

## The social and solidarity economy (SSE) for a human-centred future of work

Cooperatives Unit

Enterprises Department

March 15, 2021



## ▶ This presentation is organized around four areas:

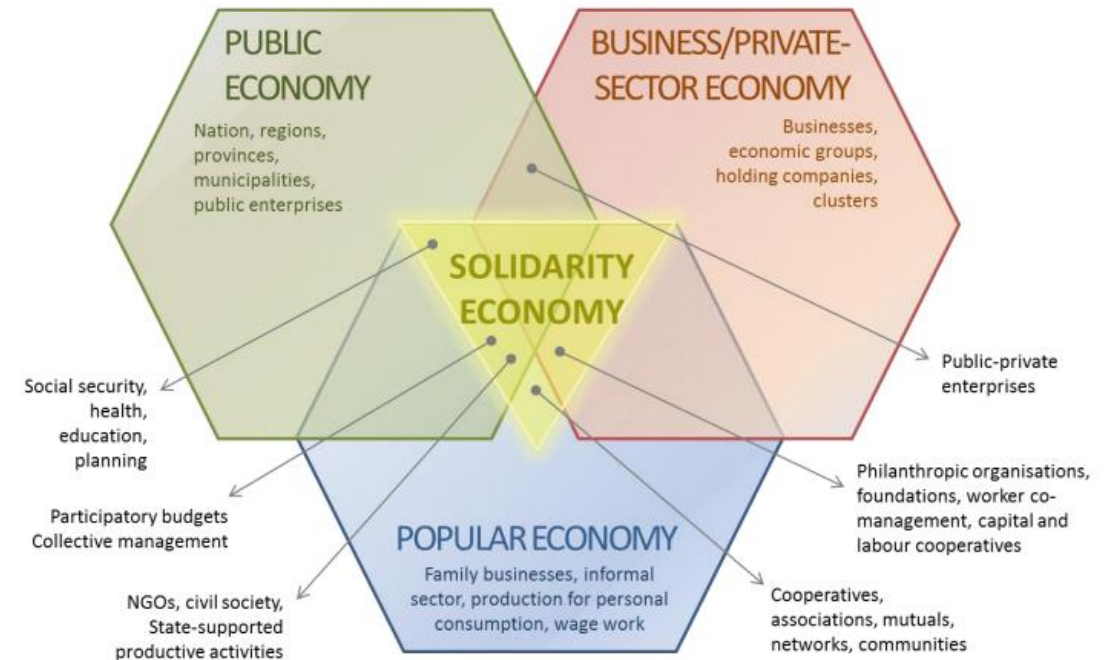
- **Context for the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)**
- **Constituents' needs & realities in light of the ILO strategic objectives**
- **ILO's work on cooperatives and wider SSE**
- **Implementation of the strategic and coherent approach and added value of an examination by the ILC**

# ► Context for Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

## What is the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)?

Enterprises and organizations (cooperatives, mutual benefit societies, associations, foundations and social enterprises) which produce goods, services and knowledge that meet the needs of the community they serve, through the pursuit of specific social and environmental objectives and the fostering of solidarity.

-- ILO 2009 Africa Regional Conference on 'The Social Economy: Africa's response to the Global Crisis'



The components of the Social and Solidarity Economy; source: (Coraggio, 2015)

## ▶ What is a Cooperative?

▶ *An **autonomous association** of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a **jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise**.*

-- ILO Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193)



## Cooperatives and other SSE enterprises and organizations (SSEEOs) are driven by common values and principles

- Economic and social function
- Collective dimension
- Solidarity
- Autonomy
- Voluntary involvement
- Participation

*Source: ILO, 2020, The Role of SSE and Social Finance in Sustainable Development and the Future of Work.*



## ▶ Cooperatives and SSE are major contributors to employment and economic output

- ▶ Cooperatives have over 1.2 billion members worldwide
- ▶ Cooperatives alone provide jobs for an estimated 279.4 million people (9.47% of the world's employed population)
- ▶ The total turnover of the top 300 cooperatives and mutuals is USD 2.1 trillion in 2015.
- ▶ Republic of Korea: The number of SSE enterprises increased from 501 in 2010 to 11,421 in 2015
- ▶ European Union: The social economy provided over 13.6 million paid jobs and contributed to 8% the EU's GDP in 2015
- ▶ Mexico: 61,717 SSEOs were registered in 2013
- ▶ South Africa: 136,000 registered non-profit organizations (NPOs) and 100,000 cooperatives in 2015

## Challenges

Despite the rising importance of cooperatives and the wider SSE, important questions remain regarding the **definition, measurement, size, impact, potential, and limits of the SSE**. A general discussion around Social and Solidarity economy (SSE) for a human-centred future of work is timely.





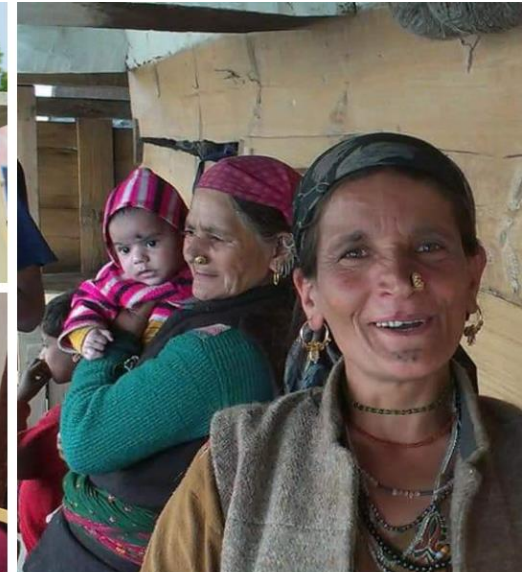
# ► Constituents' needs & realities in light of the ILO strategic objectives

## A growing number of countries are developing or have adopted measures to advance the SSE in the past two decades

- ▶ **Legal or policy frameworks** on the SSE adopted in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada (Quebec), Cape Verde, Cameroon, Colombia, Djibouti, Ecuador, France, Greece, Honduras, Luxembourg, Mexico, Romania, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Uruguay, Venezuela,;
- ▶ South Africa and the Philippines are among countries currently developing a **social economy policy**.
- ▶ **Ministries or departments** on SSE established in Colombia, France, Luxembourg, Spain, and Republic of Korea;
- ▶ **National and local programmes** promoting the SSE launched in Colombia, India, Nicaragua, Republic of Korea, Spain; and
- ▶ **Sectoral programmes** (for example, health) developed on the SSE in West Africa.

## Calls for new models of development

- ▶ Calls for new models of development are raised by countries and other actors, especially now that the **COVID-19 pandemic** has exposed fragilities in our societies, economies and deepened existing inequalities.
- ▶ As **values-driven organizations**, cooperatives and social enterprises, mutual benefit societies, and associations emerge with innovative solutions to creating and sustaining jobs.



## Recent policy developments on SSE in Asia

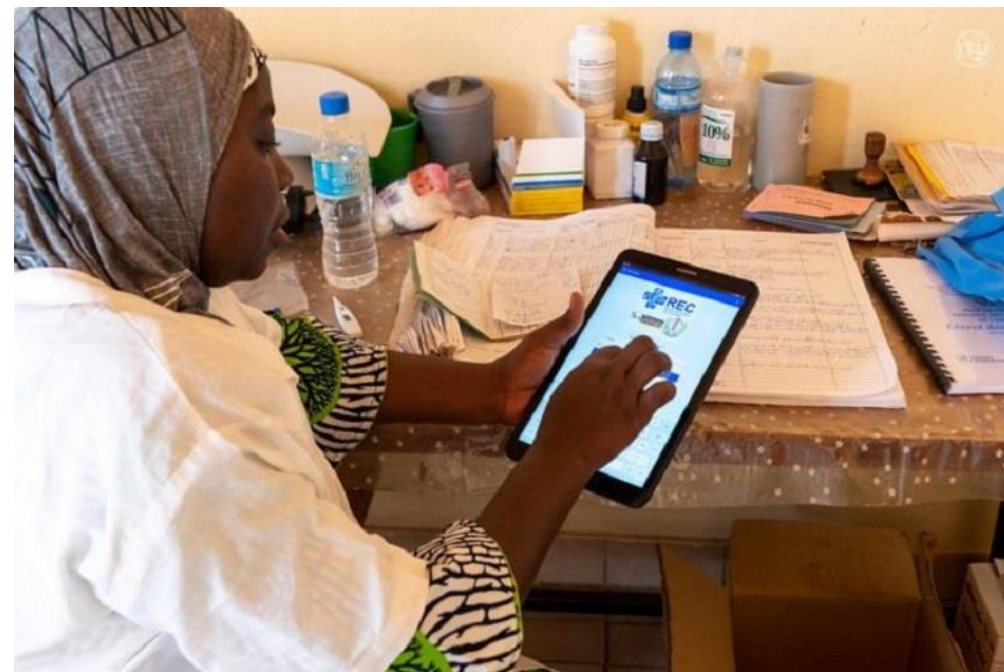
- ▶ **Japan** enacted the Workers' Cooperatives Act in December 2020
- ▶ **Republic Korea** implemented wide array of policies to boost the social economy, especially during COVID-19. The Bill of Framework Act on Social Economy is currently under discussion
- ▶ In the **Philippines**, a E-Summit on SSE is being organised as part of a national consultation on the potential amendment of the Poverty Reduction through Social Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Bill
- ▶ The **Malaysian** government has launched a RM 3m (\$728,500) Social Outcome Fund (SOF) as part of an ambitious effort to boost its social economy in 2017
- ▶ **India's** government schemes target social enterprises in health care, affordable housing, agriculture, education, clean and off-grid energy, water and sanitation



## Calls for new models of development

- ▶ *SSE (..) as alternative model of growth aimed at finding a new balance between economic efficiency and social and environmental resilience (...) By empowering individuals through greater control over decision-making processes and resources, the social and solidarity economy fosters economic dynamism, social and environmental protection and socio-political empowerment.”*

UN Secretary General, 2021



*UN Secretary General's Report on Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all, February, 2021*



## Calls for new models of development



UNITED NATIONS  
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE  
ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY (UNTFSSSE)

WHAT ROLE FOR THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN THE POST COVID-19 CRISIS  
RECOVERY?  
UNTFSSSE STATEMENT, JUNE 2020

It is necessary to address the root causes of exclusionary and unsustainable development, in order to shape a different future. Rethinking the way we do business will be crucial in order to ensure a ‘people-centred and planet-sensitive’ recovery.

### UNTFSSSE, 2020

*UNTFSSSE Statement: What role for the Social and Solidarity Economy in the post COVID-19 crisis recovery?’, June, 2020*

▶ **What services does ILO offer  
on cooperatives and the SSE?**

## ILO COOP celebrated its centenary last year

A number of activities were organized to mark this occasion

1. Photo competition & slideshows
2. ILO COOP 100 Symposium
3. ILO COOP 100 Webinars
4. ILO COOP 100 Interviews
5. ILO COOP Chiefs across time
6. Feature videos from ILO COOP
7. Special issue of APCE journal
8. Coop statistics publication



 International  
Labour  
Organization

**ILO COOP 100 Symposium**  
**Cooperating for social  
justice and decent work**

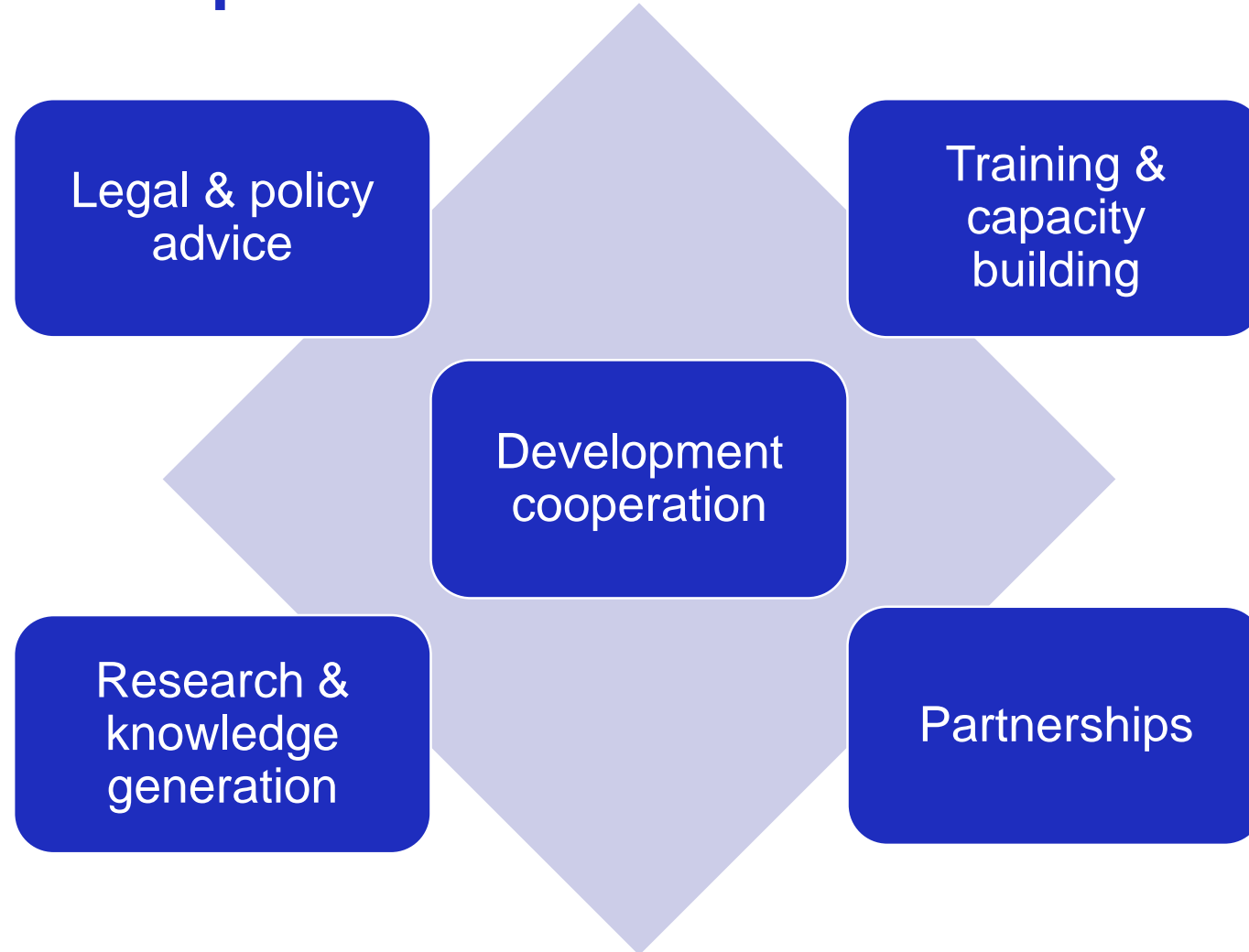
▶ **16-17 November, 2020**  
09:00-17:00 (GMT+2)  
The event will be organized virtually

This event will be live-streamed on  
ILO TV at <https://bit.ly/3iKWGoX>

For more details and registration, visit <https://bit.ly/3ix8op1>



## ▶ ILO services on cooperatives and the SSE





# The ILO addresses multiple areas of work on cooperatives and SSE



Capacity Building and Training >



Care Provision through Cooperatives >



Child Labour >



Formalization of the Informal Economy >



Fundamental Rights >



Future of Work >



Green Agenda >



Legislation and Policy >



Migrants and Refugees >



Rural Economy >



Social and Solidarity Economy >



Statistics on Cooperatives >



Sustainable Development Goals >



Trade and Global Supply Chains >



Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality >



Worker Cooperatives >



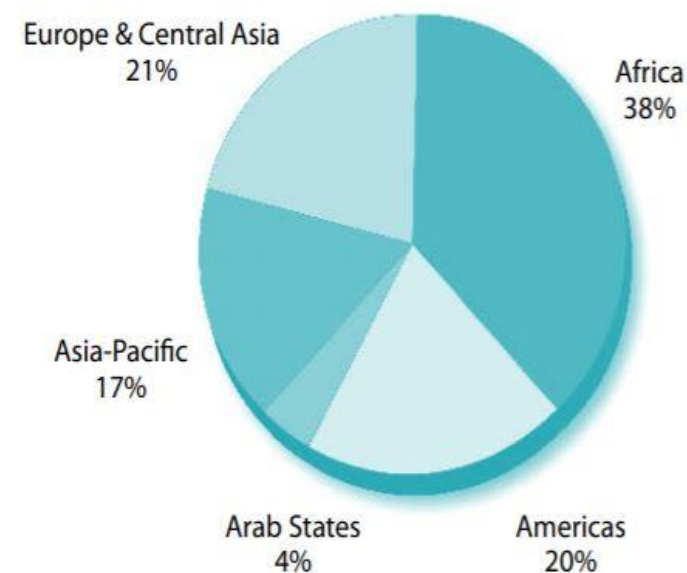
Youth Employment >



## Legal and policy advice on cooperatives and SSE

- ▶ The **ILO Recommendation on Promotion of Cooperatives, 2002 (R. 193)** has been used by more than 120 countries to revise or develop national policies and laws on cooperatives
- ▶ The ILO has ongoing coop policy and legislation support in Jordan and Peru
- ▶ The ILO has also been supporting the development of SSE policy and legislation in Tunisia and South Africa
- ▶ There are requests for ILO technical assistance in the implementation of coop & SSE legislation (oPt Djibouti, Cameroon)

Policy and legislation influenced by Rec 193 by region 1997-2014



## ▶ Examples of National Implementation of Rec No.193

- ▶ The **Philippine Government** used Recommendation No. 193 in revising the **Cooperative Code of the Philippines**, No. 6938, and preparing the new one, the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008, No. 9520, which contains full text of the cooperative principles.
- ▶ The **Government of Indonesia** used Recommendation No. 193 (which was translated into Bahasa in 2003) to revise the **cooperative law of 1992 in 2012** (Law 17/2012). The ILO was consulted about how to use the Recommendation in preparing the new law.



## Development cooperation (DC) projects on cooperatives

- ▶ Elimination of child labour (Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Nigeria, Mali, Tanzania, Zambia)
- ▶ Creation of income-generation opportunities in conflict / disaster affected communities (Ethiopia, Uganda, Sudan, Kenya, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Somalia, oPt)
- ▶ Promotion of the universal health coverage (Kenya, Cameroon)
- ▶ Promotion of decent work in the waste sector (Senegal, Cameroon)
- ▶ Trade facilitation (Tanzania) & youth empowerment (Cambodia, Laos)
- ▶ Italy-ILO cooperation to support Palestinian cooperatives



## Development cooperation (DC) projects on SSE

- ▶ Promotion of Organizations and Mechanisms of Social and Solidarity Economy ('PROMESS') in Tunisia
- ▶ Support to Tunisian youth through social and solidarity entrepreneurship ("JEUNESS")
- ▶ Strengthening the resilience and promotion of decent work of women-led SSE organizations in Tunisia ("FORTER'ESS")
- ▶ Development of Social Economy Policy in South Africa
- ▶ Land and Rights – Paths to Social and Solidarity Economy in oPt
- ▶ "Dignità in campo": SSE to prevent for of exploitation of migrant workers in agriculture (Italy)





## ▶ Research and knowledge generation on cooperatives and SSE

- ▶ **Strengthening SSE Policy in Asia** - Research and capacity building initiative on Republic of Korea, China, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia (underway)
- ▶ Research Initiative on “**The role of Social and Solidarity Economy and Social finance in sustainable development and the future of work**” (second phase on **Social innovation & SSE in Africa** launched)
- ▶ Research Project on “**Financial mechanisms for Innovative Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems**” (completed)





## ▶ Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy Policy in Asia Project

The project aims to contribute to the development of the SSE policy in Asia and the Pacific region.

The project comprises of two phases:

- ▶ **Research:** Enhance the understanding on the SSE in Asia and the Pacific region;
- ▶ **Capacity-building:** Provide technical support to countries in need to develop/strengthen their SSE policy

Research phase culminated in an **international conference** in September 2020.



ILO/KoSEA/SNU Research Conference, September 2020

## ▶ Workshop on Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy Policy in Asia

**This workshop is part of the capacity-building phase of the project (March 29-31, 2021)**

Two main objectives of this workshop:

- ▶ **Raise awareness** about the **role of cooperatives and wider SSE** in realising inclusive and sustainable development, in the post-COVID-19 recovery and beyond;
- ▶ **Promote dialogue** among constituents and key SSE stakeholders **increase their capacity** in **developing** and **strengthening SSE policies** adapted to their national context.



# Research and knowledge generation: Key publications

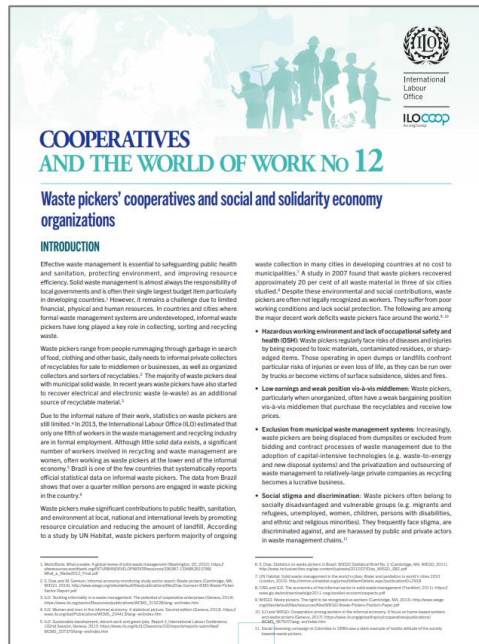
## ILO COOP world of work series

## ILO/COPAC joint research on Statistics on Cooperatives

## COPAC series on Cooperative contribution to the SDGs

## Financial mechanisms for Innovative SSE Ecosystems

## Series of public policies for SSE case studies



**COOPERATIVES AND THE WORLD OF WORK No 12**

**Waste pickers' cooperatives and social and solidarity economy organizations**

**INTRODUCTION**

Effective waste management is essential to safeguarding public health and sanitation, protecting environment, and improving resource efficiency. Solid waste management is almost always the responsibility of local governments and is often their single largest budget item, particularly in developing countries. However, it remains a challenge due to limited financial, physical and human resources. In countries and cities where formal waste management systems are underdeveloped, informal waste pickers have long played a key role in collecting, sorting and recycling waste.

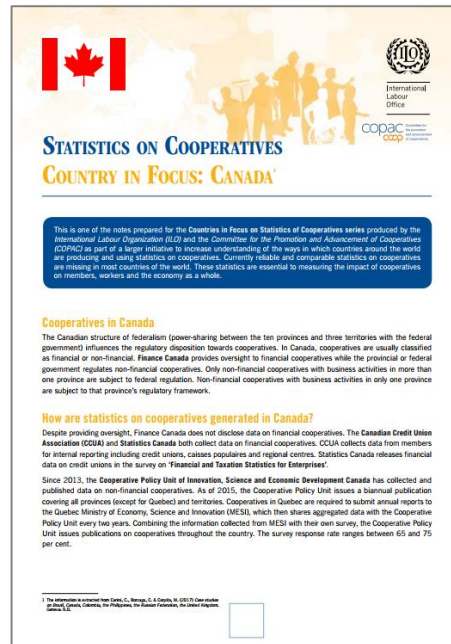
Waste pickers emerge from people rummaging through garbage in search of food, clothing and other basic daily needs to informal private collectors of recyclables for sale to middlemen or businesses, as well as organized collectors and sorters of recyclables. The majority of waste pickers deal with municipal solid waste. In recent years waste pickers have also started to recover electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) as an additional source of recyclable material.<sup>1</sup>

Due to the informal nature of their work, statistics on waste pickers are still limited. In 2013, the International Labour Office (ILO) estimated that only one fifth of workers in the waste management and recycling industry are in formal employment. Although little solid data exists, a significant number of workers involved in recycling and waste management are women, often working as waste pickers at the lower end of the informal economy.<sup>2</sup> Brazil is one of the few countries that systematically reports official statistical data on informal waste pickers. The data from Brazil shows that over a quarter of the population are engaged in waste picking in the country.<sup>3</sup>

Waste pickers make significant contributions to public health, sanitation, and environmental and local, national and international levels by promoting resource circulation and reducing the amount of landfill. According to a study by UN Habitat, waste pickers perform majority of engaging waste collection in many cities in developing countries at no cost to municipalities.<sup>4</sup> A study in 2007 found that waste pickers recovered approximately 20 per cent of all waste material in three of six cities studied.<sup>5</sup> Despite these environmental and social contributions, waste pickers are often not highly recognized as workers. They suffer from poor working conditions and lack social protection. The following are among the major decent work deficits waste pickers face around the world:

- **Insufficient working environment and lack of occupational safety and health (OSH).** Waste pickers regularly face risks of diseases and injuries by being exposed to toxic materials, contaminated residues, or sharp-edged items. Those operating in open dumps or landfills confront particular risks of injuries or even loss of life, as they can be run over by trucks or become victims of surface subsidence, slides and fires.
- **Low earnings and weak position vis-à-vis middlemen.** Waste pickers, particularly when unorganized, often have a weak bargaining position vis-à-vis middlemen that purchase the recyclables and receive the prices.
- **Exclusion from municipal waste management systems.** Increasingly, waste pickers are being displaced from dumps or excluded from bidding and contract processes of waste management due to the adoption of capital-intensive technologies (e.g. waste-to-energy and new disposal systems) and the privatization and outsourcing of waste management to private large private companies as recycling becomes a lucrative business.
- **Social stigma and discrimination.** Waste pickers often belong to socially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups (e.g. migrants and refugees, unemployed, women, children, persons with disabilities, and ethnic and religious minorities). They frequently face stigma, are discriminated against, and are harassed by public and private actors in waste management chains.<sup>6</sup>

1. Ibidem, p. 10. 2. Ibidem, p. 10. 3. Ibidem, p. 10. 4. Ibidem, p. 10. 5. Ibidem, p. 10. 6. Ibidem, p. 10.



**STATISTICS ON COOPERATIVES COUNTRY IN FOCUS: CANADA**

This is one of the notes prepared for the **Countries in Focus on Statistics of Cooperatives** series produced by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) as part of a major initiative to increase understanding of the ways in which countries around the world are producing and using statistics on cooperatives. Currently reliable and comparable statistics on cooperatives are missing in most countries of the world. These statistics are essential to measuring the impact of cooperatives on members, workers and the economy as a whole.

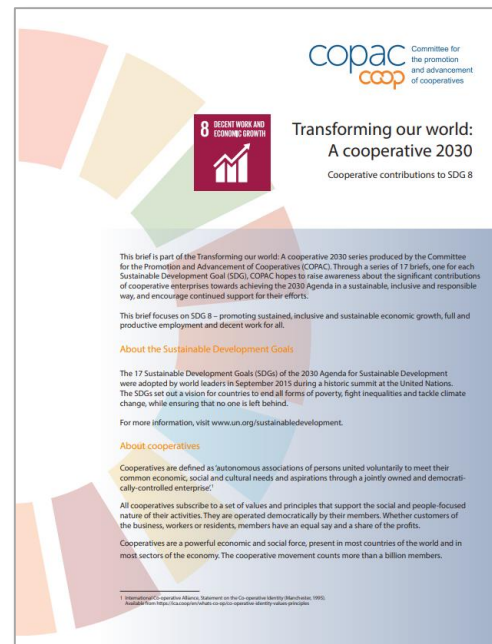
**Cooperatives in Canada**

The Canadian structure of federalism (power-sharing between the ten provinces and three territories with the federal government) influences the regulatory disposition towards cooperatives. In Canada, cooperatives are usually classified as financial or non-financial cooperatives. Only non-financial cooperatives with business activities in more than one province are subject to federal regulation. Non-financial cooperatives with business activities in only one province are subject to that province's regulatory framework.

**How are statistics on cooperatives generated in Canada?**

Despite providing oversight, Finance Canada does not disclose data on financial cooperatives. The Canadian Credit Union Association (CCUA) and Statistics Canada both collect data on financial cooperatives. CCUA collects data from members for internal reporting including credit unions, caisses populaires and regional centres. Statistics Canada releases financial data on credit unions in the survey on 'Financial and Taxation Statistics for Enterprises'.

Since 2013, the Cooperative Policy Unit of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada has collected and published data on non-financial cooperatives. As of 2015, the Cooperative Policy Unit issues a biannual publication covering all provinces (except for Quebec) and territories. Cooperatives in Quebec are required to submit annual reports to the Quebec Ministry of Economy, Science and Innovation (MESI), which then shares aggregated data with the Cooperative Policy Unit every two years. Combining the information collected from MESI with their own survey, the Cooperative Policy Unit issues publications on cooperatives throughout the country. The survey response rate ranges between 65 and 75 per cent.



**Transforming our world: A cooperative 2030**

Cooperative contributions to SDG 8

This brief focuses on SDG 8 – promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

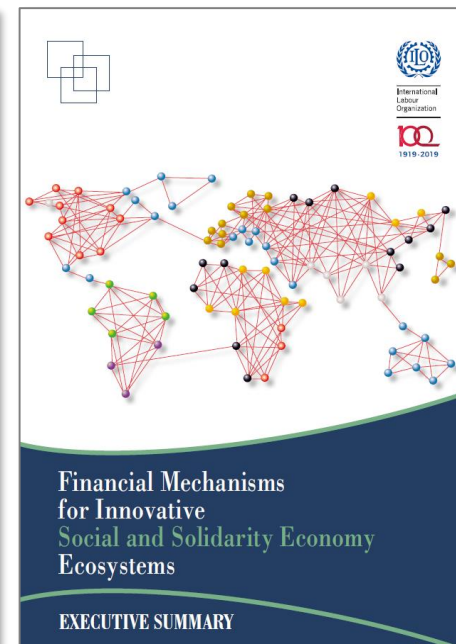
**About the Sustainable Development Goals**

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were adopted by world leaders in September 2015 during a historic summit at the United Nations. The SDGs set out a vision for countries to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

For more information, visit [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment).

**About cooperatives**

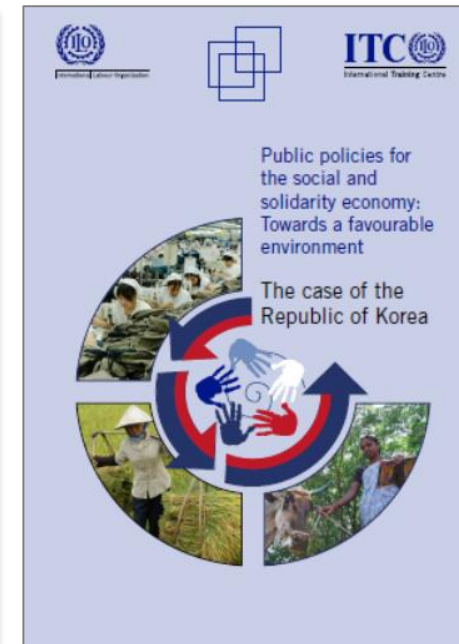
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**Financial Mechanisms for Innovative Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Cooperatives are a powerful economic and social force, present in most countries of the world and in most sectors of the economy. The cooperative movement counts more than a billion members.




**Public policies for the social and solidarity economy: Towards a favourable environment**

**The case of the Republic of Korea**

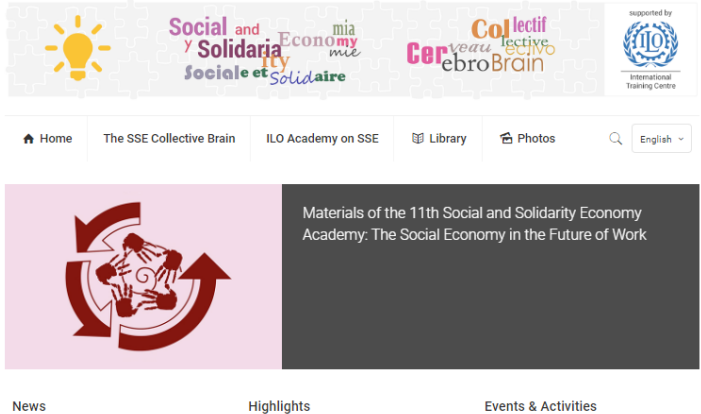


## ▶ Training and capacity building on SSE

- ▶ The **SSE Academy** brings together practitioners and policymakers from all around the world since 2011, with the 11 editions of the Academy
- ▶ The **SSE Collective Brain** serves as an information hub of the ILO SSE Academy to facilitate exchanges and cooperation beyond face-to-face interactions during the Academy



ACADEMIA DE ECONOMIA SOCIAL Y SOLIDARIA - SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ACADEMY - ACADEMIE SUR L'ECONOMIE SOCIALE ET SOLIDAIRE



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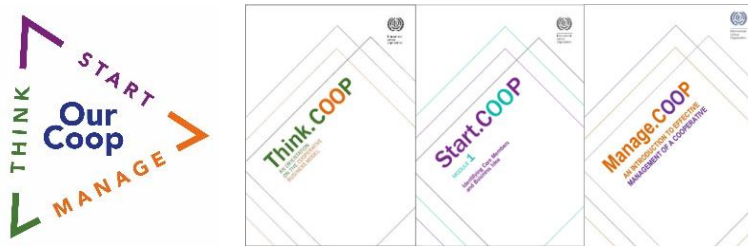
Materials of the 11th Social and Solidarity Economy Academy: The Social Economy in the Future of Work

News Highlights Events & Activities



# Training and capacity building on cooperatives in Asia Pacific Region

- ▶ Our.Coop training in India with SEWA, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia, Timor-Leste



- ▶ My.Coop agricultural cooperative training in Nepal, Indonesia, Mongolia, Vietnam



- ▶ ApexFinCoop training in Nepal



# Partnerships

## ICA

- ILO signed a new MoU in 2019 using the Future of Work as frame
- Its sectoral organization CICOPA and its regional chapters
- ILO's Director-General Statement for the International Day of Cooperatives



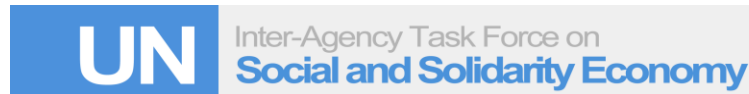
## COPAC

- Multi-stakeholder partnership between representatives of the cooperative movement
- Present members: UNDESA, ILO, ICA, and FAO
- Working Group on Statistics of Cooperatives



## UNTFSSSE

- ILO co-founded UN TF SSE to raise the visibility of the SSE in international knowledge and policy circles in 2013
- Currently chaired by the ILO, it has 18 UN Agencies and the OECD as members and 14 civil society organizations as observers.



## Others

- JCCU: Study tour with African cooperative leaders
- Republic of Korea: Secondment from the Ministry of Finance
- Italian cooperative movement: Study visits, ILO COOP tool use
- Research institutions (e.g. CIRIEC) and universities (Belgorod University) for joint research, training and conferences

► **Implementation of the strategic and coherent approach and added value of an examination by the ILC**

## ▶ The expected outcomes are conclusions and a resolution to provide further guidance for the ILO to:

- ▶ Provide a **universal definition** of the term “social and solidarity economy”, including its associated principles and values;
- ▶ Assess the **contribution of the SSE** to managing and promoting the overall support for people through the **transitions** they face throughout their working lives;
- ▶ **Provide policy guidelines** for member States wishing to establish a conducive environment for national development of SSE;



▶ **The expected outcomes are conclusions and a resolution to provide further guidance for the ILO to:**

- ▶ Equip the Office with **guidance** on how to engage in the promotion of the SSE worldwide, including through development cooperation; and
- ▶ Encourage the Office **to establish and maintain a wide range of partnerships with institutions**, organizations and agencies representing the SSE, or involved in the promotion of the SSE.



# Thank you!