



# ACADEMY ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY (12<sup>th</sup> EDITION)

BUILDING BACK BETTER: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL  
AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN A HUMAN-  
CENTRED AND PLANET-SENSITIVE RECOVERY

15-26 NOVEMBER 2021

Elective session 7 – SSE as tool for Social Cohesion,  
peace and resilience (focus on refugees and IDPs)

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EURICSE



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E SEGURANÇA SOCIAL



CASES

Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social



International  
Labour  
Organization



International Training Centre

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- The approach of the ILO in the promotion of cooperatives and SSE
- Introduction to the ILO 2020 study: Mapping the responses of SSE units to forced displacement (focus on cooperatives)



The approach of the ILO in the promotion of cooperatives and SSE

# From a cooperative approach to the basis of the ILO's mandate

The Peace Treaty requires that the International Labour Office should not only concern itself with conditions of work, but also with the condition of the workers. It is in the form of co-operation that this idea is best seen in popular circles.

Albert Thomas, ILO DG, [Second Session of the ILO Governing Body](#), Paris, 1920



Centenary of ILO  
Cooperatives Unit in 2020

Watch Youtube videos of  
the centenary technical  
symposium: [First day](#) & [Second day](#)





# Definition of cooperative

An **autonomous association** of persons united voluntarily to meet their **common economic, social and cultural needs** and aspirations through a jointly owned and **democratically controlled enterprise**.

*ILO, 2002, « [Recommendation of the ILO on the promotion of cooperatives \(193/2002\)](#) » and ICA1995, « [Statement on the cooperative identity](#) »*

# From cooperative to Social and Solidarity Economy

*The social and solidarity economy refers to enterprises and organisations, in particular cooperatives, mutual societies, associations, foundations and social enterprises, whose specificity is to produce goods, services and knowledge while **pursuing both economic and social objectives** and promoting **solidarity***



*ILO Regional Conference on the Social Economy,  
Johannesburg, 2009*

# Towards a tripartite definition of the SSE

The 341st Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation has decided to include an item on the agenda of the 110th Session (2022) of the International Labour Conference (ILC) related to "The social and solidarity economy (SSE) for a people-centred future of work" for general discussion.



## ILO services on cooperatives and SSE



The ILO promotes the cooperative business model to create and maintain **sustainable enterprises**, providing jobs that not only bring income but also pave the way for **social and economic advancement**, strengthening individuals, their families and their communities.

# Partnerships

## ICA

- ILO signed a new MoU in 2019 using the Future of Work as frame



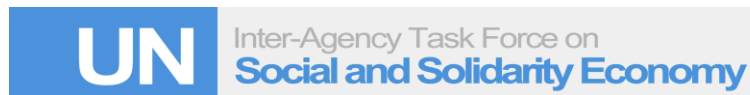
## COPAC

- Multi-stakeholder partnership between representatives of the cooperative movement
- Present members: UNDESA, ILO, ICA, FAO, WFO
- Working Group on Statistics of Cooperatives



## UNTFSSSE

- ILO co-founded UN TF SSE to raise the visibility of the SSE in international knowledge and policy circles
- Currently chaired by the ILO, it has 18 UN Agencies and the OECD as members and 14 civil society organizations as its observers.



## Others

- JCCU: Secondment and study tour with African cooperative
- Republic of Korea: Secondment of a Korean Ministry of Strategy and Finance official
- Italian cooperative movement
- Research institutions (e.g. CIRIEC) etc.





## Legal and policy advice

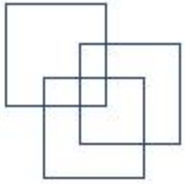
- The ILO provides legal and policy advice based on its Recommendation on the Promotion of Cooperatives, 2002 (No. 193)
- More than 110 countries have used Rec. 193 to support the review and development of policies and laws
- There is an increasing number of requests for SSE policy and legislation development (e.g. Tunisia, South Africa)



# Research and knowledge generation

- Aim: to improve the understanding of the role of cooperatives and other similar organisations including SSE units in a changing world of work
- Publication of research papers
- Includes the production of reliable data on cooperatives





International  
Labour  
Organization

100  
1919-2019

Social and Solidarity  
Economy: Building a  
common understanding

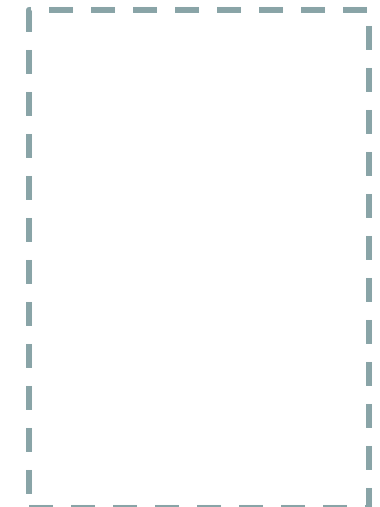
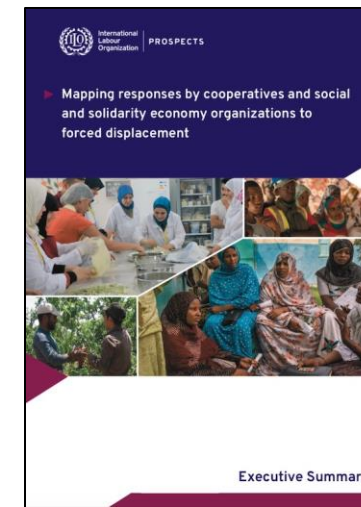
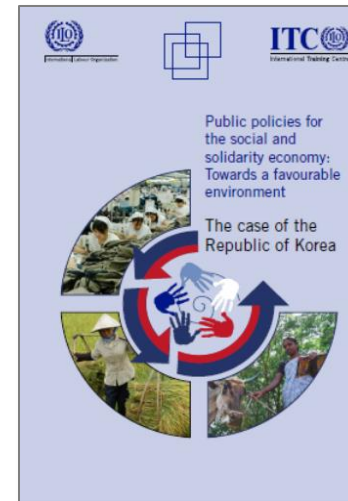
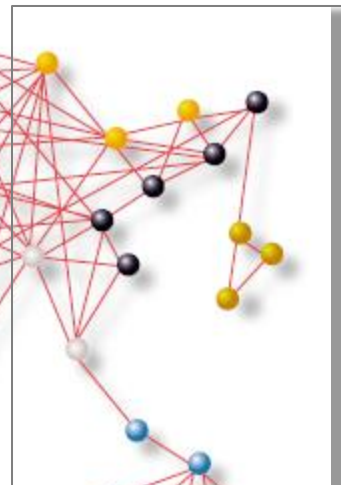
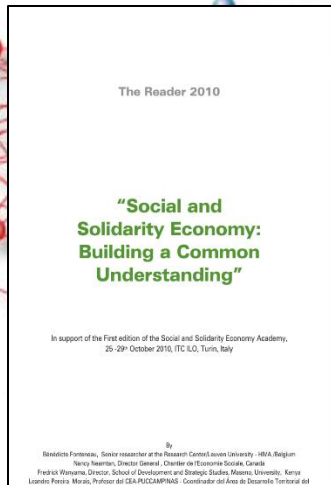
The contribution of ESS  
and social finance in the  
Future of Work

Series of  
studies for

Series of studies on the  
public policies for ESS

Mapping the responses of  
cooperatives and SSEOs  
to forced displacement

Upcoming publication on  
social innovation in Africa



# Trainings and capacity building

- ▶ **Academy on SSE** The SSE Academy is an inter-regional training opportunity bringing together practitioners and policy makers from around the world to share experiences, best practices and challenges of their work in SSE (Italy, Canada, Morocco, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico, Costa Rica, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Spain).
- ▶ **SSE Collective Brain** serves as the information hub of the ILO SSE Academy to facilitate exchange and cooperation beyond the face-to-face interactions during the SSE Academy



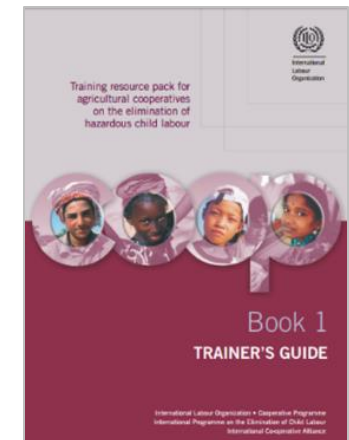
# Training and capacity building: Key ILO tools

## Our.Coop

Activity-based training tools for those who want to understand, create and manage cooperatives



**ApexFinCoop**  
Advance Policy & Effectiveness for Financial Cooperative Apexes



# Development cooperation: the case of Africa

## Morocco

Support for cooperative development in the red fruit value chain

## Tunisia

- Support to SSE policy formulation
- Provision of a full range of support services to SSE organisations (including financial services)
- Responses to Covid-19 for w organisations

## Senegal

- Support for the establishment of women's cooperatives
- Promotion of cooperatives in the waste recycling sector

## Kenya

Pilot initiatives to strengthen the role of cooperatives in the health sector

## Cameroun

Promote women empowerment, resilience and social cohesion through cooperative development



## South Africa

Support for the formulation of social economy policy

## Ethiopia

Support to cooperative development in agricultural value chains

## South Sudan

Support to rural development through cooperatives

## Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia

Supporting refugee populations and host communities through cooperative development

## Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali & Uganda, Tanzania

Promoting fundamental principles and rights at work through cooperative development (focus on child labour). Agriculture and mining sectors: cocoa, vanilla, tea, coffee, cotton and cobalt



# 70.8 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide

One third of the global refugee population is hosted by least-developed countries

Less than 3% returned to country of origin

78% of all refugees have been in exile for five consecutive years or more

Most displaced persons comes from states characterized by weak social cohesion and weak social contracts

UNHCR (2018). "Global trends: Forced displacement in 2018", <https://www.unhcr.org/5d08d7ee7.pdf>

Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities (PROSPECTS)



ILO mapping responses by SSE units  
- focus on cooperatives



## Objectives of the study

To identify **good practices**, capture **lessons learned** and take note of potential areas of **innovation** by cooperatives and other SSE units working in displacement contexts, with a view to enhancing their role in crisis response and promoting decent work

Assessment on [Mapping Responses by Cooperatives and SSEOs to Forced Displacement](#) commissioned by the ILO in 2019 and published in 2020



# Supporting the Forcibly Displaced Through **Collective Action**

SSE units are uniquely positioned to address the needs of both displaced persons and host populations



## Pathways for Engagement – The case of cooperatives



Host community cooperatives  
provide **services to displaced  
persons**

Host community cooperatives  
recruit **displaced persons as  
workers**

Host community cooperatives  
include **displaced persons as  
members**



Host communities provide  
**capacity building and  
training for displaced  
persons** to set up their own  
cooperatives

Displaced persons form  
cooperatives to provide  
**services for themselves or  
their host community**



Displaced persons and host communities **organized into cooperatives by an international organization** to provide services for themselves or the host community

Returning displaced persons **rebuild their own communities** through the establishment of cooperatives



# Challenges



Conduciveness of the **enabling environment** particularly for refugees

**Distrust** of SSE units (e.g. cooperatives)

Limited access to **financial services** or **funding** by SSE units

**Role of external actors** (incl. international organizations)



# Key findings

# Structure Matters

**Good governance and management** is key

Importance of acceptance of **SSE values** (meeting member needs)

Importance of **legal and policy** structures

# SSE units as Development Partners

**Relevance of democratic nature, collective ownership** and focus on **self-help** for empowerment

**Partnering with and contracting them directly** can demonstrate commitment towards supporting local organizations

Thank  
You

