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### EDITORIAL

The most important event of the last year for the cooperative world was the International Summit of Cooperatives that took place in Quebec, Canada, in early October. Not only was the ILO represented at a very high level by Ms Sandra Polaski, DDG/Policy, but also the Declaration of the Summit clearly articulated a commitment on decent work. You can find excerpts from her keynote speech and the Declaration here in this COOP News Update.

The call for papers for the ILO and ICA Research Conference on Cooperatives and the World of Work was also launched at the Summit. A range of decent work issues are highlighted in the call for papers. The deadline for submitting abstracts is February 15.

The fifth African Cooperative Leaders Study Tour to Japan, co-organized by the ILO and the JCCU, took place with the participation of five cooperative leaders. Plans are underway for all the participants since the study began in 2010 to set up a knowledge sharing network.

ILO's joint initiative with the ICA on cooperatives and the post-2015 development debate was presented in a series of policy dialogues that extended from an event in Berlin with FES and DGRV to Rome, Brussels and Nairobi.

ILO COOP also participated in a number of side events at the Committee on Food Security in Rome and the ILO Statement to the Second Committee of 69th General Assembly of the UN on Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition focused on cooperatives.

Several ILO publications were launched in this period and shared with the participants of the Summit in Quebec as well as in

the ICA regional meetings in Asia, Africa and the Americas. Highlights from ILO Regional Offices' participation in these regional events are noted in this issue of COOP News Update.

ILO's COOP Champion featured in this issue is Grania Mackie from the Pretoria office. In addition to her support for cooperative and social and solidarity economy enterprises Grania has a wealth of knowledge and experience on enterprise development issues in general and women entrepreneurship development in particular.

In this issue you can also read the news from the field with a social entrepreneurship training of trainers workshop in South Africa and development of women cooperatives in Egypt with support from ILO projects. We also introduce you to a new

(continued on page 2)



mapping initiative with the goal of developing a financial cooperative management training tool undertaken by COOP and the ILO's Social Finance Unit.

On the partnership front, the ILO has taken on the secretariat role for the UN Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy for one year. In this period ILO staff members have taken part in several social and solidarity economy events from Seoul to Rome and Madrid.

## 2014 International Summit of Cooperatives, Quebec City

The 2014 edition of the International Summit of Cooperatives took place in Quebec, Canada, 5 - 9 October. This major event in the cooperative world was hosted by ICA and Desjardins, and it brought together thousands of co-operators from around the world. This year its five key themes revolved around innovation; developing cooperative enterprises; economics, financing and capitalization; employment; food security; and health and social care services. ILO Deputy Director General for Policy, Ms Sandra Polaski participated in the event as a keynote speaker and a discussant in the round table on employment.

Bruno Roelants, Secretary General of CICOPA (The International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' Cooperatives) presented findings of a report on cooperatives and employment at the Summit. The study discusses the significance of cooperative employment in the global landscape, both quantitatively and qualitatively. By piecing together incomplete statistics CICOPA has been able to estimate that cooperative employment directly concerns 250 million people in the world.

ILO COOP continues its growth with the addition of new staff members. Most recently we welcomed Hyunjoon Joo, a secondee for three years from the Korean Government among us. Thank you for keeping on reading COOP News Update and send us your feedback and suggestions.

Simel Esim - Manager - ILO COOP

In addition, ILO COOP Unit Manager Simel Esim and ILO ACTRAV (Bureau of Workers' Activities) Senior Specialist in Workers' Activities, Pierre Laliberte participated in the Summit. They took part in the research conference where the ILO and ICA call for papers for the research conference on cooperatives and world of work was announced and launched a joint publication "Job preservation through worker cooperatives". Simel Esim also held an information session on ILO's work on cooperative development at the ICA booth and held a series of side meetings with ILO partners during the Summit.

>>To read CICOPA's report, visit <http://www.cicopa.coop/The-study-Cooperatives-and.html>

>>To read the ILO ACTRAV/COOP study, visit [http://www.ilo.org/actrav/media-center/news/WCMS\\_312010/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/actrav/media-center/news/WCMS_312010/lang--en/index.htm)

>>To see the Summit website, [http://www.intlsummit.coop/cms/en\\_CA/sites/somint/home.html](http://www.intlsummit.coop/cms/en_CA/sites/somint/home.html)

The Declaration of the Summit includes employment as one of its five findings. The Declaration stresses the importance of cooperatives as creators of employment.

### Commitment No.4 of the Declaration of the Summit:

#### COOPERATIVES AND MUTUALS UNDERTAKE TO CONTINUE TO ACT AS THE CREATORS OF GOOD QUALITY JOBS

Whereas there is a worldwide trend of declining job quality;

Whereas economic recovery, when it does occur, creates few jobs and keeps a significant portion of the population – especially young people – in a vulnerable situation;

Whereas cooperatives and mutuals, as job creators, are powerful drivers of local and regional development;

Whereas cooperatives clearly contribute to maintaining and creating jobs;

Whereas cooperatives have the ability to ensure business succession.

Cooperatives intend to assert their role as creators of jobs and builders of a more caring economy for people and communities and to this end undertake to:

- Work systematically to promote conditions that lead to decent work – job creation, labour rights, social protection, social dialogue – in order to improve and better assess cooperatives' contribution to the means of production

- Continue promoting the cooperative model as a creator of quality jobs and collective wealth at the local, national and international levels
- Promote and support programs for the active engagement of women and young people in cooperative start-ups
- Promote the inclusion of the cooperative and mutual business model in programs at educational institutions
- Support research on cooperatives and the introduction of a harmonized methodology for collecting and analyzing local, national and international data to document and demonstrate the economic and social impacts of cooperatives, including with respect to food security, and to develop appropriate policies
- Work to rectify policies that can leave people in developing countries more vulnerable or lead to financing and operational rules that impede cooperative development
- Develop initiatives to support start-ups, consolidation and growth of cooperative enterprises, including support services and related funding
- Promote the cooperative business model as a means of ensuring business succession

Source: [http://www.sommetinter.coop/cms/en\\_CA/home/declaration.html](http://www.sommetinter.coop/cms/en_CA/home/declaration.html).

## Extracts from the keynote address by Sandra Polaski, ILO Deputy Director General for Policy, at the International Summit of Cooperatives Session on Cooperatives and Employment

...  
The ILO applauds the Summit organizers for selecting employment as one of the five key themes for this 2014 Summit. Jobs were hit hard by the global financial crisis and job creation remains a major challenge today. Unemployment is still well above pre-crisis levels in many high income countries. Today there are over 200 million unemployed in the world. Informal employment—typically poorly paid, insecure, with low productivity and no social benefits—continues to dominate labour markets in many middle and low-income countries.

...  
Across the world, we have also seen a long-term deterioration in the quality of jobs, particularly for low and medium skilled workers. In the developing world, nearly one-in-four workers and their families live on less than US\$2 a day, constituting the working poor.

...  
“As global attention focuses on these challenges, cooperatives can and must play a significant role as value driven, principled enterprises expanding into new and innovative areas—from health care and high technology to recycling and renewable energy—providing people with employment, know-how, inputs, finance, products and services at fair prices.”

...  
At the ILO, we recognize the historical, current, and potential contributions of cooperatives in providing jobs, incomes and economic security, through an entrepreneurship option that allows for people to take the initiative to create new livelihood and employment opportunities, and that provides collective voice and engagement in decision making when challenges to those livelihoods arise, as during the financial crisis.

...  
Recently, we have also devoted considerable attention to the role of cooperatives in helping formalize jobs in the informal economy. Beginning last June, our policy making- International Labour Conference began discussion and negotiation of a possible new international Recommendation on transitions from the informal to the formal economy. The cooperative movement was represented there as well. That discussion will conclude in June of 2015 and hopefully will produce an ambitious international standard that will guide the actions of governments, employers, workers, cooperatives and others in seeking to provide the benefits of formal employment to those who now toil in the informal economy.

Successful policy and legislative changes require a solid knowledge base to indicate what works and what does not work. As such, I would like to congratulate the International Cooperative Summit and the colleagues in CICOPA on the global report on Cooperatives and Employment. We are delighted that the report was able to use and build on analytical, statistical and country work undertaken by the ILO, including the Global Employment Trends series. We welcome the report’s emphasis on employment policy and statistics, enterprise restructuring through worker cooperatives, the potential of cooperatives to play a role in the formalization of

workers and units in the informal economy, and the promotion of cooperative entrepreneurship among youth, to mention a few of its important contributions.

...  
Regarding child labour, the ILO estimates that there are around 168 million child labourers in the world, half of whom are engaged in work which is defined as hazardous to their health and safety. This is especially an issue in sectors like agriculture where children play a critical role in many countries and where agricultural cooperatives also have a strong presence. Therefore in the ILO we feel there is an opportunity, and indeed a responsibility, for cooperatives and their associations to look into their supply chains and ensure that their members are well aware and proactive in helping eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

Regarding discrimination, cooperative principles reject gender, social, racial, political and religious discrimination. Cooperatives have a history of contributions to equality and to economic and social empowerment. There are inspiring examples from around the world of marginalized groups using the cooperative business model to support themselves, their households and communities. Considering that 2015 is the year when the UN system will reflect on 20 years of progress since the adoption of the United Nations’ Beijing Declaration on gender equality and women’s empowerment, next year might be a good time for the cooperative movement to review its own progress on gender issues.

Cooperatives have the potential to contribute to gender equality and women’s empowerment through measures that ensure women’s fuller participation in the functioning and governance of their cooperatives, providing opportunities for career advancement for women workers, and enabling access for women members to cooperative resources and services such as education and training, financial services, and child care. The ILO has recently published a brief on the topic, and we are ready to work closely with the cooperative movement in this area.

...  
“...Cooperatives are natural and important partners for the ILO: partners in creating good-quality employment, partners in providing social protection for their member-owners and communities, and partners in giving voice and representation to those who have often found themselves excluded from democratic decision-making.”

Thank you very much.

>> The full speech is available at: [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/media-centre/statements-and-speeches/WCMS\\_311609/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/media-centre/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_311609/lang--en/index.htm)

>> thenews.coop article on Ms Polaski’s speech is available at <http://www.thenews.coop/90670/news/co-operatives/ilo-looks-to-extend-its-partnership-with-co-operative-sibling/>

>> Indian cooperatives article on Ms Polaski’s speech is available at <http://www.indiancooperative.com/ica/ilo-for-pushing-co-op-agenda-globally/>

## Policy dialogue on Cooperatives and Sustainable Development Goals

While the debate around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) beyond 2015 is intensifying, the ILO has been actively disseminating cooperative enterprises as an important tool to promoting sustainable development. In September 2014, the ILO and the Alliance launched “Cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals: A contribution to the post-2015 development debate” to bring cooperative voices into the discussion around the post-2015 development agenda.

A series of policy dialogues took place in the last quarter of 2014 on the role of cooperatives towards sustainable development goals in three European capitals (Berlin, Rome, Brussels) as well as Nairobi and were attended by policy makers, researchers, and cooperators.

### FES/ILO/DGRV INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COOPERATIVES AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: FOCUS ON AFRICA, 2ND SEPTEMBER (BERLIN)

The symposium was co-organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), the ILO, and the German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation (DGRV).

It highlighted how Germany, the global development community and cooperative enterprises can contribute to economic, social and environmental sustainability. Recent trends in cooperative development in Africa and new movements in the Global North around renewable energy coops were presented with a case studies.

The ILO presentation from COOP made by Fredrick Wanyama highlighted the role of cooperatives in employment and poverty reduction in 17 SDGs and stressed that agricultural cooperatives in Africa help farmers access the inputs required to grow crops and keep livestock and help them process, transport and market their products, while savings and credit cooperatives facilitate their members' access to financial capital.

Jürgen Schwettmann, Director of the ILO Partnerships and Field Support (PARDEV) noted that “The biggest challenge facing cooperatives in Africa is the relationship between cooperatives and the states. Many governments intervened in the cooperatives system on a massive scale in the 60s and 70s and even beginning of the 80s. Because they thought it was a way to stimulate development. This led to completely skewed structures and they all collapsed in the middle of the 1990s.”

>>FES/ILO/DGRV International Symposium on Cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals: Focus on Africa, 2nd September, see: [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/comment-analysis/WCMS\\_303222/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/comment-analysis/WCMS_303222/lang--en/index.htm)

>>To watch video, see: [http://www.ilo.org/empent/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS\\_250829/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empent/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS_250829/lang--en/index.htm)

### THE ROLE OF COOPERATIVES-INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATORS TO CONJUGATE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 16TH SEPTEMBER (ROME)

The event was organized by The Alliance of Italian Cooperatives in partnership with the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting highlighted the new financial instruments from the European Union and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for development aid and discussed indicators in measuring the quality and the social impact of development projects.

Regarding the 2015 post development debate, it was emphasized that Italy could be a lead in promoting cooperatives at the UN considering its EU presidency and strong national cooperative movement.

As global attention focuses on the challenges of the coming year, the need for cooperatives to be considered as part of the toolkit (policies, programs, institutions, regulation, etc.) and effective means of implementation (MoI) were proposed.

>>The role of cooperatives-instruments and indicators to conjugate growth and sustainable development event in Rome, see: [http://www.ilo.org/empent/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS\\_304650/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empent/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS_304650/lang--en/index.htm)

### COOP BREAK - COOPERATIVES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES FOR THE POST-2015 AGENDA, 25TH SEPTEMBER (BRUSSELS)

On September 25, the manager of ILO COOP, Simel Esim, joined the event “Coop Break - Cooperatives and Sustainable Development: Challenges for the Post-2015 Agenda” organized by CoopBuro and Cooperatives Europe in Brussels.

She presented highlights of a joint initiative of the ILO with the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) to find out how the cooperative business model is contributing towards sustainable development, how cooperatives perceive the post-2015 debate, and the role cooperatives should play.

In particular Ms Esim stressed the role of cooperatives in maintaining and creating jobs: “With enterprises that are facing bankruptcy and restructuring, transition to worker cooperatives has been adopted as an option in a number of crisis countries” she told the public in Brussels. “Research from the ILO and other institutions alike demonstrated that cooperatives are more resilient to economic downturns. Not only have financial returns to cooperatives largely remained stable; they have also recorded increase in membership.”

She concluded by saying that cooperative enterprises, which create livelihoods, employment and essential services for large segments of the world population – rural, informal, migrant alike – need to be a part of the toolkit for achieving sustainable development goals. Cooperatives need to be understood as effective means of implementation in a global partnership for sustainable development, and thus the post-2015 agenda.

>> For the full article on the event as well as the ILO COOP publications around cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals, see: [http://www.ilo.org/brussels/information-resources/news/WCMS\\_310460/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/brussels/information-resources/news/WCMS_310460/lang--en/index.htm)



## EXPERT GROUP MEETING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF COOPERATIVES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CONTRIBUTIONS, CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES (NAIROBI)

UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), in collaboration with UN Habitat held an Expert Group Meeting and Capacity-building Workshop on The Role of Cooperatives in Sustainable Development: Contributions, Challenges and Strategies on 8–10 December in Nairobi, Kenya. Jurgen Schwettmann from the ILO has participated in the event and presented a paper on the role of cooperatives

in achieving the economic dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. The expert analysis generated by the meeting is expected to become a part of the report of the UN Secretary-General in 2015, which will discuss the role and potential of cooperatives in achieving social, economic, and environmental development. The meeting will also serve as a capacity-building exercise for participating cooperative leaders and trainers in Africa.

For more information on the meeting, see: <http://esango.un.org/irene/index.html?page=viewContent&nr=25205&type=8&section=8>

## News from the field

### THE 5TH ILO-JCCU STUDY TOUR TO JAPAN

The fifth ILO-JCCU (Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union) Study Tour for African Cooperative leaders was organized from September 1 to 10. The study tour offered an opportunity for cooperative leaders and practitioners from East Africa and Japan to exchange and explore distinct cooperative enterprise models.

This year five high level leaders from East African cooperatives joined the tour; two from Kenya and Tanzania, and one from Uganda. They visited various Japanese cooperatives in Tokyo and Chiba including consumer, financial, agricultural, university, health and worker cooperatives, among others.

The programme concluded with a public seminar by the African participants on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September in which over 40 people from the Japanese cooperative movement, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), research institutes, media and African embassies in Tokyo participated. The Ambassadors of Kenya and Uganda, and the Minister-counsellor of Tanzania attended and gave speeches.

The NHK World Radio Japan (Kiswahili) interviewed two of the participants, Mr Daniel Marube of CAK, Kenya and Mr Msambya of NGOME SACCOS, Tanzania on the study tour in Swahili. The interviews can be accessed at [www.nhk.or.jp/swahili/](http://www.nhk.or.jp/swahili/)

The participants in this year's study tour proposed to form a platform for all the previous programme participants – a total of 23 people from the five editions. Through this platform they can exchange their learning experience and draw up a joint action plan for future cooperation.

>> For more information on ILO Tokyo, visit at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/tokyo/about/index.htm>

>> JCCU website at <http://jccu.coop/eng/>



### ROUNDTABLE: COOPERATING OUT OF ISOLATION - THE CASE OF DOMESTIC WORKERS IN LEBANON, JORDAN & KUWAIT

ILO COOP has supported research undertaken by ILO ROAS on the role that cooperative enterprises can play in providing services for their members, improving governance of domestic work, and serving as a possible alternative to private recruitment agencies. A Validation Roundtable, "Cooperating Out of Isolation: the Case of Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait" was held on 14-15 December 2014 in Amman, Jordan, with the participation of governments, workers' organizations, informal domestic workers' networks, rights-based support institutions working with domestic workers and legal experts.

The overarching objective of this workshop was to validate the research outcomes, prioritize findings, and explore ways to provide services for migrant domestic workers through cooperatives. More specifically, the roundtable provided an opportunity to: 1) Analyze challenges and opportunities for migrant domestic workers in Lebanon Jordan and Kuwait; 2) explore the potential of organizing services through cooperatives; and 3) explore innovative practices from across the world which may provide insights into ways employment services can be provided through cooperatives in the Middle East.

The roundtable was the first step towards a dialogue on the economic viability of employment and other services provided through cooperatives with a view to supporting the rights of migrant domestic workers and improving their terms and conditions of work. This will allow constructive thinking on enabling factors that can promote the formation and operation of cooperatives among domestic workers, including the role of national workers' organizations in integrating cooperatives as a service provision mechanism for their members. The workshop also built on experiences from other countries, such as South Africa and the US and facilitated learning from their challenges and benefitted from their successes.

>> For more information on the conference, visit website at [http://www.ilo.org/beirut/events/WCMS\\_325235/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/beirut/events/WCMS_325235/lang--en/index.htm)

>> To read the recent ILO COOP brief on domestic workers' cooperatives, go to [http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS\\_307218/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_307218/lang--en/index.htm)



### SOCIO-ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR BEDOUIN WOMEN IN EGYPT

“The Way Forward After the Revolution: Decent Work for Women in Egypt and Tunisia” project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, has undertaken an intervention on “Socio-Economic Justice for Bedouin Women” which started in September 2013 in partnership with the Centre for Egyptian Family Development (CEFD), a local NGO. The project aims at creating decent work opportunities for women from the Eastern Desert, 450 Bedouin mainly in Aswan and Red Sea governorates.

The initiative encourages the organization of economic solidarity groups of Bedouin women in order to enable them to participate in income generating activities in their communities. The project also provides judicial assistance for women to complete their personal IDs and register their own businesses.

Three cooperatives were created as part of this initiative: Nafaes, an agricultural cooperative producing medicinal and aromatic plants (membership is open to both men and women); and Ebda’a Ganoubeya and Ebda’a Badaweya, two women producer cooperatives making handicrafts.

As part of this initiative, the ILO organized training workshops on Mainstreaming Gender Links in Value Chain Analysis, My.COOP and GET Ahead for Women in Enterprise for cooperative leaders and members. The ILO project has also been building the capacity of young coaches among members of local community based organizations.

An agreement was signed in November 2014 with the Industrial Modernization Centre (IMC) in Egypt, an independent body established by a presidential Decree in 2000 to modernize the Egyptian Industry. The IMC is currently providing skills training and is helping the cooperatives in introducing more innovative and adapted designs to handicrafts products. The next steps will focus on marketing support, product quality improvement, branding, and development of marketing tools for handicrafts.

### THE COOPERATIVE REFORM PROCESS IN EGYPT ACTIVATED

It has been almost two years since the ILO prepared the Cooperative roadmap, a report on the reform of cooperatives in Egypt. Due to the political changes in the country, the follow up on the Cooperative Roadmap was only resumed in the past couple of months.

A joint workshop was organized by the Egyptian National Competitiveness Council (ENCC), an independent NGO, with technical and financial assistance of the ILO on 30 October 2014. The objective of the workshop was to discuss, among other agricultural issues, the new cooperative law in light of the Cooperative Roadmap.

ILO Consultant Mr Huseyin Polat presented an updated version of the Cooperative Roadmap with concrete suggestions for next steps as to its implementation. The presentation of the Roadmap was well received by the national stakeholders where issues and expectations regarding the process were raised.

Although the Minister of Agriculture, who was scheduled to make a keynote address at the opening, could not be at the event, he later invited the ILO Cairo Director, the ILO Consultant and ENCC representatives to his office for a discussion.

The Minister informed the group that the Government has prepared a draft revision of the Agricultural Cooperative Law, although he did not elaborate on the specific nature of changes. The old agricultural cooperative law dated from 1980 a number of shortcomings including autonomy and independence of agricultural cooperatives from the government. The Minister received Arabic copies of the Cooperative Roadmap report, ILO Recommendation 193 and the third edition of the ILO publication on Guidelines for Cooperative Legislation.

The next steps in the process include: checking the draft revision of the Agricultural Cooperative Law against ILO Recommendation 193 and other relevant references provided before finalization. The Minister of Agriculture expressed his support to the reform process.

He also announced that a joint National Committee will be established to carry out necessary activities and to develop a technical cooperation project to strengthen the implementation of the reform with an additional component on capacity building with the objective of job creation in rural areas.

For an ILO Newsroom Feature on agricultural cooperatives in Egypt, see [http://ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS\\_204313/lang--en/index.htm](http://ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_204313/lang--en/index.htm)

For an article on the Cooperative Roadmap in Egypt, see <http://ica.coop/en/media/news/ilo-proposes-%E2%80%98co-operative-roadmap%E2%80%99-egypt#%2EUQ5sW1wQUI-w%2Etwitter>

## Validation workshop of Begin and Expand Your Cooperative (Be.Coop) in Dominica

The validation workshop on the training package Begin and Expand Your Cooperative (Be.Coop) was held from November 10 to 12 in Roseau, Dominica. Organized by the ILO Office for the Caribbean in collaboration with the Cooperatives Unit, the three-day workshop brought together seven cooperative experts (trainers, registrars, etc.) from Bahamas, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Be.Coop training tool is intended for groups, individuals and support organi-

zations in the Caribbean with no, or limited knowledge of cooperative enterprise. It is structured around the three modules ('What is a Cooperative Enterprise', 'Starting a Cooperative Enterprise', and 'Cooperative Organization & Management'), the trainers manual, and the step-by-step-guide.

During the workshop the training materials were reviewed and discussed, with an aim to reach a consensus for finalization.



## My.Financial.Coop – Overcoming challenges in management of financial cooperatives

Cooperatives can be active players in the financial sector, offering simple financial products, such as loans and savings, as well as insurance. Financial cooperatives include credit unions, savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs), SACCO networks, and cooperative banks, among others. Financial cooperatives often have the capacity to reach out to areas and groups neglected by other financial service providers (FSPs), such as rural areas, workers in the informal economy and vulnerable groups. Moreover, financial cooperatives have proved to be powerful tools reaching out to women who may otherwise be excluded from access to financial services. As other types of cooperatives, financial cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. Well managed and operated financial cooperatives have low administrative costs and can offer loans at lower interest rates than other FSPs. Financial cooperatives' main source of funding is their members' savings, which further contributes to their relatively low-cost services.

However, providing financial services is not an easy task, and it requires specific technical knowledge and skills. Furthermore, lack of scale, limited IT infrastructure, lack of long-term

funding to support investment lending, and a poorly-diversified customer base, among other issues, impose challenges for the management of financial cooperatives.

As a response to these challenges and based on repeated demands from the field, the ILO has started to work on training package on management of financial cooperatives tentatively called My.Financial.Coop.

My.Financial.Coop is a joint initiative between ILO COOP and ILO Social Finance Programme, that will closely follow My.COOP experience: it will be based on a partnership among international and national organizations willing to contribute towards the development of a training package that could meet the needs of financial cooperatives in a wider range of contexts. This strategy will ensure high quality of the contents as well as worldwide delivery of My.Financial.Coop training programme.

>> To learn more about My.Financial.Coop and ways of getting involved, please contact us at [coop@ilo.org](mailto:coop@ilo.org)

>> To read about My.COOP – Managing your agricultural cooperative training package, visit <http://www.agriculture-my.coop/>



## ILO Statement at the Second Committee of 69th General Assembly

In its statement at the 69th United Nations General Assembly in New York on 28 October, the ILO highlighted the role of cooperatives for rural livelihoods and food security. The statement was delivered at the Second Committee of the Assembly on the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

The statement emphasizes the specific nature of cooperatives in providing livelihoods and services, representation and voice to rural producers and workers. It encourages countries to ensure that their labour and cooperative legislation are in line with the ILO Recommendation 2002 (No. 193) on the Promotion of Cooperatives, and calls for inclusion of the cooperative model in the post-2015 development agenda as an effective means of achieving not only food security but also other sustainable development goals.

>> To read the whole Statement, visit [http://www.ilo.org/newyork/speeches-and-statements/WCMS\\_320433/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/newyork/speeches-and-statements/WCMS_320433/lang--en/index.htm).

## Side event on cooperatives at the Committee on World Food Security

The Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) organized a side event at the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security in Rome in October, titled “Cooperatives and producer organizations: key to an efficient family farming sector”.

The discussion at the COPAC side event concentrated on the potential of family farms to enhance their contributions to reducing rural poverty and achieving food security through collective action in agricultural cooperatives and producer organizations. The side event particularly looked at successful solutions and initiatives to address the constraints faced by small-scale family farmers in forming or joining cooperatives and producer organizations.

The messages from the ILO at the event included:

- Decent and productive work is essential in achieving global food security. It is a principal path out of poverty and hunger.
- Decent work deficits in rural areas and particularly in agriculture are well documented. These problems include

- Lack of freedom of association and collective bargaining
- Forced and tied labour; use of child labour
- Unequal treatment of workers
- Lack of employment security and social protection
- Inadequate labour inspection mechanisms
- Insufficient and irregular wages
- Unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, among others
- Addressing these decent work challenges and improving occupational safety and health practices in agriculture will lead to better quality jobs and livelihoods for rural populations.

>> To read more about the Committee on World Food Security, see: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/en/>

>> To read the United Nations Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy position paper on sustainable development, see: <http://www.unrisd.org/sssetaskforce-positionpaper>

## Global Social Enterprise Forum 2014: Championing local policies for a sharing economy

The aspirations of the social and solidarity economy movement can be summed up as “an economic development model that repositions the economy at the service of citizens and not citizens at the service of the economy”. These are the words of Nancy Neamtan, CEO of the Le Chantier de l'économie sociale, of Quebec, Montreal, in her keynote speech at the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF), held in Seoul, Korea on 17-19 November 2014.

The forum celebrated the common aspirations and myriad innovations of local governments around the world in framing models of shared governance. In many countries, local governments work hand in hand with social economy actors towards meeting common purposes, be it the delivery of goods and services under the purview of local governments or the creation of economic opportunities that distribute benefits more widely.

Seoul leads with its unique brand as a “City of Sharing,” where growing density issues have led its leader, Mayor Park Won-soon, to embrace the notion of a sharing economy. A culture of sharing is engendered through a variety of innovations such as car sharing services, opening of government parking lots and municipal buildings to the public during off hours, connecting elderly with students who need a room, sharing of solar-generated energy with poor communities, among others. The Seoul Metropolitan Government has launched social economy competitions to its citizens -- whereby subsidies, office space and logistics are extended to winning start-up businesses that offer sharing programmes and to district authorities, awarding projects that promote social enterprises. These are all part of a comprehensive strategy comprising public awareness, business incubation, municipal ordinances, and broad-based policy hearings.



The City of Montreal will host the next GSEF in 2016. Another leader in the social economy movement, Montreal, along with other local governments in Quebec, has signed a public commitment to procure more goods and services from social economy enterprises. A number of systemic measures are being set up, including the forthcoming introduction of social clauses in procurement policies.

The experience of the Basque Country, which built a social model of governance based on partnerships between public and private sector, of Hong Kong, Taiwan, London, New York, Japan and Lambeth district of London – all provide voice and inspiration to the call for new development models based on



solidarity. The potential impact of such a model is gleaned from the pronouncements of Hong Kong City's Undersecretary for Home Affairs, that social enterprises in its jurisdiction have grown fourfold and that each dollar of investment has radiated benefits sevenfold. Meanwhile, other cities seek to demonstrate quantified benefits in the same way to strengthen their campaign.

In a session devoted to the Social Economy and the Role of International Organizations, Sandra Yu from ILO Bangkok office, together with participants from the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), UN Development Programme (UNDP), and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), affirmed their commitment to the advancement of SSE.

ILO is a founding member of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy which aims to mainstream SSE into national and international policy frameworks. Together with the International Training Center in Turin, Italy, ILO organizes the Social and Solidarity Economy Academy annually to develop knowledge and capacity among policy makers, ILO's social partners, academics and practitioners. It publishes a Reader on the Social and Solidarity Economy as an accompaniment to the Academy, a collection of principles, policies and practices that advance the notion of social and solidarity economy.

For further information, contact ILO COOP ([coop@ilo.org](mailto:coop@ilo.org))

>> GSEF 2014 website: <http://gsef2014.org/> >> UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy website: <http://www.unrisd.org/tfsse>

## Unlocking the potential of the social economy for EU growth

The conference on “Unlocking the potential of the social economy for EU growth”, organized by the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy during the Semester of Italian Presidency of the EU Council, was held in Rome, Italy from 17 to 18 of November 2014.

With the objective of supporting the definition of the European agenda on social economy, more than 600 people attended to identify the areas of intervention deemed necessary to spread and strengthen the social economy as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe.

The conference opening address was given by Giuliano Poletti, Italian Minister of Labour and Social Policy followed by a keynote speech by Jean-Paul Fitoussi (Istitute d'Etudes Politiques de Paris Luiss - France).

Roberto Di Meglio of ILO COOP participated in the event and moderated a panel on social economy and international cooperation on 17 November. He also took on an active role in the drafting of the event's final document, which outlined the strategy and the guidelines for the development of the social economy in Europe for the coming years.

The conference was preceded by a public consultation, which gathered contributions from a wide range of European organizations, and organized ten working groups on specific topics, attended by over 600 people from all over Europe,

including practitioners, policy-makers, and experts. As a result, the Rome Conference did not only summarise the results achieved to date, but it also looked to the future challenges that the various decision-makers and actors responsible for the management and promotion of the Social Economy are called to address.

It was underlined that the Social Economy is already playing a vital role in all European countries and contributing to the implementation of several key EU objectives, such as employment creation and retention, social cohesion, social innovation, rural and regional development including international cooperation and development, environmental protection, etc.

The main result of the conference is the Rome Strategy that the Italian Ministry of Labour is going to promote with the European institutions to recognize the unique role of the social economy has in attaining the objective of “smart, sustainable and inclusive growth”.

Elaborated in a participatory, the Rome Strategy asks the European Commission for a clear political reference point among the Commissioners, a dedicated structure with adequate resources proportionate to the importance of the Social Economy in Europe and an action plan (Social Economy Initiative).

To read the Rome Strategy, see [http://www.socialeconomyrome.it/files/Rome%20strategy\\_EN.pdf](http://www.socialeconomyrome.it/files/Rome%20strategy_EN.pdf)

## ILO participation in ICA conferences

### ICA ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL ASSEMBLY, BALI, INDONESIA

The 11th ICA Asia Pacific Region (ICA-AP) and 8th Cooperative Forum were held in Bali, Indonesia from September 15 to 20 with 500 participants from 20 countries and 45 member organization from Asia Pacific region.

Peter Van Rooij, Director of ILO Country Office for Indonesia and Timor-Leste represented the ILO and made two presentations: one on cooperatives' contribution to Sustainable Development Goals and another one on gender mainstreaming in cooperatives and the world of work.

#### *The 8<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Forum: Role of co-operatives in sustainable development of local communities*

The ILO has initiated work on cooperative enterprise development across projects in ILO Indonesia, particularly through applying a value chain approach. In the panel discussion, Peter Van Rooij introduced an ILO Indonesia project on Green Livelihood Access for Central Kalimantan's Inclusive Environmental Response to Climate Change (GLACIER project) in partnership with the REDD+ Agency and UNDP.

In 2013, GLACIER project supported capacity building on appropriate technologies to promote sustainable livelihoods. The project provided skills training as well as management training on entrepreneurship, financial literacy and cooperative development. With support from the project, communities established their own pre-cooperative groups and engaged in a dialogue with local factories in order to establish market linkages. The communities that successfully developed farmers' groups began selling their products directly to a factory at a price three times higher than the price they used to receive from traders or middlemen who visited the villages.

For cooperatives to better engage in sustainable development, he underlined that need to be proactive by getting involved in discussions at all levels in order to secure the opportunity to share their experience on the realization of sustainable development.

#### *8<sup>th</sup> Regional Women Forum: Gender mainstreaming in cooperative*

On September 17th, the 8th Regional Women Forum was held in conjunction with ICA-AP Regional Assembly. Peter van Rooij made a keynote speech and presented ILO initiatives on the promotion of gender equality in the world of work.

The three questions he raised were: How can cooperative enterprises help promote gender equality ; what are the ways that women can make use of the cooperative advantage to access opportunities; and what role the international cooperative movement can and should take?

He highlighted the fact that cooperatives are contributing to creating decent work by providing employment opportunities and means of income generation for their members, offering legally recognized ways of providing social protection and

enabling women and men to control their economic activities through democratic governance.

While there are still remaining challenges on women's representation in senior-management positions in cooperatives, he suggested three elements: Facilitating greater access for women to business advisory services, skills and management training, and finance to start up and strengthen their cooperative enterprises, measuring the nature and extent of women's participation in cooperatives across all levels, particularly at senior levels, and to make this information available and placing gender equality at the heart of cooperative contributions to sustainable development.

## Recommendation of the ICA-AP Regional Women Forum-2014

We, women and men from eight countries from ICA Asia Pacific Region, who participated in the Regional Women Forum on this day of 17 September 2014 deliberated upon the theme "Gender mainstreaming in Co-operatives for Sustainable Development" recommend the following to be implemented by ICA-AP as well as its member co-operatives for the empowerment of women and gender equality in co-operatives:

### RECOMMENDATION:

Change the name of women's committee to 'Gender Equality Committee'.

Understand the diversity of the Asia Pacific Region, but are resolute to put a measurable yardstick to work towards changing regulations and provisions that still discriminate women as being inferior to men, in Co-operatives, within the Asia and Pacific.

Cultural barriers and regulatory short falls will be placed in tangible plans and policies of the gender equality committees of Co-ops in each country, to ensure that women receive equal treatment as men to accelerate sustainable development through Co-operatives.

Participants of The Women's Forum are resolute to establish benchmarks so targets and quota of Women's role in leadership and management of Co-operatives will be achieved within a defined time frame.

Our all-time resolution is to provide 30% quota for women at all levels of co-operatives in Asia Pacific.

(Source: ICA-AP Regional Women Committee 2014)

<http://www.ica-ap.coop/Structure/recommendation-ica-ap-regional-women-forum-2014>



#### ICA AFRICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY, NAIROBI, KENYA

The 2014 International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Africa Regional Assembly was held from 17 to 19 November in Nairobi, Kenya. Edmund Moshy from the ILO Country office for Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda participated in the conference, showcasing best practices and exploring new ways to improve the legislative environment for cooperatives to survive and thrive.

The theme for the 2014 Assembly was “Improve Member’s Socio-Economic Situation by Encouraging the Benefits of Co-operative Enterprises”. The theme was chosen in order to bring into spotlight the emerging business trends and the ways cooperatives across Africa can respond to the changing business environment. A key discussion in the Assembly was around the development and adoption of East African Community Cooperative Societies’ bill, similar to the Organization for Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA) cooperative framework law that covers sixteen mainly Francophone countries, and the framework law on cooperatives in Latin America.

>> For more information on ICA Africa, see <http://ica.coop/en/ica-regional-offices/africa-region>

>> For an article on the Assembly in an Ugandan newspaper, see: <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/662335-eac-cooperative-societies-bill-seeks-to-stimulate-trade.html>

>>For the framework law for cooperatives in Latin America, see: [http://www.aciamericas.coop/IMG/pdf/Libro\\_Marco\\_Leyes.pdf](http://www.aciamericas.coop/IMG/pdf/Libro_Marco_Leyes.pdf)

#### ICA AMERICAS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY, CARTEGENA, COLOMBIA

The 2014 ICA Americas Regional Assembly took place in Cartagena, Colombia between 2 - 7 November 2014.

Philippe Vanhuynegem from the ILO Regional Office for the Americas in Lima participated in the event. His presentation focused on role of the ILO in the promotion of social dialogue, negotiation and social contracts for cooperative development. Highlighting relevant experiences he noted that the ILO contributes to promotion of cooperatives in the region through research, legal and political advisory services and capacity building programmes.

To see Philippe Vanhuynegem's presentation, <http://www.aciamericas.coop/IMG/pdf/philippevanhuynegem.pdf>

#### ICA-AP-MAF NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “BUILDING UP THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM IN LAOS”

Mr Maurizio Bussi, the Director of the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific participated in the National Conference on Cooperative Policy and Legal System in Vientiane, Laos, held from 11-12 November 2014. The conference was co-organized by the ICA Asia-Pacific Region and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR, with an aim to contribute to the progress of establishing a cooperative system through enabling law and policy framework in Laos, and to provide technical inputs for the framing of cooperative Law and Policy.

Ms Bussi shared the ILO knowledge and experience on cooperative legislation and policy based on the Recommendation 193, and expressed ILO’s commitment to see through any requests by Laos to improve their cooperative system. Mr Bussi also emphasized the importance of advancing gender equality in cooperatives, and ILO’s 95 years of collaboration with ICA and the cooperative movement.

>> For more information on the conference, see <http://www.ica-ap.coop/icaevents/ica-ap-maf-national-conference-building-co-operative-system-laos>



## COOP Champions: Grania Mackie, ILO Pretoria

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 Grania Mackie has over 20 years of experience on small enterprise development, seven of those spent on running her own small business. Currently based in the ILO's Pretoria office, she helped develop many of ILO's support packages for women entrepreneurs, to ensure gender equality and disability inclusion in small enterprise development programmes in East and Southern Africa between 2002 and 2012.



Grania holds a BA (Hons) in business studies and two MSc's, one in development management and the other in environmental decision making.

Currently, as Chief Technical Officer, Grania leads a team working on a Government of Flanders funded

“Public and Private Procurement and the Social Economy” (PPPSE) project. Within the context of the New Growth Path, the South African government has identified the social economy as one of the drivers of job creation and economic growth for the country. The project responds to this national priority by supporting social economy businesses in South Africa to penetrate the regulatory space for the preferential procurement of their goods and services through public and private sector procurement.

It does this (1) with a mix of advocacy and policy advisory services targeted at procurement officials in government and public and private sector corporate business, and (2) through capacity building support for owner-managers of social enterprises, including cooperatives.

The overall outcome of the project is more and better jobs for men and women in sustainable social enterprises. The partners in the project are the Departments of Economic Development in KwaZulu Natal and the Free State who facilitate the project's access to social enterprise development intermediaries at the provincial level. Developing local business development service providers and procurement professionals to tailor services and approaches that support social enterprises is the project's sustainability strategy.

Grania sees that the ongoing global economic crisis coupled with jobless growth has brought about a renaissance for cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy. A wave of entrepreneurial approaches to challenge social and economic

deficits, coupled with an increasingly accessible social media, means the opportunities for creating sustainable cooperatives and other social enterprises that provide decent work and address a social need are expanding.

Grania's experience in enterprise development with a focus on social equity and inclusion leads her to believe that people centered economic organizations, such as cooperatives and social enterprises, are key in socially inclusive enterprise development. She is confident that development agencies will be increasingly recognizing the cooperative and social enterprise model of intervention.

The contribution of people centered economic organizations to promoting gender equality is being well demonstrated, two examples among many are: the role domestic worker cooperatives play in promoting solidarity; social enterprises (enterprise incubators) that are targeting and enabling women to start and grow their own enterprises; and women owned housing development cooperatives which are breaking down gender stereotypes within communities.

However, Grania feels that the social and solidarity economy has the capacity to play a much more central role in achieving gender equality and encouraging diversity in the “mainstream” economy and as the sector develops, the promotion of gender equality and diversity will become a defining characteristic.

Although Grania is leaving the ILO, we look forward to collaborating with her and wish her the best in her future endeavors. We are confident that with her drive, Grania will continue to contributing to real change on the ground wherever she goes.

Go Grania!

>> Visit ILO DWT/CO Pretoria website at <http://www.ilo.org/addisababa/about-us/offices/pretoria/lang--en/index.htm>

>> See brochure on ILO's work on Social and Solidarity Economy: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---emp\\_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms\\_175515.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_175515.pdf)



## Private and Public Procurement and the Social Economy Project (PPPSE)

Trainers master class in ILO social enterprise development tools  
3-7 November 2014

Early November, the PPPSE project trained trainers from KwaZulu Natal's Coastal College in social enterprise development tools. The eight master trainers were trained in the ILO's social enterprise development tools: Introduction to Social Enterprise; Generate Your Social Business Idea; and Generate Your Social Business Plan.

Following this course, the master trainers will be able to train trainers on the tools under the supervision of the ILO and Coastal College and become ILO certified trainers of trainers on social enterprise development.

Six of the eight participants in the training were previously trained trainers from the Coop Academy of KZN Coastal College, while the other two were private providers who are experienced ILO Trainers. During the course for the next 6 months the four men and four women will train around 60 trainers on ILO's tools who will reach around 450 social enterprises not only to improve the sustainability of their businesses but also to link them up with opportunities for further support and market access.

For more information on future Training of trainers' session, please contact [nyambe@ilo.org](mailto:nyambe@ilo.org)



## ILO COOP staff news

Mr Guy Tchami was appointed as technical Officer in COOP in January 2015. He has been with the ILO for the past fourteen years, having started in 2001 with COOP, working on project formulation, backstopping and research. Between 2008 - 12 he was based in Dar es Salaam working with COOP Africa, a DFID-funded programme on cooperative development in Eastern and Southern Africa, before returning to the headquarters.

Mr Hugo Oberson joined ILO COOP in September. He is contributing to the development of practical tools, particularly in relation to labour migration and informal economy, as well as to identifying particularities of cooperatives in fragile or post-conflict states.

Mr Hyunjoon Joo, a secondment from the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of the Republic of Korea, joined the Cooperatives Unit as a technical officer in November. Prior to his secondment to the ILO, he worked on policies for financial inclusion and cooperative development in Korea. Mr Guilherme Suedekum joined ILO COOP & Social Finance Programme in October to help with the development of the My.Financial. Coop training programme. He has experience on various aspects of financial inclusion and entrepreneurship from the

past four years, including spells in organizations such as Endeavor Brasil, Universal Postal Union (UPU), G20 Youth Entrepreneurs Alliance and Symbiotics SA.

Ms Susan Bvumbe joined the ILO COOP as an administrative assistant in June.



## Recent ILO COOP publications

### Tackling informality in e-waste management: The potential of cooperative enterprises



The amount of electric and electronic waste is growing – and fast. As new products enter the market, the consumers get rid of their old computers, mobile phones and fridges. E-waste presents challenges: it is hazardous to human health and the environment and it is complex and costly to treat. E-waste is managed and recycled mostly by informal workers in developing countries, often under poor working conditions.

E-waste is also a valuable resource. If recycled properly, it can create productive jobs, save raw materials and contribute to green economies. Cooperatives offer one effective way to achieve this. This working paper explores the role and potential of cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy organizations in coping with the challenges of e-waste, and in contributing to more and better jobs in e-waste recycling.

Available at: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_dialogue/---sector/documents/publication/wcms\\_315228.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/publication/wcms_315228.pdf)

### Promoting cooperatives: An information guide to ILO Recommendation No. 193



The ILO's Recommendation 193 on the Promotion of Cooperatives was adopted in 2002 and provides an internationally agreed template for national policy. This second edition has been updated and revised and will help cooperatives, governments, employers' and workers' organizations make the cooperative model become the option for achieving sustainable development.

Available at: [http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS\\_311447/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_311447/lang--en/index.htm)

### Job preservation through the creation of worker cooperatives: Lessons for trade unions



Employees at failing businesses should be given the opportunity to make a buyout bid and transform the firm into a cooperative, says a new ILO publication. "Job preservation through worker cooperatives: An overview of international experiences and strategies" was released by the ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) and the ILO COOP unit at the International Summit of Cooperatives in Quebec City, held from 6 to 9 October 2014.

The publication is a review of the lessons learned by trade unions and cooperatives in their efforts to prevent the closure of enterprises through buyouts. It provides examples of success stories and documents the conditions that led to success.

Available at: [http://www.ilo.org/actrav/media-center/news/WCMS\\_312010/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/actrav/media-center/news/WCMS_312010/lang--en/index.htm)

### Cooperatives and the World of Work No.1

#### Leveraging the cooperative advantage for women's empowerment and gender equality

Inequalities between women and men exist in the world of work, both in quantity of job opportunities and quality of employment. Gender equality in the world of work signifies equality of opportunity and treatment quality of remuneration and access to safe and healthy working environments, equality in association and collective bargaining, equality in obtaining meaningful career development, maternity protection, and a balance between work and home life that is fair to both men and women. This brief provides insights into questions such as: How can cooperative enterprises help promote gender equality? What ways women can make use of the cooperative advantage to access opportunities that are otherwise denied to them?

Available at: [http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS\\_307217/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_307217/lang--en/index.htm)

### Cooperatives and the World of Work No.2

#### Cooperating out of isolation: Domestic workers' cooperatives

The International Labour Organization estimates that, worldwide, there are at least 52.6 million domestic workers. Often domestic workers face isolation due to their workplaces and restrictions on their movement by their employers. Also, domestic workers frequently work outside their home countries as migrant workers. This brief provides how cooperatives can provide a way out of precarious and informal working arrangements, which can be a feature of working life for many migrant workers.

Available at: [http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS\\_307218/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_307218/lang--en/index.htm)

## UPDATED ILO ENTERPRISES DEPARTMENT BROCHURES

### The Cooperative way of doing business

### The Social and Solidarity Economy

### Boosting Local Economies

Available at: <http://ilo.org/empent/Publications/lang--en/index.htm>



## Noteworthy resources

### BOOK

J. Cornwell, M. Johnson, A. Trott and Julie Graham. 2013  
**“Building Co-operative Power: Stories and strategies from worker co-operatives in the Connecticut River Valley”** Levellers Press, Amherst, Massachusetts

The book showcases background and footsteps of past and present worker co-operatives in the Connecticut River Valley. At the beginning of the publication, the life and everyday reality of a cooperative member running a business are presented in a narrative based on the voice of 50 former and current workers. The book also introduces 11 workers cooperative from this region and offers the cautionary story from their experiences which turn into the discussion to address how a cooperative leverages its value and principals.

For more information visit; <http://www.geo.coop/story/new-book-worker-co-operatives-and-regional-economic-development>

### BLOG

S. Esim 2014.



**“Cooperatives and Formalization”** at Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) website

Along with the occasion of celebrating 6th General Assembly of the Women in Informal Employment:

Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) network, the blog reviews cooperatives engagement with informal economy and women socio-economic empowerment with examples from domestic workers, waste pickers, to home based workers.

For ILO COOP Blog visit; <http://www.wiegoga2014.org/blog/2014/11/12/cooperatives-and-formalization#comments-5463111de4b0e58fabdf4a4b>

WIEGO official website; <http://wiego.org/>

## Cooperative visit in Geneva

On December 2nd 2014, the ILO COOP visited the Laiteries Réunies Genève (LRG), a cooperative federation of milk producers and farmers in the territory of Geneva, the French free zones of Ain and Haute-Savoie, as well as part of the canton of Vaud up to Lausanne. The LRG includes nearly 90 local cooperatives that bring together more than 700 members.

The LRG supply the regional population with high quality local products such as milk, cheeses, yogurts, desserts, meat and charcuterie, all being made in Geneva. Today, the turnover exceeds 263 million CHF and they employ more than 400 people.

Mr Pierre Charvet, General Manager of the LRG says “The value of this cooperative is thanks to the dedication of its women and men members”. And he added “We are ideally

### BOOK

S. Novkovic, and T. Webb, 2014.

**“Co-operatives in a Post-Growth Era: Creating Co-operative Economics”**

Today, cooperative enterprises employ more than 100 million people around the world. In this book, the discussion does not start addressing the potential or the positive impact of cooperatives on economic issues, but features a remarkable roster of internationally renowned critical thinkers whose work is relevant to the wider needs of the peoples in the community. Based on this overview, economic thinkers study a feasible alternative for a more environmentally sustainable and equitable economic system, cooperatives as a business model to enable to change economic landscape.

### REPORT

J.P Girard, 2014.

**“Better Health & Social Care How are Co-ops & Mutuals Boosting Innovation & Access Worldwide?: An international survey of co-ops and mutuals at work in the health and social care sector (CMHSC14)”**

The research presents an international overview of cooperatives and mutuals in health and social care sector, which includes medical and social care service, health insurance products as well as pharmacies. A comprehensive review of this sector has not been produced since a global research was conducted by UN in 1997.

The study, covering 59 countries from five continents, was undertaken by a team which sourced information and data from government offices, cooperative organizations, research centres, and in some cases, individual cooperatives.

Two volumes of report are available at:

Volume 1: Report [https://previewihco.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/report\\_lps\\_vol1.pdf](https://previewihco.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/report_lps_vol1.pdf)

Volume 2: National Cases [https://previewihco.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/report\\_lps\\_vol2.pdf](https://previewihco.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/report_lps_vol2.pdf)



located in the heart of the booming Greater Geneva we wish that the added value to the milk production of our members falls within the framework of a balanced and sustainable economic development”.

## Recent events

### NOVEMBER

- 2-7** ICA Americas Regional Assembly. For more information, see <http://www.aciamericas.coop>
- 10-12** ILO Validation Workshop on Begin and Expand Your Cooperative – Be.Coop in Dominica
- 11-13** WIEGO General Assembly. For more information see [www.wiegoga2014.org](http://www.wiegoga2014.org) ILO COOP blog is available at [www.wiegoga2014.org/blog](http://www.wiegoga2014.org/blog)
- 17-18** Conference on Unlocking the potential of the social economy for EU growth, Rome Italy. For more information, see <http://italia2014.eu/en/news/post/unlocking-the-potential-of-the-social-economy-for-eu-growth/>
- 17-18** ICA Africa Regional Assembly. For more information see, <http://ica.coop/en/events/ica-africa-regional-assembly>

- 17-21** Cooperative as a means of formalizing economy and creating enabling business environment in Moscow

### DECEMBER

- 1** “Co-operative banks: a model to finance the real economy” European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels [http://www.eacb.coop/en/events/6th\\_forum\\_coop\\_banks\\_SMEs\\_Brussels\\_EESC\\_EACB\\_CIBP\\_UEAPME.html?BackC=&BackP=1&BackMaxR=6](http://www.eacb.coop/en/events/6th_forum_coop_banks_SMEs_Brussels_EESC_EACB_CIBP_UEAPME.html?BackC=&BackP=1&BackMaxR=6)
- 8-9** Expert group meeting and capacity-building workshop on cooperatives and sustainable development goals, Nairobi, Kenya
- 14-15** Cooperating out of isolation: the case of domestic workers in Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait Validation Workshop <http://www.ilo.org/beirut/lang--en/index.htm>

## Upcoming events

### MAY

- 27-30** ICA Research Conference 2015 in Paris “Future of the cooperative model: creativity, innovation and research Conference” For more information see, <http://www.ica-paris2015.com/>

### JUNE

- 2-4** Call for Papers for the CASC Conference in Ottawa, (Deadline for Proposals 16 Jan, 2015) For more

information, see <http://www.coopresearch.coop/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Call-for-Papers-CASC-2015-Eng-final.pdf>

### NOVEMBER

- 9-10** ICA-ILO Cooperatives and the World of Work Research Conference(Deadline for abstracts 15 Feb, 2015) For more information, see [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---emp\\_ent/---coop/documents/event/wcms\\_310424.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/event/wcms_310424.pdf)

## ICA-ILO Research Conference on Cooperatives and the World of Work

The International Co-operative Alliance Committee on Cooperative Research (ICA CCR), Akdeniz University in Antalya and the International Labour Organization (ILO) will host a research conference on 9-10 November 2015 in Turkey. The conference will bring together researchers, students, practitioners, advocates, policy makers and representatives of employers' and workers' organizations working in areas of cooperative enterprises and social and solidarity economy organizations, as well as labour research and themes related to the world of work.

- Abstracts: February 15, 2015
- Notification of acceptance: April 15, 2015
- Early bird registration: September 15, 2015

For more information, [http://www.ilo.org/empent/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS\\_310424/lang--en/index.htm?lang=en](http://www.ilo.org/empent/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS_310424/lang--en/index.htm?lang=en)



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