

National Practices in Developing Statistics on Cooperatives: evidences from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom.



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Co-operatives: Putting People at the Centre Of Development

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This presentation is based on the results of the project “Terms of References for National Practices in Developing Statistics on Cooperatives” that is part of the series of initiatives undertaken by the ILO to better understand how data on cooperatives are collected and realized across the world.

Research design



Aim of the study

(1)

Understand the data collection processes and the roles of the institutions involved (producers and/or providers), the data sources and definitions, question sets, classification schemes, and methods and the tools applied in six countries around the world.

(2)

Build a common framework that synthesizes these countries' practices, to provide recommendations and proposals on a standard definition for cooperatives, and standard classifications of cooperatives.



Country selection

- made by the ILO Cooperatives Unit;
- derived from the results obtained with the global mapping initiative conducted by the ILO covering 69 countries.

	NSOs	Government agencies in charge of cooperatives	Cooperative movement organisations
Administrative register		Brazil, Canada, the Philippines	Colombia, UK
Statistical register	Russian Federation		
Survey		Brazil, Canada	UK
Census	Russian Federation		



Methodology

2 steps:

1. desk research focused on the context, data providers, definitions, classifications, methodologies and tools;
2. interviews with key informants to complete or crosscheck information collected through desk research. Two types of key informants:

people involved in the collection and analysis of the data, and data users, meaning researchers

experts not directly involved in the data collection process but with a recognized knowledge of the data and strong and proven experience in its use.

Main results



Data providers

The three types present both strengths and weaknesses, to varying degrees.

	Strengths	Weakness
NSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independent institutions;• Produce official data;• Professional and rigorous in collecting and analysing data;• Acting in accordance with quality standards (often defined internationally).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May lack knowledge of specific characteristics and peculiarities of the cooperative sector.
Government agencies in charge of cooperatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independent from the sector (although the administrative and bureaucratic type of organisation could influence the data collection process).• Good knowledge of the cooperative sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rigor in collecting and analysing data, and maintenance of quality standards are not always guaranteed.
Cooperative movement organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good knowledge of the cooperative sector;• Direct contact with cooperatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rigor in collecting and analysing data, and maintenance of quality standards are not always guaranteed;• Tendency to interpret the data with a positive bias or 'spin'.



Definition of “cooperative”

Legal definition vs. Statistical definition

Country	Definition
Brazil	Statistical definition proposed by CONCLA
Canada	Legal definition, including cooperatives incorporated under provincial or federal law
Colombia	Legal definition according to Law 79/1988
Philippines	Legal definition according to Republic Act No. 9520
Russian Federation	Statistical definition based on OKOPF classification
UK	There is no single legal definition of cooperatives. Co-operatives UK defined criteria and a process to identify cooperatives



Definitions: common traits across countries

The statistical unit for which statistics are compiled is the “enterprise” incorporated in the form of a cooperative according to the legislation of the country or, in the absence of a specific law, according to the cooperative tradition of the country.

4 common traits across the six countries:

1. Private legal entities;
2. Carrying out an economic activity aimed at satisfying the needs of members;
3. Voluntary membership;
4. Democratic governance.



Classifications

- several criteria:
 - geographic area;
 - size - based on revenues, assets or the number of employees;
 - age of the cooperative;
 - the economic activities carried out by the cooperative;
 - and the nature of the cooperative's membership.

- Focus on the economic activities carried out by the cooperative and membership.



Classifications

Country	Economic activity	Membership
Brazil	CNAE	-
Canada	NAICS	Consumer, producer, worker, multi-stakeholder
Colombia	ISIC Rev. 3	-
Philippines	Credit, consumers, producers, marketing, service, multipurpose, advocacy, agrarian reform, bank, dairy, education, electric, financial service, fishing, health services, housing, insurance, transport, water service, workers, other types as may be determined by the Authority	
Russian Federation	OKVED	Productive, consumer
UK	SIC	Co-operatives, community of interest, consumers, employee trust, enterprises, multi-stakeholder, self-employed, tenants



Classifications: membership

Cooperative type	Definition
User cooperative	Cooperatives created and managed to minimise intermediation costs for the users of the products or services of the cooperative (Hansmann, 1996; Zamagni, 2012).
Producer cooperative	Cooperatives formed by members who have their own private companies in which they produce something that is then conferred to a cooperative, which is in charge of buying inputs, marketing and often processing the output to increase market power (Hansmann, 1996; Zamagni, 2012).
Worker cooperative	Cooperatives created and managed by workers to provide employment for their members (Ben-Ner, A., 1987; Zamagni, 2012).
Multi-stakeholder cooperative	Cooperatives based on collective dynamics and the involvement of different stakeholders in their governance (Defourny and Nyssens, 2013).
Second level cooperative	Cooperatives made up of cooperatives with a dual purpose: to carry out an economic activity to produce goods or provide services of common interest for their members and to conduct lobbying, advocacy and promotion of the activities of their members.



Methods to collect data

Country	Methods
Brazil	company register + survey
Canada	cooperative register + cooperative survey
Colombia	company register
Philippines	cooperative register
Russian Federation	statistical register + census
UK	company register + cooperative survey



Methods to collect data

Method	Strengths	Weaknesses
Administrative register	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Often the register is public, so it should be easy to access the data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low quality: errors in data entry and data cleaning and update procedures not always defined and implemented;• Small range of variables covered.
Statistical register	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combines multiple administrative registers;• Good coverage of the population;• Statistical procedures for cleaning and data integration defined according to standards of quality;• Metadata available;• Allows comparison with other enterprises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generally, these contain only variables available in administrative registers. It might be necessary to integrate data with other methods (surveys/census).
Census	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good coverage of the population;• Wide range of variables collected;• Provides a real measurement (not affected by sampling error) of the population;• Allows comparison with other enterprises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release of the information takes a long time;• High costs in terms of both economic and human resources.
Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wide range of variables collected;• Lower cost than a census;• Allows comparison with other enterprises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sampling errors can affect the results.



Variables released

Country	Number of organisations	Employees	Members	Economic variables
Brazil	X	X	-	-
Canada	X	X	X	X
Colombia	X	X	X	X
Philippines	X	X	X	X
Russian Federation	X	X	-	X
UK	X	X	X	X



Conclusions



Conclusions

- No single ideal model exists;
- some common features which could be helpful in defining and implementing appropriate processes elsewhere;
- data providers: the role of NSO and other institutions;
- definition of the target population: statistics should be released for cooperative enterprises, but the boundary of the study population could be extended;
- classifications: by economic activity and a classification based on who are the members of the cooperative.
- methods: no single ideal method, a combination of several methods is often necessary.
- variables: check definitions.