



# ▶ An ILO initiative on advancing the Guidelines concerning Statistics of Cooperatives

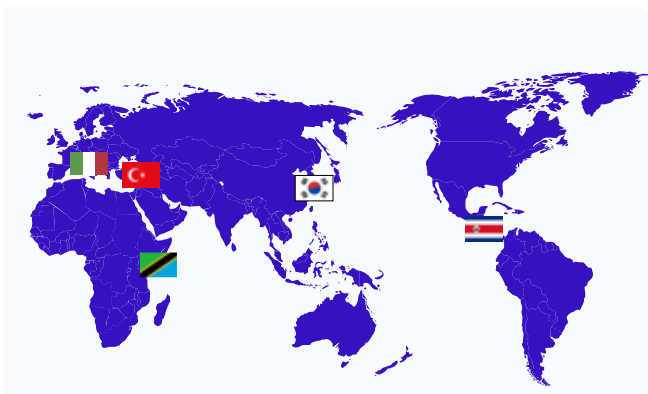
November 2021

## What are the guidelines on statistics of cooperatives?

The '[Guidelines concerning Statistics of Cooperatives](#)' were adopted at the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in October 2018, which were then approved by the Governing Body of the ILO in March 2019. The guidelines are a first step toward an international norm on statistics of cooperatives.

The Guidelines cover concepts and definitions, types of cooperatives, statistical units, and other relevant topics, including work in cooperatives. The Guidelines also contains information on ways of collecting, tabulating, and analyzing statistical data on cooperatives.

They call for the ILO to conduct further work on the implementation including through undertaking methodological studies, developing measures to assess the economic contribution of cooperatives, and dealing with issues of cooperative-like and non-registered establishments.



## What is this initiative about?

This initiative is part of a larger project on [Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy Knowledge Base](#) supported by the government of the Republic of Korea. It aims to evaluate and make recommendations on the Guidelines. Five countries - Costa Rica, Italy, the Republic of Korea,

Tanzania and Turkey are part of the initiative taking place between July 2021 – December 2023.

The five countries under the initiative were selected based on several considerations. These include: Diversity vis-à-vis regions and levels of economic development; integration of cooperatives in policies and programmes; existence of national initiatives on statistics of cooperatives; and presence of cooperative support institutions.

- ▶ The [Republic of Korea](#) has a Framework Act on Cooperatives. There is a dynamic cooperative movement in traditional (agriculture, finance, retail) and new sectors (energy, care and platform economy). The government conducts a biennial survey on cooperatives.
- ▶ Italy has sectoral, regional and national policies regulating cooperatives. The national statistics office (ISTAT) has undertaken statistical analysis on cooperatives in partnership with cooperative research institutions. There is a rich array of cooperative support institutions at the local and national levels.
- ▶ [Tanzania](#) has been revamping its policies and programmes to support the advancement of cooperatives. There is a history of cooperative institutions, including in research and education. There are ongoing efforts in digitization of the cooperative registrars.
- ▶ In [Costa Rica](#), cooperatives and their support institutions have a long history. The National Institute of Cooperative Development (INFOCOOP) promotes, trains and supports cooperatives. It also produced statistics on cooperatives through a national cooperative census undertaken in 2012.
- ▶ In [Turkey](#), there are a range of sectoral policies for the development of cooperatives, in addition to a national law. Cooperative federations and sectoral ministries keep registrars for cooperatives. A national committee was established on statistics of cooperatives with participation of key stakeholders.

## Why is this initiative needed?

Statistics on cooperatives collected by cooperative associations, and/or by government agencies regulating cooperatives, are available in many countries. However, they are often incomplete and outdated, and may not be fully comparable internationally.

The initiative aims to provide practical guidance as needed by ILO's member states toward implementing the Guidelines, to facilitate the development of a coherent, harmonized and standardized set of statistics on cooperatives.

## How will this initiative be implemented?

A national consultant (NC) will lead the effort in each of the selected countries with the support and guidance of national advisory committees (NAC). The NCs will produce country reports that will be finalized in the course of 2022.

A global report capturing all findings and lessons learned from the five countries cases will be produced with the guidance of the global advisory committee (GAC) by the end of April 2023.

The ILO will also organize a global conference to present the global and national reports to ILO constituents, as well as the National Statistical Offices, cooperative researchers and practitioners.

The global synthesis report will be presented to the 21<sup>st</sup> ICLS in October 2023 to report on progress made.

## What is this initiative expected to achieve?

The initiative is an initial step toward the development of a 'Manual concerning Statistics of Cooperatives' building on the results. A second phase is envisioned, where the Manual is expected to be presented and discussed at the 22<sup>nd</sup> ICLS in 2028.

Through the Manual, statistics including economic contribution of cooperatives and work within the scope of cooperatives could be standardized and utilized in developing policies regarding cooperatives and wider SSE for decent work.

**To find out more, see [Statistics on cooperatives and the wider social and solidarity economy \(SSE\)](#).**

**For more information on the initiative, contact ILO's Cooperatives Unit: [coop@ilo.org](mailto:coop@ilo.org)**

**This work is jointly conducted by ILO's Cooperatives Unit and ILO Department of Statistics.**