

COOP Champions: Emanuela Pozzan, ILO Regional Office for Arab States

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 Emanuela Pozzan studied Middle Eastern studies at the University of Venice in Italy and International Development with a focus on gender and forced migration at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the U.K. Her professional experience started in Egypt working on development projects related to women's economic empowerment. In the past 15 years she has worked in the Middle East, Africa and Asia on issues related to social and economic development, reproductive health, women workers' rights, non-discrimination, disability and labour migration.

Emanuela is currently based in Beirut at the ILO Regional Office for Arab States as a Senior Regional Gender Specialist. She runs a portfolio of projects supporting ILO constituents on issues related to gender, equality and diversity in the workplace. She provides demand driven technical and policy advice to governments, employers' and workers' organizations on gender equality in the world of work. She also contributes to research and advocacy related to regional and global ILO initiatives aimed at promoting women's rights in the workplace.

Following work initiated by her predecessor Simel Esim currently with ILO COOP, Emanuela continues to promote



cooperatives in the occupied Palestinian territory. In 2014, she oversaw an assessment on agricultural cooperatives in West Bank to identify their needs. The study profiles 230 agricultural cooperatives in the West Bank, assessing their management know-how and other organizational capacities, including their various functions vis-à-vis the agricultural markets, financial performance, and members' level of participation. This work informed



the reform of the cooperative sector in the West Bank which is currently underway. Meanwhile, in Gaza, the ILO has launched a series of training workshops aimed to promote the cooperative enterprise model among women engaged in agricultural activities using My.COOP modules in Arabic. It is hoped that with further support more women in Gaza will be ready to join and establish cooperatives in the coming year.

Emanuela is also starting to work in Jordan with the National Commission for Jordanian Women to promote women cooperatives in service sectors including provision of care. Emanuela sees opportunities to promote cooperatives in other countries in the Middle East where the ILO is active. She believes that in the occupied Palestinian territory this work can support women and men and be beneficial for the society. Cooperatives are currently of interest to the international community as they constitute a development model for refugee communities as well as host communities in many countries affected by the current challenges in the Middle East.

>> To read full text of the assessment report on agricultural cooperatives in West Bank visit: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_249766.pdf

Conference on Social Solidarity Economy, Skhirat, Morocco 20-21 November, 2015

In order to respond to today's economic challenges (e.g. unemployment, exclusion, inequality, poverty) many governments are exploring new ways of organizing production, distribution, consumption and finance. In this quest, the social and solidarity economy (SSE) emerges as a response to the need for innovation within the current model of production and consumption. Conscious of its potential,

the Moroccan Ministry of Handicraft and Social and Solidarity Economy organized a two-day Conference on SSE from 20-21 November 2015 in Skhirat, Morocco. The event brought together participants from Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe, ranging from academics, experts, practitioners, promoters, to social partners and policymakers.