

ILO COOP 100 Symposium

Centennial celebration of ILO COOP and its relevant contributions to the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

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Introduction

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Central ideas

SSE as an important alternative for work and income generation and as a response in favor of social and labor inclusion, especially in a context marked by broad socioeconomic inequality, poverty and unemployment;

Injustices become even more troubling in the face of the humanitarian and health crisis generated by COVID-19;

Starting from the original work of Morais & Di Meglio (2019), this text aims to present, in a summarized way, an overview of the main ILO Conventions, Recommendations, practical actions and technical documents - conceived throughout its 100 years of existence;

This text is for the field of SSE focusing on cooperatives.

Introduction

SSE: comprises a variety of economic and social practices which perform activities of production in terms of goods, service provision, social finance , fair trade and solidarity consumption;

Different "entities": cooperatives, associations, solidarity and social enterprises, mutual benefit societies, community banks, institutes and foundations of the third sector, etc

SSE: potentialities and positive externalities with structural weaknesses (economic, financial, accounting, legal, production, marketing, access to credit, etc) > fragilities intrinsic to its modus operandi > need support in order to strengthen their "entrepreneurial ecosystem" (Morais & Bacic, 2020);

>> ILO: fundamental relevance in the co-construction and strengthening of this "ecosystem" (Morais & Di Meglio, 2019)

▶ Relevant ILO contributions to SSE: brief historical retrospective

1919: ILO was founded - to promote social justice;

The adoption and application of international labour standards was the main objective that justified its creation and is still its most important activity today;

Two types of standards - Conventions and Recommendations - are often adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC), made up of representatives of governments, employers and workers from member states;

Formal relations between the ILO and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA);

► Relevant ILO contributions to SSE: brief historical retrospective

In the case of the SSE - in reference to one of its main constituent parts, the cooperatives - the ILO, in its 3rd Meeting of the Governing Body(1920), established a Cooperative Technical Branch as part of its organisation;

ILO recognized the importance of cooperatives in Article 12 of its Constitution, providing the possibility of consultation with co-operatives in addition to employers and workers;

Article 12 of the ILO Constitution: the development of cooperatives should be promoted through technical assistance and information, as well as by governments and employers;

Nowadays: ILO's contribution to raising awareness, structuring, promoting and strengthening not only cooperatives, but - and especially today - the SSE as a whole, has been and continues to be of great importance ;

▶ Conventions and Recommendations

Main contributions that include general references to cooperatives and SSE, in chronological order;

Main Conventions that include general references to Cooperatives and SSE;

ILO Main Recommendations on Cooperatives (127 & 193) and other ILO Recommendation including references to Cooperatives and the SSE;

Other relevant ILO actions for SSE;

► Main Conventions that include general references to Cooperatives and SSE

Convention	Year	Content
82	1947	Social Policy in Non-Metropolitan Territories
107	1957	Indigenous and tribal populations
142	1975	Vocational orientation for institutions, including coop
159	1984	Development of coop for people with disabilities
161	1985	Health Services at Work, including coop
162	1986	Protection of employees, including coop

ILO Main Recommendations on Cooperatives (127 & 193) and other ILO Recommendation including references to Cooperatives and the SSE

Recommendation No.	Year	Content
11	1921	Rural unemployment
21	1924	Promotion of cooperatives for recreational activities.
45	1935	Creation of workers' cooperatives for young unemployed
70	1944	Workers' cooperative organisations for the promotion of health, housing and education
100	1955	Protecting migrant workers by consumer cooperatives.
107	1957	Indigenous and tribal populations
115	1961	Housing programs for workers, by coop
122	1964	Employment Policy for coop.
126	1966	fishermen's coop
127	1966	Credit and differentiated tax treatment for coop
132	1968	Credit coop
136	1970	The role of coop to create generate income for young people.
150	1975	Rural coop
169	1984	Generation work for vulnerable group by workers' coop.
172	1986	Protection for workers, including the "members of production coop"
193	2002	More autonomy for coop ,
204	2015	Formalization of coop

▶ As we can see.....

6 Conventions and 17 Recommendations;

Relevance of the R 193 (2002) and R 204 (2015): instrument for the creation of employment, mobilization of resources, generation of investments and as a contribution to the economy + transition from informality to formality, in a scenario where informality contemplates a significant portion of the labour market (traditional activities and SSE);

> The enormous contribution of the ILO to the ESS is therefore noticeable, as well as the need for continuity and strengthening of this process;

▶ Other relevant ILO actions for SSE

International Academies on SSE created by the ILO: crucial advance in raising worldwide awareness of SSE - the starting point for the creation of the Academies was the recognition that SSE plays an important and growing role in our economies and societies, in view of its capacity to create work, social protection and other economic, social and environmental benefits;

Several support and training activities through ILO's Cooperatives Unit

Final Considerations

The ILO, now a century-old institution, has contributed and will continue its contribution to strengthening the quality of working conditions around the world;

The 21st century is marked by a scenario of material advances on one hand, and the preservation of serious social problems (such as inequality, unemployment, exclusion, etc.) on the other. Especially after COVID-19, it seems reasonable to us that the SSE represents one of the instruments that can contribute to the generation of work and income, as well as greater socioeconomic inclusion and access to basic social services;

ILO has been, is and will be of extreme relevance in sensitizing actors and proposing effective actions to support and strengthen this ecosystem, in addition to recommending effective policies and actions to generate decent work, strengthening social protection, social dialogue and social justice among SSE practitioners;

▶ **Thank you!!!!**

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