

The co-operative business model: more stable, competitive and decent work

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# The International Labour Organization (ILO) and Cooperatives

- Since 1919
- International instrument: Recommendation No. 193 (2002)
- ILO's Decent Work Agenda

Employment in or within the scope of cooperatives concerns at least **279.4 million** people across the globe, in other words **9.46%** of the world's employed population. CICOPA, 2017





#### Areas of work

Research and Policy dialogue knowledge generation Development cooperation Training and Legal and capacity policy advice building

The ILO promotes the cooperative business model and other social and solidarity economy enterprises to create and maintain sustainable enterprises, offering jobs that not only provide income but also pave the way for broader social and economic advancement, empowering individuals, their families and communities.



## Policy dialogue

- Committee for the promotion and advancement of cooperatives (COPAC): UN DESA, FAO, ICA,
  WFO and ILO
- UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy
- Engagement with the ICA, and its regional (Asia Pacific, Americas, Africa, Europe) and sectoral organizations
- Partnership with national, sub-regional and sectoral organizations through development cooperation projects



# Research and knowledge generation

- Studies, policy & issue briefs, reports and interviews on the contribution of cooperatives in areas such as:
  - ✓ Care provision
  - ✓ Elimination of Child Labour
  - ✓ Formalization of the informal economy
  - ✓ Future of work
  - ✓ Green agenda
  - ✓ Migrants and refugees
  - ✓ Rural economy
  - ✓ Sustainable Development Goals
  - ✓ Women's empowerment and Gender Equality
  - ✓ Worker Cooperatives
  - ✓ Youth employment
- Statistics on cooperatives



#### Legal and policy advice

- ILO Recommendation No. 193
- Guidelines for Cooperative Legislation (available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic & Russian)
- Legal and policy advise: over 109 countries in the last 16 years (e.g. Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, oPt,)
- Advancing SSE legislation, policy and strategies (e.g. South Africa and Tunisia)



## Training and capacity building

- Education on coops: general curricula
  - ✓ Tunisia (current)
  - ✓ Colombia
  - ✓ Peru
  - ✓ VietNam
- Building and strengthening capacities of cooperatives
  - ✓ Accelerate.Coop step-by-step tool to support the establishment of a cooperative
  - ✓ My.Coop training programme to improve management of agricultural cooperatives
  - ✓ MyFin.Coop training programme for apex organizations of financial cooperatives
  - ✓ Decent work guidelines for cooperatives (forthcoming)
- Social and Solidarity Economy Academy (upcoming in November December in Spain)



### Development cooperation

- Development cooperation projects in over 20 countries around the world
- Collaboration with other ILO departments and field offices and other UN agencies for project implementation



### The future of work & youth

- ILO's Future of work initiative
- Changes in the world of work
  - Economic
  - Demographic
  - Technological
  - Environmental
- Cooperatives emerging as economic alternatives in responding to the challenges of a changing world of work



# Virtuous cycle of youth engagement in cooperatives

Coop education in schools Starting **Training** internships & young apprenticeship people in s in existing new youth coops coops **Existing** cooperatives **Hiring other Getting jobs** young people in existing in new youth coops coops **Becoming** Setting up members in new youth existing coops coops

New youth cooperatives

