

Measurement of volunteer work: progress and challenges

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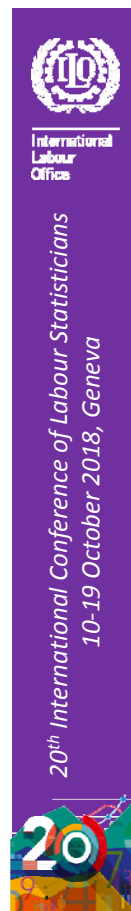
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Background from the 19th ICLS

- Volunteer work is defined in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the 19th ICLS Resolution I concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization
“Any unpaid, non-compulsory, activity for others”
- Paragraph 19 (b) of the 19th ICLS Resolution I sets the reference period for measuring volunteer work
“Four weeks or one calendar month”
- Paragraph 56 (c) of the 19th ICLS Resolution I recommends measuring volunteer work, along with other unpaid forms of work, periodically
“for the purpose of in-depth analysis, benchmarking and comprehensive macro-socio-economic estimations”

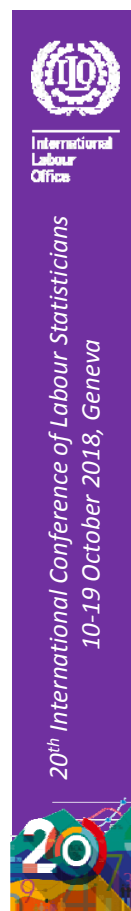
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Tasks assigned by the 19th ICLS

- Paragraph 96 of the 19th ICLS Resolution I says ILO should focus on:
 - a) **wide dissemination and communication of the standards**, their impact and interpretation;
 - b) timely **development of technical manuals and model data collection instruments**, to be made available in the three official languages, and in other languages with the support of partner institutions;
 - c) further conduct of **conceptual and methodological work** including testing;
 - d) **sharing good practice** among countries;
 - e) **technical assistance** through training and capacity building, especially to national statistical agencies and relevant statistical services in line ministries; and
 - f) **analysis and presentation** of work statistics.

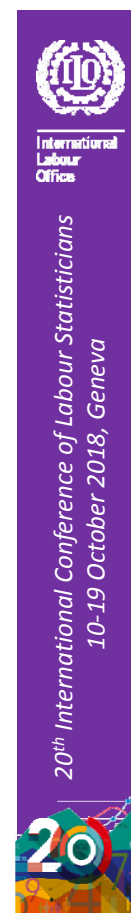
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2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- In September 2015, the UN General Assembly recognized the importance of the volunteer work for development
- It called on governments and public institutions to work closely on implementation with volunteer groups and to include their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in national reports
- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development recognizes that the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of volunteers will be important in complementing the efforts of governments and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

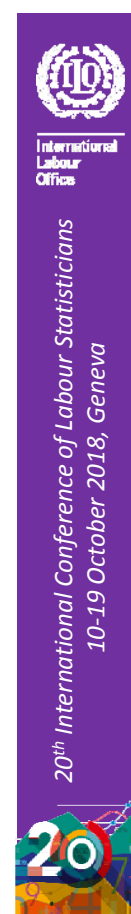
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Progress: 2014-2017

- ILO provided technical support to several regional initiatives aimed at testing approaches to adapting and implementing the new standards
 - In Latin America, a pilot survey project for the promotion of regional public goods, in five countries, in 2016. Three of them included volunteer work in their tests (Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay)
 - In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, a pilot survey project for the development of recommendations for CIS countries on measurement of different forms of work, in 2016. A module on volunteer work was tested (Belarus)
- ILO promoted the use of the ILO Manual on the measurement of volunteer work (2011)

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ILO-UN Volunteers partnership

- In November 2017 a partnership with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme was established, with two main objectives:
 - Achieve substantial progress on regular measurement of volunteer work in official statistics
 - Promote the use of volunteer work statistics in reporting on SDGs and policy analysis
- UNV's missions:
 - Mobilize volunteers to serve in UN agencies, both in development programmes and peacekeeping operations
 - Promote the ability and right of people to participate in their own development

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Progress: 2018

- For 2018, ILO and UNV set and accomplished the following tasks:
 - Review national practices in measuring volunteer work to identify main issues, best practices
 - Identify areas requiring further conceptual clarity and methodological development
 - Develop measurement tools to be tested in selected countries
 - Promote the use of volunteer work statistics in reporting on SDGs
 - Initiate a programme to support countries by:
 - Improving the existing guidelines and recommendations
 - Developing training materials and providing trainings
 - Offering technical assistance

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Review of national practices

- Objectives:
 - identify main issues and best practices in measuring volunteer work
 - Identify areas requiring further conceptual clarity and methodological development
 - inform the development of two experimental survey modules
- Data collected between November 2017 and April 2018
- Sources of information:
 - Information on 142 individual countries, from three sources was aggregated.

Source of information	Countries identified	Data sources	Characteristics of data sources
Web-sites review	74	120	country, name, type, year
ILO survey of national practices	59	89	country, name, type, year and other characteristics
UNSD data on TUSs	52	52	country, name, type, year

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International
Labour
Office

20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians
10-19 October 2018, Geneva



Results: global coverage

- 103 countries were identified to have collected data on volunteer work, using a total number of 169 data sources, between 2007 and 2017



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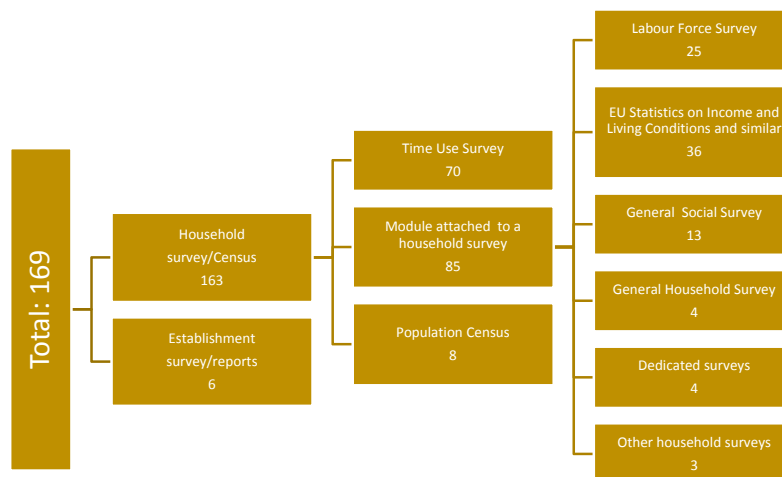
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Results: data sources

- Household surveys and population Censuses are the preferred data sources to measure volunteer work

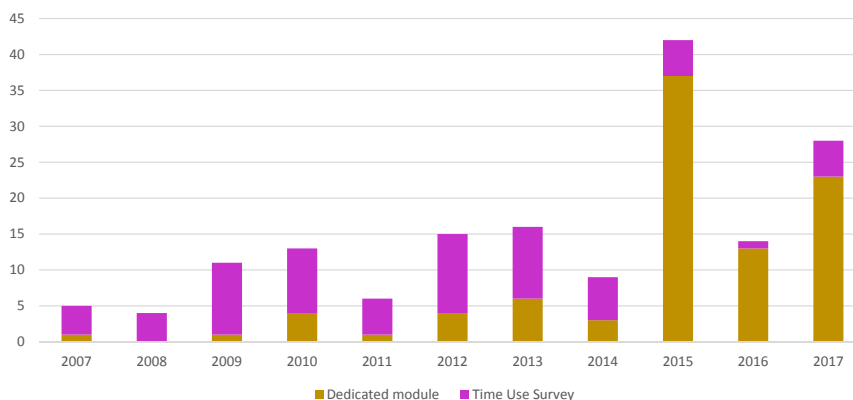


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Results: 19th ICLS impact

- The 19th ICLS seems to have raised countries' interest in measuring volunteer work and to have caused a significant shift in the measurement approach

Number of data sources used to measure volunteer work, by type, 2007-2017



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Results: Labour Force Surveys

- In 2017, Labour Force Surveys were used to collect data on volunteer work in 50% of cases (14 of out of 28). Based on the countries' plans to measure volunteer work, this rate is expected to increase in the next years
- 60% of the data sources used to measure volunteer work every year are Labour Force Surveys
- Labour Force Surveys are the data sources with the highest rates of data collection on the key variables:

Share of the dedicated modules used to measure the core variables, by type of data source, %

	number of hours volunteered	type of work (occupation)	institutional setting	field (industry)
Censuses	71	43	57	43
EU-SILC and similar	25	17	25	17
GHSs	75	50	25	25
GSSs	64	27	55	46
LFSs	96	70	57	48

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Results: planned measurements

- 2018 will be the year with the second highest number of measurements of volunteer work, after 2015
- If the existing sources continue to be implemented at least with the same frequency as planned, then yearly at least 20 measurements will be made



Geographical distribution of countries which will measure volunteer work during 2018-2020, based on declared plans

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Results: measurement approach (I)

- Two approaches to target the two types of volunteer work (organization-based and direct):
 - **Broad** approach, using one question to identify participation in volunteer work, its type being assessed later, as a characteristic of the activity
 - **Targeted** approach, using at least two questions to identify participation in volunteer work for each type separately, the type of volunteer work being used to identify the activities

Examples

Broad approach	Targeted approach
<i>In the last four weeks did you spend any time on any unpaid, non-compulsory activities, done for others living outside your household, non-relatives, the community or the environment, performed through groups/organizations or directly?</i>	<i>In the last four weeks, have you done any voluntary work through an organization, group or a club?</i> <i>In the last four weeks, have you undertaken any voluntary activities that were not arranged by an organization? For example, helping someone with cooking or shopping.</i>

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Results: measurement approach (II)

- Three approaches to ask questions:
 - **Brief** approach. Respondents are asked one general question about whether they have engaged in volunteer work during the reference period
 - **Detailed** approach. Asking a series of “Yes/No” questions about specific volunteer work which respondents may have done or about help given to specific beneficiaries
 - **Mixed** approach. One question is used to identify volunteers based on self-identification, and then a few follow-up or recovery questions on engagement in broad types of relevant activities are used to recover volunteers from respondents who answered “No” to the initial question.

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Results: measurement approach (III)

- By combining the two characteristics, five major types of modules are obtained

Distribution of reviewed dedicated modules, by measurement approaches used

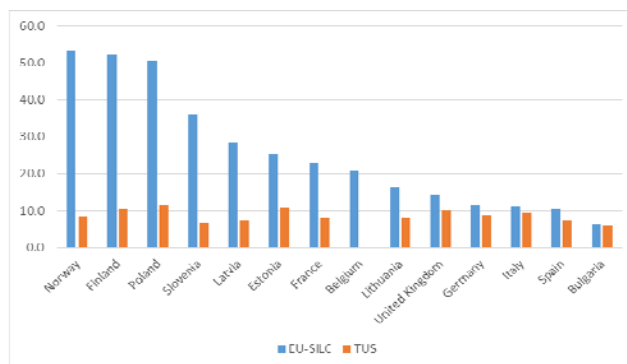
Approach to target types of volunteer work	Prompting type			Total
	Brief	Detailed	Mixed	
Broad	7	N/A	6	13
Targeted	9	12	2	23
Total	16	12	8	36

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Results: reference period

- Four different reference periods are used in measurements. The choice of the reference period affects significantly the estimates and their possible use in further calculations and analysis
- Reference periods applied in measurements depend greatly on the frequency of data collection

Participation rates in direct volunteer work, EU-SILC and TUS, percent

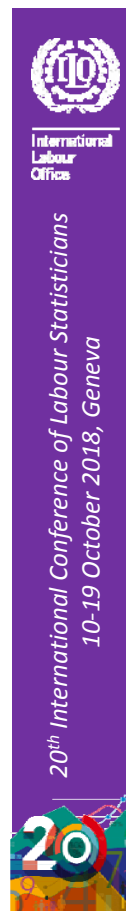


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Results: definition of volunteer work

- National definitions tend to use the same three concepts of volunteer work: unpaid, non-compulsory/voluntary and for others
- Some national definitions are limited to organization-based volunteer work. However, in many cases direct volunteer work is also measured
- Few data sources apply additional filters to refine the three concepts of volunteer work, as stated in the 19th ICLS resolution
 - Examples:
 - if the volunteer receives support or stipend in cash which is more than one third of the wages on the local market, then his/her work should not be considered unpaid
 - only work carried without civil, legal or administrative requirements is considered non-compulsory, i.e. voluntary
 - reason for working voluntarily, unpaid, for others is the key element setting the boundary between volunteer work and unpaid trainee work

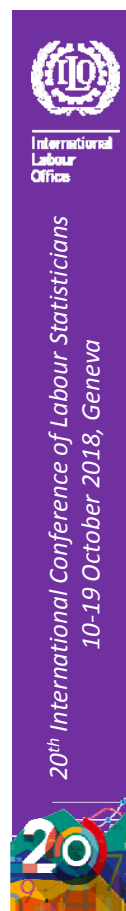
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Conclusions

- Countries have accumulated an important amount of valuable experience in implementing the ILO recommendations
- This experience and recent updates in related international standards warrant an update of the existing recommendations on measuring volunteer work
- Additional guidelines are needed:
 - Refinement of survey tools by testing the criteria used to define volunteer work
 - Choice of the reference period for measuring engagement in volunteer work and time worked
 - Adjustment of recommended survey tools to national circumstances through testing
 - Development of appropriate sampling plans for different data collection options
 - Dissemination of data and meta-data
 - Use of data on volunteer work with relation to other statistics

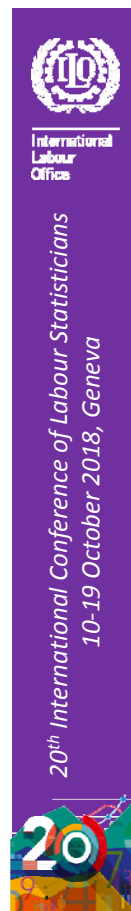
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Next steps

- In order to continue the work on tasks set by the 19th ICLS and
- To reach the objectives of the ILO-UNV partnership and support countries in producing and using volunteer work statistics for sustainable development ILO will:
 - Improve survey tools by continuing tests initiated in 2018
 - Offer support to six countries (one per region) in producing, disseminating and analyzing national data on volunteer work
 - Develop training materials and case studies
 - Organize regional trainings
 - Make available national statistics on volunteer work on ILOSTAT
 - Set up a Working Group of experts to develop guidelines and update the ILO Manual on the measurement of volunteer work

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“We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive.”

Paragraph 7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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