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*International Conference of Labour Statisticians
2 - 11 October 2013*

Statistics on cooperatives

Why? What ? How?

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WHY ? Need for statistics on cooperatives

- Cooperatives are a special type of enterprises that
 - Are owned by two or more “members”
 - Are democratically controlled: “one member, one vote” principle
 - Provide services to members “at cost” – more important than maximizing benefits
 - May be registered in a government agency or not
- They enhance the members’ capacity to produce or to consume
 - They reduce costs of operation
 - They increase their members’ visibility, their capacity to negotiate prices and market goods or services
 - They increase resilience of individual workers by pooling resources
- Cooperatives and mutual societies can be considered together



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Current international efforts to measure cooperatives



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- The International Labour Organization
 - Recommended to governments to ensure that national policies seek to improve national statistics on cooperatives with a view to the formulation and implementation of development policies' (§8 (l) of the ILO Recommendation 193)
- The United Nations General Assembly
 - Recommended the production of statistics on cooperatives and mutual societies (A/54/57)
 - In order to recognise their importance in social development
- European Union
 - Has developed a manual to construct a satellite account on cooperatives and mutual societies – social economy
 - Mainly interested in estimating value added
 - Approach measurement through registers and cooperative surveys

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WHAT? Data items



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- Number of cooperatives
- Number of members
- Number of workers in cooperatives (employees, members, family workers) / number of jobs in cooperatives
- Value of production, expenditures, assets

- Statistics need to be complete:
 - they should cover the whole country and all cooperatives
- Statistics need to be disaggregated:
 - by type of cooperative (and kind of economic activity) and other characteristics of the cooperatives
 - by demographic and work characteristics of persons, e.g., sex, type of contract

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How? Sources and data items



Type of Source	This source is able to provide information on :				
	Number of cooperatives	Number of members	Number of workers	Number of jobs	Value added
Cooperative registers	yes	no	no	yes	Yes
Cooperative survey	yes	no	no	yes	Yes
Establishment-based surveys	yes	no	no	yes	Yes
Household-based surveys	no	yes	yes	yes	no

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Sources: strengths and limitations



	Strengths	Limitations
Registers	Regular statistics for registered cooperatives	Coverage problems Double counting (of cooperatives, members and workers)
Surveys of cooperatives	In-depth surveys on registered cooperatives	Sample based on registers : coverage problems, double counting
Establishment surveys	Can cover enterprises which have the characteristics of cooperatives (registered or not)	Require an area-based survey to guarantee full coverage of small and unregistered enterprises May not be able to produce separate figures for cooperatives
Household surveys	Only source for statistics on members of cooperatives and workers engaged	

Establishment surveys



- Expand existing question on “legal status”/ “legal form of organization”
 - Create a separate category for “cooperatives”
 - Requires very clear instructions, especially when self completion is used, to obtain a valid response

OR

- Create a set of questions regarding organization, voting arrangements , etc.

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Household surveys



- Cooperative members :
 - Set of new questions is required
 - Not equivalent to “members of producers’ cooperatives” (a category of Status in Employment (ICSE-93)):
 - It only covers persons who work in the cooperative of which they are members
 - It excludes all farmers who are members of cooperatives
 - It excludes any other employed person who is a member of a cooperative but does not work in the cooperative
- Workers in cooperatives :
 - Expand existing question on “institutional sector” to create a new category for “cooperatives”

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Household surveys: set of new questions to identify cooperative membership



“I will now ask you a few questions regarding your membership to cooperatives. These are organisations that are formed freely by two or more individuals, that provide services to members “at cost” and where each member has the right to vote on an equal footing (“one member one vote” principle). They may also be known as mutual funds, self-help groups, etc.”

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Are you a member of a cooperative or similar organisation ?

Yes

Do you (have the right to) vote?
Yes/No

How many such cooperatives or associations are you a member of? _____

Can you please tell me, what types of cooperative or similar organization is it? (more than one category is possible)

- Credit union or financial cooperative
- Agricultural or farmers’ cooperative
- Food cooperative
- Housing cooperative
- Other cooperatives, please specify _____

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Household surveys: expand question on institutional sector to identify workers in cooperatives



Do you work in a ...?

READ

- Government institution.....
- State-owned enterprise
- Non-governmental/non-profit organization
- Private business or farm
- Cooperative**
- Private household
- Embassy, international organization
- Other (specify): _____

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Issues for discussion



- Is this topic interesting in your country
- In your country, do you collect statistics on cooperatives through :
 - Government registers
 - Cooperative federation registers
 - Cooperative surveys
 - Regular establishment-based surveys or censuses
 - Household-based surveys
- Should this topic be further developed ?