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# STATISTICS ON COOPERATIVES

## COUNTRY IN FOCUS: RUSSIAN FEDERATION<sup>1</sup>

This is one of the notes prepared for the **Countries in Focus on Statistics of Cooperatives series** produced by the *International Labour Organization (ILO)* and the *Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC)* as part of a larger initiative to increase understanding of the ways in which countries around the world are producing and using statistics on cooperatives. Currently reliable and comparable statistics on cooperatives are missing in most countries of the world. These statistics are essential to measuring the impact of cooperatives on members, workers and the economy as a whole.

### Cooperatives in the Russian Federation

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the cooperative movement in the Russian Federation has evolved significantly, with various types of cooperatives closing, and others forming and splitting. Today the Civil Code defines two types of cooperatives: productive cooperatives (focused on economic activity) and consumer cooperatives (focused on members' needs). Other legislative acts define cooperatives in the housing and banking sectors.

### How are statistics on cooperatives generated in the Russian Federation?

The **Russian Federal Statistical Agency (Rosstat)** is responsible for producing statistics on cooperatives. Cooperatives are classified by their type, activities, sectors and size. Rosstat has two main surveys as sources of data on cooperative enterprises: the Census on Small- and Medium-sized Entrepreneurship and the All-Russia Agriculture Census.

The **Census on Small- and Medium-sized Entrepreneurship** is conducted every five years. The results from 2010 are available, and 2015 results will be available shortly. The Census collects information on active enterprises in the Business Register of the Federal Service of State Statistics. Information collected includes registered address, location of activities, economic activity, economic data (e.g. revenues, assets, etc.) and number of employees. The Census is available in both paper and electronic form.

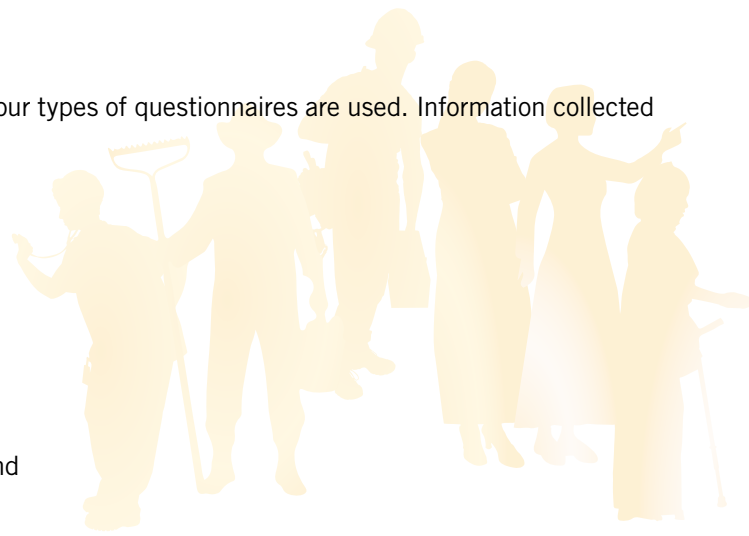
The **All-Russia Agriculture Census** is conducted every ten years. The results from 2006 are available, and 2016 census results will also be available shortly. The Census uses the recommendations from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) programme on the World Census of Agriculture. The Census covers peasant (private) farms and individual entrepreneurs, household (backyard) farms, gardening and vegetable-growing non-profit associations of citizens and agricultural enterprises. Cooperatives fall under the latter two categories.

<sup>1</sup> The information is extracted from Carini, C., Borzaga, C. & Carpita, M. (2017) *Case studies on Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom*. Geneva: ILO.



Nine different lists of entities are studied for the Census, and four types of questionnaires are used. Information collected includes:

- Description of the entities by type and activity;
- Labour force and demographics;
- Land resources and land use;
- Area of crops and perennial crops;
- Livestock;
- Sale of agricultural products;
- Infrastructure, technical facilities and technologies and
- Business environment.



## What statistics are available?

The Census on Small- and Medium-sized Entrepreneurship covers number of cooperatives, number of employees and economic performance of the cooperatives.

The All-Russia Agricultural Census includes data on the number of organisations, number of employees, amount of land owned and cultivated, number of livestock and agricultural machinery.

No data is available on the number of cooperative members from either Census.

## Reflections on the Russian Federation's approach to cooperative statistics

The different sources of data ensure good population coverage in the Russian Federation. Classifications by economic activity and legal typology are in place, and data collection methods are based on international standards, ensuring comparability with other companies in and outside of Russia. Combining the statistical register and the census survey yield quality results.

The statistics themselves cover a range of variables, although information on membership is not available. The data is available online in Russian. Results are released two years after the end of the reporting period and the censuses are conducted infrequently and irregularly.

The 19th Session of the **International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS)** in 2013 included cooperatives in the Conference agenda for the first time in its history. The discussion converged towards the need for accurate, reliable, relevant and comparable statistics on the economic and social impact of cooperatives on the economies. A Resolution was passed with a view to carry out further developmental work on the measurement of cooperatives and carry out pilot studies in a number of countries to test various measurement approaches on collecting data on cooperatives.

The initiative on statistics on cooperatives is a collaboration between the ILO, COPAC, the cooperative movement, UN agencies, national statistics offices, government agencies and academic institutions to improve the quality and accessibility of statistical data on cooperatives. The outcome of this work will be guidelines for discussion at the 20th ICLS in October 2018.

COPAC is a multi-stakeholder partnership of global public and private institutions that promotes and advocates for people-centred, self-sustaining cooperative enterprises, guided by the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainable development. The current members of COPAC are the ILO, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Co-operative Alliance and the World Farmers' Organisation.

To find out more, please visit the **ILO COOP**, **ILO Department of Statistics** or **COPAC websites**.

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