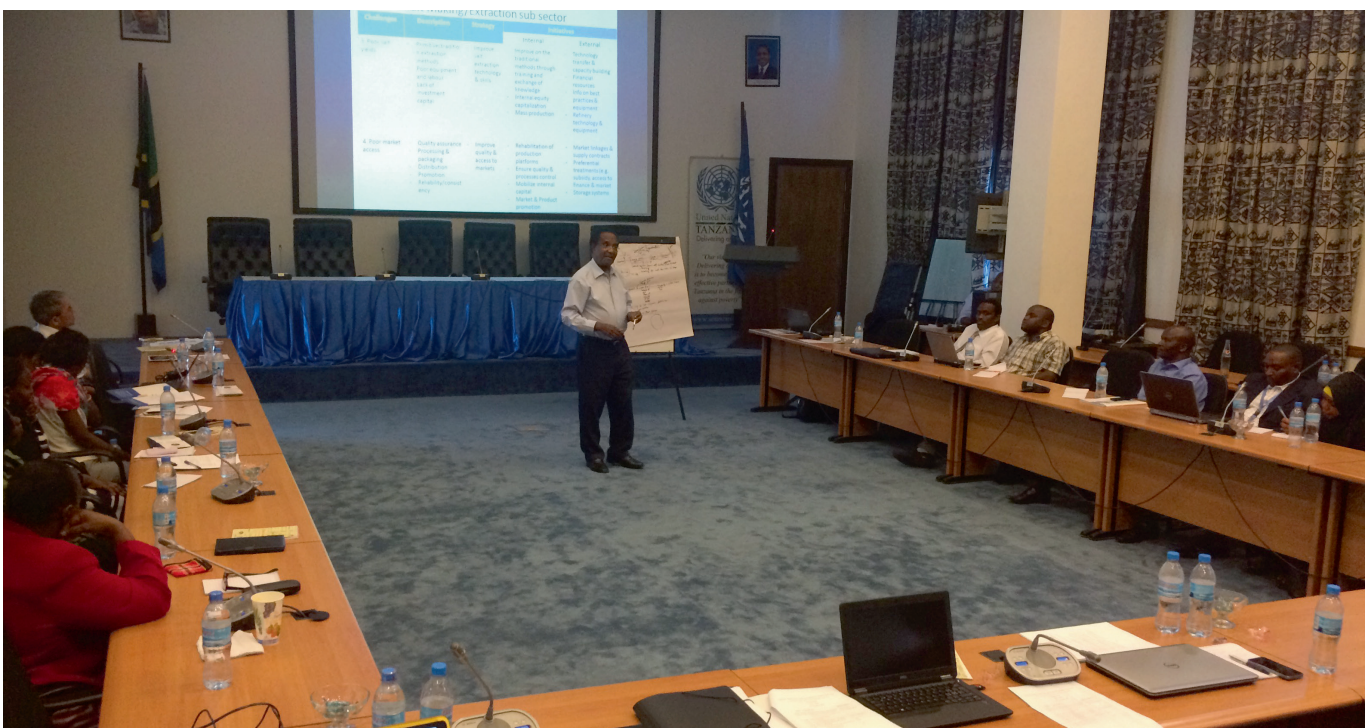
From 7 to 12 December 2015, a series of needs assessments were carried out for the Organization for Women in Self-Employment (WISE) and selected rural secondary cooperatives. The assessment was conducted in the areas of:

- Performance of RUSACCOs focusing with policy, legal and regulatory environment, governance and human resources Infrastructure and technology, and linkages;
- Existing ICT system in rural SACCOs and practices; and
- Existing process of primary cooperatives and union operating financial record keeping and reporting process.

The next steps of this initiative will be discussed with relevant stakeholders. The ILO and the FAO are exploring a partnership at the local level in moving the effort forward.

WORKSHOP ON ILO-JCCU AFRICAN COOPERATIVE LEADERS STUDY TOUR, 16-17 NOVEMBER, 2015 DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

The two-day workshop brought together 30 participants including: Eight cooperative leaders who attended previous ILO-JCCU study tours between 2010 and 2015 (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda) and seven leaders from selected cooperative sectors in Tanzania (dairy and finance). Representatives from social partner organizations in Tanzania (Trade Union Congress of Tanzania and Association of Tanzania Employers) and a government institution (Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission) also attended the workshop along with representatives from the Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



The workshop was organized based on a recommendation from the impact assessment of the annual study tour which has been held six times since 2010. It also aimed at exchanging information and experiences on what former participants to the study tour had initiated based on their learning in Japan in order to better serve their members. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss possible means of intervention and strategies to tackle main challenges faced by cooperative stakeholders in Tanzania.

On the first day, participants presented initiatives they have undertaken in follow up to the study tour and lessons learned. On the second day, participants were split into country working groups to discuss the challenges faced by cooperative enterprises in their countries and possible ways to address them. The main challenges identified were:

- Poor marketing infrastructure;
- Limited production capacity;
- Poor governance of cooperative organizations;
- Lack of member awareness on good practices;
- Lack of strong cooperative support organizations;
- Limited access to appropriate financial services (capital in particular);
- Inadequate regulatory and legal framework; and
- Lack of members' skills in business and financial management

The solutions proposed by each country group were presented in a plenary session. The recommendations will serve as guidelines for the ILO, JCCU and other development partners in designing pilot activities that could be carried out in the short and medium term and help take the ILO-JCCU cooperation to the next level.

PILOT TESTING WORKSHOP OF BEGIN AND EXPAND YOUR COOPERATIVE (be. COOP) WORKSHOP IN NASSAU, BAHAMAS

The ILO Port of Spain Office and the Cooperatives Unit have recently produced a training package on initiating and improving cooperative enterprises "Begin and Expand Your Cooperative (be.COOP)". From 17 to 19 November, 2015, a pilot testing workshop was held with 19 participants from the Bahamas comprising trainers from cooperative education institutions, cooperative apex institutions, and BDS providers as well as representatives from St Lucia, Jamaica, Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago.

While financial cooperatives are recognized as key players in the Caribbean economy, many countries also are keen to develop non-financial cooperatives which can make a significant contribution to the region in rural development, transition from informal to formal economy; renewable energy cooperatives; cooperatives in sectors such as care provision and tourism.

be.COOP consists of three modules: What is a cooperative enterprise; Starting a cooperative enterprise; and Cooperative organization and management as well as a trainers' manual and a step by step guide to forming a cooperative enterprise.

In the keynote speech at the workshop, Sonia Cox-Hamilton, president of the Bahamas Co-operative League highlighted the high levels of unemployment among Bahamian youth and emphasized "The pervasive thrust of diversified non-

financial cooperative societies can create opportunities for economic empowerment, especially for youth."

With facilitation by Stephanie Missick-Jones, General Manager of the Bahamas Co-operative League Limited and Kelvin Sergeant, the Sustainable Enterprise and Job Creation Specialist of the ILO Port of Spain Office, the workshop came up with recommendations on future actions to be taken. Participants reached a consensus that with edits to the modules, the training materials would be ready for publication shortly.

YOUTH AND CAMPUS COOPERATIVES ADOPTED THE RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Bangkok Resolution on Sustainable Growth and Development in the Cooperative Decade was adopted during the fourth quarter of 2015 by the Committee on University/Campus Cooperatives and Committee on Youth Cooperation of International Co-operative Alliance.

The resolution is an outcome of a workshop centred around 'Moving toward Sustainable Growth and Development in the Co-operative Decade', while highlighting the role of cooperatives in University campuses in community development. The workshop was attended by over a hundred youths from Bhutan, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Lao (PDR), and Thailand, among other independent observers.

In the discussion that followed, participants highlighted some of the challenges which were reflected in the resolution:

- Lack of awareness on the potential of cooperatives among youth, even in these times of quick access to the information and technology;
- Further promotion of and training on ethical consumption in campuses; and
- Exploring prospects of alternative careers for youth through financial inclusion, literacy and access to financial service.

The resolution seeks validation through workshops with youth, and will be presented as a joint youth statement during the 10th Asia Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference.

The major decision coming out of the Alliance's Youth Committee Meetings over the last three years is to establish a platform for youth in cooperatives to share their experiences and knowledge in an accessible and effective manner. The committees continue to explore new directions by direct interactions with youth at the regional level.

The Cooperative Youth Summit scheduled for the fall of 2016 in Bali, Indonesia can address if such effective platforms can provide outlets for ideas from youth cooperatives. The summit welcomes participants not only from cooperatives but also social entrepreneurs. To take steps towards cooperative entrepreneurship, the Summit also proposes to organize a business idea contest to attract business ideas from youth and support from cooperative movement for such ideas.

>> For more information on the Summit, you can contact ICA ROAP at info@icaroop.coop

COOP Champions: Emanuela Pozzan, ILO Regional Office for Arab States

COOP Champions features ILO colleagues from around the world working on cooperatives. It highlights their contributions towards promotion of cooperatives, and shares highlights on their experiences, current work, and future aspirations.

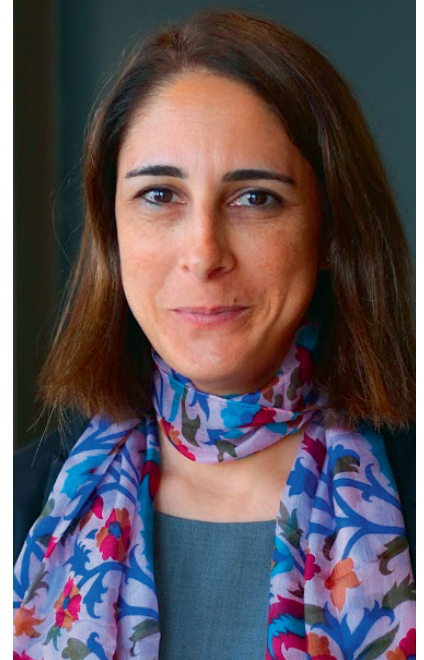
Ms Emanuela Pozzan studied Middle Eastern studies at the University of Venice in Italy and International Development with a focus on gender and forced migration at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the U.K. Her professional experience started in Egypt working on development projects related to women's economic empowerment. In the past 15 years she has worked in the Middle East, Africa and Asia on issues related to social and economic development, reproductive health, women workers' rights, non-discrimination, disability and labour migration.

Emanuela is currently based in Beirut at the ILO Regional Office for Arab States as a Senior Regional Gender Specialist. She runs a portfolio of projects supporting ILO constituents on issues related to gender, equality and diversity in the workplace. She provides demand driven technical and policy advice to governments, employers' and workers' organizations on gender equality in the world of work. She also contributes to research and advocacy related to regional and global ILO initiatives aimed at promoting women's rights in the workplace.

Following work initiated by her predecessor Simel Esm currently with ILO COOP, Emanuela continues to promote



cooperatives in the occupied Palestinian territory. In 2014, she oversaw an assessment on agricultural cooperatives in West Bank to identify their needs. The study profiles 230 agricultural cooperatives in the West Bank, assessing their management know-how and other organizational capacities, including their various functions vis-à-vis the agricultural markets, financial performance, and members' level of participation.



This work informed the reform of the cooperative sector in the West Bank which is currently underway. Meanwhile, in Gaza, the ILO has launched a series of training workshops aimed to promote the cooperative enterprise model among women engaged in agricultural activities using My.COOP modules in Arabic. It is hoped that with further support more women in Gaza will be ready to join and establish cooperatives in the coming year.

Emanuela is also starting to work in Jordan with the National Commission for Jordanian Women to promote women cooperatives in service sectors including provision of care. Emanuela sees opportunities to promote cooperatives in other countries in the Middle East where the ILO is active. She believes that in the occupied Palestinian territory this work can support women and men and be beneficial for the society. Cooperatives are currently of interest to the international community as they constitute a development model for refugee communities as well as host communities in many countries affected by the current challenges in the Middle East.

>> To read full text of the assessment report on agricultural cooperatives in West Bank visit: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_249766.pdf

Conference on Social Solidarity Economy, Skhirat, Morocco 20-21 November, 2015

In order to respond to today's economic challenges (e.g. unemployment, exclusion, inequality, poverty) many governments are exploring new ways of organizing production, distribution, consumption and finance. In this quest, the social and solidarity economy (SSE) emerges as a response to the need for innovation within the current model of production and consumption. Conscious of its potential,

the Moroccan Ministry of Handicraft and Social and Solidarity Economy organized a two-day Conference on SSE from 20-21 November 2015 in Skhirat, Morocco. The event brought together participants from Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe, ranging from academics, experts, practitioners, promoters, to social partners and policymakers.

The main objective of the conference was to facilitate a process of dialogue between all the stakeholders to discuss strengths and challenges of the SSE in Morocco, as well as share regional and international practices. The Conference was organized around a series of plenary sessions and workshops on various themes such as governance, research, and international cooperation.

In her opening remarks, Ms Marouane Fatema, Minister of Handicrafts and Social Economy highlighted the importance

of the Conference to inform the ongoing process for the formulation of the SSE framework law. The ILO has been asked to provide technical assistance for the implementation of recommendations that emerged from the Conference and in particular in the field of cooperative development in the country.

>> For more information on the role of SSE to inclusive and sustainable development, see: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_329359.pdf

ILO Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in Puebla, Mexico 23 - 27 November, 2015

The ILO and the National Institute of Social Economy of Mexico (INAES) organized the sixth edition of the SSE Academy from 23 to 27 of November 2015, at the Ibero-American University in Puebla, Mexico.

The collaboration between the ILO and INAES stems from the fact that Mexico, like other countries in the Americas, has placed the promotion and development of the SSE on its agenda for social and economic development.

In Mexico, SSE plays a key role as it consists of 60,943 social enterprises comprising 12 million members (23% of the economic active population). The 2012 Mexican Law on Social and Solidarity Economy underpins the creation of INAES and provided the framework for its strategy and objectives comprising of the dissemination of SSE, training and support to productive projects, research and the fostering of participatory spaces.

The SSE Academy in Puebla brought together more than 210 SSE practitioners, trade unionists, experts and policy makers, mainly from Latin American countries. It focused on public policies in general and on social cohesion and productive inclusion in the global value chain in particular. The discussions throughout the Academy included understanding concepts related to SSE, strategies of implementation and innovative creation of communities of practice and collaboration. In addition, participants had a chance to visit local SSE enterprises and projects.

>> See ILO's Academy on Social Solidarity Economy website at: http://socialeconomy.itcilo.org/en/front-page?set_language=en

>> See presentations, materials, photos, and videos at: <http://eepurl.com/bHJlbb>

>> See press release at UN task force on SSE website at: <http://unsse.org/?p=1339>



More than 210 people participated in SSE Academy on 23 to 27 November, Puebla, Mexico.

ILO's commitment to advancing social economy in Greece

Between November and December 2015, two ILO missions took place to Greece: one was for an assessment of the Greek legal framework on social economy and the other for the revision of the social economy legislation.

In order to identify the challenges to advancing social economy in Greece, the first mission which was organized in November, observed that the Greek legal framework on cooperatives is currently fragmented as there are separate laws for agricultural, “civil” (urban) and credit cooperatives, as well as for social cooperatives of limited liability for people with mental health issues, and for three different types of social cooperative enterprises.

The ILO mission concluded that various laws also have different provisions on critical areas regarding minimum number of members, minimum starting capital, and tax treatment. In addition different types of cooperatives are being registered by at least four different registries, and supervised by as many ministries, namely Ministries of Labour, Health, Economy, and Agriculture. These laws currently do not provide for the establishment of secondary and tertiary cooperative structures (unions and federations of cooperatives) nor for the establish means of workers cooperatives.

The second ILO mission which took place in December contributed to the revision of Law 4019/2011 on “Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship and Other Provisions” with the

ILO seminar on cooperative statistics: From global overview to case analysis, 30 November, 2015

From June to November 2015, a global mapping exercise regarding statistical systems on cooperatives was conducted as part of a joint effort between ILO's Cooperatives Unit and the Department of Statistics.

On 30th November 2015, a learning session on “Statistics on Cooperatives: From Global Overview to Case Analysis” was held in the library of ILO headquarters in Geneva. Participants heard two presentations: “Global mapping of statistical systems on cooperatives: Preliminary findings” from the Department of Statistics and “Country case studies: The experience of Spain, France, Italy” from the consultant for this initiative.

During the seminar, Regina Galhardi, a senior economist at the Statistics Department, and Amber Van Dessel, an ILO intern presented the preliminary findings of the global mapping of statistical system on cooperatives. Based on regional categories (e.g., Americas, Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Africa), they explained the key features of the cooperative statistical system (e.g., types of data providers, the variables that are being collected) along with their findings from secondary sources (e.g., internet, published documents) on 64 countries. Confirming that each country has its own unique data collection system, their report points out that various providers are collecting a wide range of data. However, many countries have challenges in data collection on

Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity (MoL).

During the mission, various cooperative laws in Greece were reviewed including: Law 2810/2000 on Agricultural Cooperatives; Law 1667/1986 on Civil Cooperatives; Law 2716/1999 on Limited Liability Social Cooperatives; and Law 4019/2011 on Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship and Other Provisions. The following shortcomings were identified, for revision:

- Minimum number of members required—too high;
- Minimum capital requirements — too high;
- Minimum number of board members required —too high;
- Minimum number of cooperatives allowed to form higher level organizations required— too high;
- Inadequate regulation of legal reserve fund; and
- No provisions for worker cooperatives.

The draft law was also elaborated upon taking into account the results of a public event organized on 17 December, 2015.

The ILO will continue to support and work with the Greek Ministry of Labour, social partners, cooperatives and civil society organizations in advancing social economy in Greece.

>> See video message to Greek Government from ILO COOP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wz2mUK2sMQ8>



cooperatives due to lack of statistical standards for cooperative data, limitations faced by relevant government agencies and financial or human resources.

In order to understand the specific profiles of statistical systems of countries, case studies have been conducted on five countries since mid-October 2015 by the ILO COOP Unit. During the seminar, the preliminary findings from case studies were also presented.

The five country case studies from Costa Rica, France, Italy, Korea and Spain were led by Hyungsik Eum. The preliminary findings from Spain, France and Italy noted that various contextual factors such as historical and institutional environment affect the development of statistical systems on cooperatives. Based on comments and suggestions at the seminar, the reports have been developed further. They are being presented at the cooperative statistics meeting organized by the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) on April 5 to 6 in Rome.

The Provision of care through cooperatives: From global trends to the case of Italy, 22 October, 2015



Global population growth and ageing contribute to the increasing demand for care services, and the gap in the provision of these services keeps growing. Care workers, who tend to be mostly women, continue to face decent work deficits in the form of low wages, long hours of work without adequate payment, job security or benefits. Rooted in values of social justice, equity, democracy and decent work for all, cooperatives are emerging one such solution.

In an effort to understand the ways in which cooperative enterprises engage in the care sector, ILO Cooperatives Unit (COOP) and the Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch (GED) have embarked on a global mapping of the provision of care through cooperative enterprises since last year.

“The Provision of care through cooperatives: From global trends to the case of Italy” was held on 22 October, 2015 at the ILO Library.

Around 30 people participated at the ILO seminar. The presentation by Lenore Matthew, research intern with COOP and GED, was followed by a presentation on the Italian social

cooperative experience in response to the crisis of welfare system as presented by Claudia Fiaschi, Vice-President, Coopermondo and Confcooperative.

Follow up actions under consideration include publications for dissemination, country level pilot initiatives on care provision through cooperatives and a multi-stakeholder meeting of researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

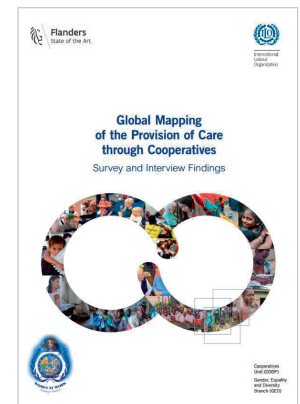
>> See full report “Global mapping of care provision through cooperatives: Survey and interview findings”: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_457286.pdf

>> See presentation “Global mapping of care through cooperatives: Preliminary findings”: http://www.ilo.org/empent/units/cooperatives/WCMS_420238/lang--en/index.htm

>> See presentation on Labour market inclusion and care provision: The experience of Italian cooperatives: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/genericdocument/wcms_420239.pdf

>> See presentation on decent work and care economy: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/genericdocument/wcms_420240.pdf

>> See interview with the presenters on “Cooperatives moving into the care economy”: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_426654/lang--en/index.htm%20?



ILO and WIEGO Initiative on Cooperatives of Workers in the Informal Economy

Worldwide there is a large number of women and men working in the informal economy. They are often excluded from labour legislation, social protection, and are working precariously. In overcoming these deficits to decent work, informal economy workers devise different solidarity mechanisms including cooperatives to gain access to a range of services (including finance, housing, education, etc.) and practice workplace democracy (one member one vote).

Membership based networks and alliances of workers in the informal economy like the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers (GAWP), the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF), HomeNet South and South-East Asia and StreetNet International, the international alliance of street vendors, have long observed that their members adopt the cooperative enterprise model to support members. The use of cooperative model with waste pickers is quite extensive especially in parts of Latin America. In a recent global mapping exercise, the

ILO's Cooperatives Unit found over 40 cases of cooperative formation among domestic workers from Asia to Africa and the Americas. The joint ILO COOP and WIEGO initiative aims to understand the rationale for nature and scope of cooperatives, and cooperative like groups of workers in the informal economy. Initially this joint initiative focuses on cooperatives of waste pickers and home-based workers.

The action research includes a global mapping and a survey component, which are being conducted with members of existing cooperatives and cooperative like groups in both sectors.

They are being complemented with a literature review and case studies that allow for a wider perspective on the reality and potential of cooperatives and cooperative like groups for workers in the informal economy.

>> For more information of WIEGO, see: <http://wiego.org/>

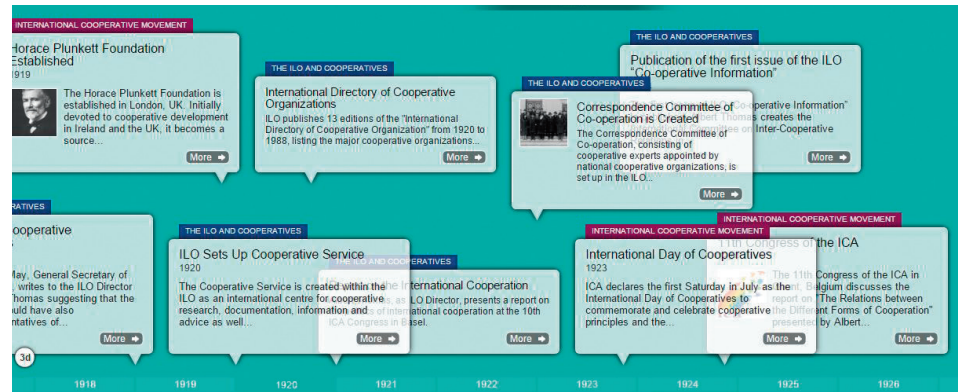
ILO COOP products

COOP HISTORY TIMELINE

MULTIMEDIA

From its creation in 1919, the ILO has recognized the importance of cooperatives as a means of pursuing its mandate to achieve social justice and full employment. The ILO remains the only specialized agency of the United Nations with an explicit mandate on all cooperatives.

The ILO Cooperatives Unit has launched a cooperative history timeline which navigates milestones of the cooperative movement from the 18 century and the ILO's work on promotion of cooperatives since 1920.



>> See Coop History Timeline at http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/468716Cooperative-Timeline/#vars!-date=1923-05-17_03:25:57!



BUILDING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS THROUGH COOPERATIVES AND OTHER SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ENTERPRISES AND ORGANIZATIONS

POLICY GUIDANCE NOTE

Focusing specifically on rural areas, this guidance note provides an overview on the ILO approach on cooperatives and other social solidarity economy enterprises and organizations in local economic

development. The note also provides the list of instruments and tools used in ILO initiatives around the world.

>> See guidance note at: http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/economic-and-social-development/rural-development/WCMS_437203/lang-en/index.htm

GLOBAL MAPPING OF THE PROVISION OF CARE THROUGH COOPERATIVES: SURVEY AND INTERVIEW FINDINGS

ILO Cooperatives Unit (COOP) and the Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch (GED) undertook a joint initiative to assess the global landscape of cooperatives that provide care, identify the challenges and opportunities that cooperatives face, and determine the resources that cooperatives need in order to be viable care providers, enterprises and employers. This report sets forth key findings from the preliminary research phase of the initiative, which consisted of an online survey and key stakeholder interviews. The findings suggest that cooperatives are emerging as an innovative type of care provider, particularly in the absence of viable public or other

private options. The findings also suggest that cooperatives generate access to better terms and conditions of work in the care sector (e.g., access to benefits, more bargaining power, regularized hours) – especially for female employees.

>> See full report at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_457286.pdf

Did you know?

ROCHDALE STREET IN MOSCOW

After the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, the cooperative movement in Soviet Russia went through a difficult period. It was deprived of its independence and became a state institution. Many government officials were placed in the governing bodies of cooperatives. With the introduction of the new economic policy (NEP) in 1921, cooperative autonomy was partially restored and an economic revival started. Consumer cooperatives were re-established in April 1921.

In 1921 the Soviet government abandoned its initial rigid economic policies and introduced a new economic policy which was

a compromise between the principles of a planned economy and those of a free economic system. Trade, the open market and private enterprises were re-established.

The national cooperative movement contributed to implementing NEP. It improved its global engagement with the cooperative movement. The ICA, at its 10th Congress in Basel in 1921, recognized the Russian cooperative movement. The Centrosoyuz (Central Union of Consumer Societies) joined the international cooperative movement.

The return of Centrosoyuz to the international cooperative movement was reflected in the name of a street in the historical center of Moscow. The street was named Rochdale Street in 1922 after the British city near Manchester where the first cooperative consumer society was established in 1844 by textile workers and where the modern cooperative movement was born.

In 1923 Vladimir Lenin produced the article “On cooperation” in which he developed the idea of the Cooperative Plan. The interest towards the potential of cooperatives increased significantly during this period.

The ILO also showed interest in Russian cooperative experiences. In 1925, an ILO study “The Co-operative Movement in Soviet Russia” was published in Geneva. This work was a result of the regular exchange of publications between the ILO and the Centrosoyuz library, which supplied the Office with relevant publications on cooperative institutions.

This article was drafted by ILO COOP Unit specialist Igor Vocatch who has since retired from the Office.



Noteworthy resources and news

SOLIDARITY AS A BUSINESS MODEL: A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COOPERATIVES MANUAL FROM THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE AT KENT UNIVERSITY

MANUAL

Multi-stakeholder cooperatives are the one of the fastest growing types of cooperatives. There is evidence of the increased use of this model in many European countries and growing interest in it in the United States. The manual provides information on a range of key issues for those considering a multi-stakeholder approach to their enterprise with case studies from US and Canada.

>> To read the manual, visit: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/211863447/Solidarity-as-a-Business-Model-Multistakeholder-Coop-Manual>

WORLD CO-OPERATIVE MONITOR 2015 EDITION

REPORT

International Co-operative Alliance and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse), collects available economic and social data on the world’s co-operative enterprises. The overall database this year exceeded all past editions reaching 2,829 co-operatives from 76 countries with a total turnover of 2,950.82 billion US dollars.

>> To download full text, visit: <http://monitor.coop/>

FILIPINA TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS LAUNCH A CO-OP —AND THEY OWN THEIR JOBS

BLOG

The blog reports on the story of trafficking survivors who leverage cooperatives to protect their rights as workers. After Judith Daluz escaped from an abusive employer and reunited with her children, she struggled to make ends meet. So she started a cleaning business with other Filipinas—where she’s her own boss.

>> To read the blog, visit: <http://www.yesmagazine.org/commonomics/these-filipina-trafficking-survivors-launched-a-co-op-and-they-own-their-jobs-20151223>

WOMEN’S COOPERATIVES PROVIDE SUPPORT AND INCOME FOR PALESTINIAN WOMEN

BLOG

The blog presents stories highlighting cooperative support to economic empowerment of Palestinian women taking heritage concerns into account. At the Idna Women’s Cooperative, 120 women members from 8 villages around Hebron have an opportunity to earn a living while sustaining their heritage.

>> To read the stories, visit: http://www.palestinemonitor.org/details.php?id=20il7ea6832ykte14e8xo#.Vq8vZ4_UjfM.twitter

COOP staff news

Ms Deborah Fassina completed her six month internship with ILO COOP at the end of October. She worked and contributed developing the global mapping on Social Solidarity Economy and Local Economic Development.

Ms Lenore Matthew completed her six month research internship with ILO COOP and Gender Equality and Diversity Branch mid-November. She contributed to developing report on the global mapping of the provision of care through cooperatives. Her research on care provision through cooperatives introduced in this issue at page 9.

Ms Bahar Ucar completed a three month internship at ILO COOP. During her internship, Bahar contributed to the joint ILO and WIEGO initiative on cooperatives of home based workers and waste pickers, as a means for transition from the informal to the formal economy. More information on the initiative is available on page 9.

Igor Vocatch worked with cooperatives for the USSR Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives (Central Soyuz) from 1978 to 1986. He joined the Cooperatives Branch of the International Labour Office (ILO) in 1986. He spent 30 years in the ILO and all of it at working on cooperatives. The only exception to this was a short stint from 2000 to 2004 when he was assigned to the ILO office in Antananarivo, Madagascar, where he served as Deputy Director. Even then he initiated cooperative activities in the region. On the occasion of his retirement, a letter of appreciation was issued by the General Director of the International Cooperative Alliance, Chuck Gould, for Mr Vocatch's years of service to the promotion and advancement of cooperatives. In a farewell gathering at the Enterprises Department, the Director of the Department Vic Van Vuuren thanked Mr Vocatch for his long years of service at the International Labour Office and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement. In ILO COOP we all wish Igor the best of health and happiness.

Recent and upcoming events

APRIL

- 5-6** COPAC Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Statistics on Cooperatives, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. For more information, <http://www.copac.coop/statistics-on-cooperatives-copac-takes-action-with-expert-workshop/>
- 12-13** Stakeholders meeting for financial cooperatives development of My.Financial.COOP.
- 21-22** Co-operative Education Conference 2016, Manchester, UK. For more information, <http://www.co-op.ac.uk/2016/02/book-place-co-operative-education-conference-2016/#.VrN4irK70>

MAY

- 24-27** ICA-CCR 2016 International Research Conference "New Strategies for Cooperatives: Understanding and managing cooperative creation, transition and transformation" Almeria, Spain. For more information, <http://www2.ual.es/ica2016almeria/>
- 30-31** B20 Coalition, Paris, France

JUNE

- 1-11** 105th Session of International Labour Conference

JULY

- 2** International Day of Cooperatives "Cooperatives: The power to act for a sustainable future"

SEPTEMBER

- 7-9** Global Social Economy Forum "Allies for the intelligent and sustainable development of cities" Montreal, Canada. For more information, <http://www.gsef2016.org/?lang=en>

OCTOBER

- 11-13** International Summit of Cooperatives 2016 "Cooperatives: The Power to Act", Quebec City. For more information, <https://www.sommetinter.coop/en>

NOVEMBER

- ILO Academy on Social Solidarity Economy, San Jose, Costa Rica (Date to be confirmed)



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