



Worldwide data collection on worker, social and artisans' cooperatives¹

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This report is the result of first worldwide data collection on worker, social and artisans' cooperatives, which was organised by CICOPA between November 2012 and April 2013. The data collection was designed to get information not only on enterprises affiliated to CICOPA member organisations, but also about the general situation of the sector represented by CICOPA.

1. Participation in data collection

In the data collection, we asked for data about 47 different types of enterprises, 41 CICOPA member organisations, in 31 countries. As the result of the process, **we collected data on 40 types of enterprises from 34 member organisations, in 25 countries**, despite various degrees of information quality. Whereas the data on enterprises in Europe, Asia and South America is almost complete, at least, for basic information, we could not get enough data on enterprises in North America, or even any data on enterprises in Africa, this time.

Among data collected on 40 types of enterprises, data on 10 types in 8 member organisations was obtained through various sources, in addition to member organisations' participation. In many of these cases, available information was so limited that we could use only basic information, such as number of enterprises.

In the data collection, we tried to get data not only on enterprises affiliated to CICOPA member organisations, but also, if possible, on all enterprises, regardless of affiliation status. Among collected data on 40 types, we could get the information on 26 types, which could show the whole national situation of the types, even though the quality and range of obtained information varied.

For the reference year, we asked for data on the situation in 2010. While a lot of collected data is based on the situation in 2010, for various reasons, some member organisations provided data on the situation in different years.

¹ In CICOPA network, there are enterprises which don't have cooperative legal status but which are owned, in major part, by their workers. In CICOPA, these types of enterprises are called 'worker-owned enterprises' and *Sociedad laboral* (Sal) in Spain is a well known example. However, because, except Sal, only few enterprises in this type were identified in data collection, hereafter, we will use the term of worker, social and artisans' cooperative except necessary cases.



2. Number of enterprises and employment

Based on data collection, we could state that **there are more than 111 200 enterprises in the form of a worker cooperative, social cooperative, artisans' cooperative and worker-owned enterprise on a worldwide level**. As far as we can tell, many of these enterprises are in Europe (83%) and in South America (12%).

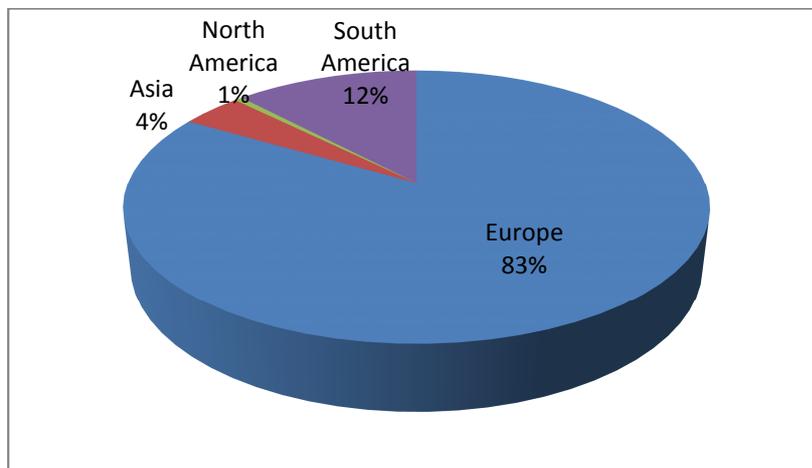
Among these enterprises, CICOPA and its member organisations represent about 54.5% of them. Many of non-affiliated enterprises are found in Europe and North America where federations of cooperatives have usually more associative characters based on voluntary membership. On the contrary, in South America where cooperatives have been promoted by the State as a tool for economic development, many federations have developed in close cooperation with the State as an official partner representing the cooperative sector. Due to the fact that some of CICOPA member organisations in South America are these official federations, they could provide official data covering all enterprises in their country. On the other hand, in Asia where there was no specific legislation for these types of enterprises in the reference year, because the affiliation to CICOPA member organisations is the only way to be recognised as these types of enterprise, we can state that the data from CICOPA member organisations represents all enterprises in their country.

[Table 1] Number of enterprises and CICOPA's representation of them (by continent)

Continents	No. of enterprises (A)	No. of enterprises in CICOPA members (B)	Representation of CICOPA (B/A)
Europe	92 738	42 351	45.7%
Asia	4 446	4 446	100%
North America	575	353*	61.4%
South America	13 413	13 312	99.2%
Africa	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Total	111 171	60 462	54.4%

* Number of enterprises affiliated to CWCF is estimated

[Figure 1] Distribution of enterprises* by continent



* Based on the total number of enterprises regardless of affiliation to CICOPA member organisations



However, if we look at the employment figures, we can get a different picture.

First of all, we can state that **all employment provided by worker, social, artisan's cooperatives and worker-owned enterprises on a worldwide level is more than 2 904 000**. If we consider that there are a lot of information on employment of which we were not informed and that we could not get any data from several countries where these types of enterprises are important but where there is no CICOPA member organisation, **we could carefully estimate that all amount of employment provided by these types of enterprises might reach almost 4 million, all over the world**.

Although we could get information on non member workers only in enterprises affiliated to CICOPA member organisations, we can say that only a small part of workers don't have worker member status (14.8% of workers are non-members in CICOPA's organisations).

In terms of employment, enterprises in South America have a large number of workers in comparison to the number of enterprises. One of reasons is the fact that some Colombian worker cooperatives are organised not on the basis of the individual enterprise, but according to their professions, such as in professional unions, and that, some of them have more than 10 000 members in one cooperative.

Representation of CICOPA member organisations is higher in the employment figures (83.4% of the whole number of workers in the collected data). This could be explained not only by less availability of data on employment in non-affiliated enterprises, but also by the small size of non-affiliated enterprises which could be affirmed in Italian cases where the estimation of the comparison regarding the employment figures between affiliated enterprises and non-affiliated enterprises is possible.

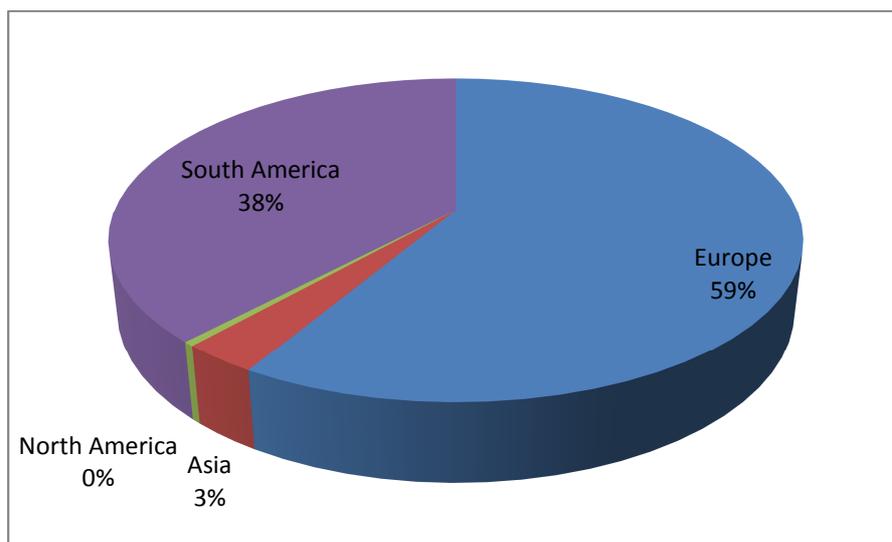
[Table 2] Number of employments by continent and by workers' status in enterprises

Continents	Employment figures			Employment figures in CICOPA members		
	No. of Worker members	No. of Non member workers	Total	No. of Worker members	No. of Non member Workers	Total
Europe	1 350 033	(349 369)	1 699 402	940 273	349 369	1 289 642
Asia	86 711	1 881	88 592	86 711	1 881	88 592
North America	12 876	n.d.	12 876	1 350	n.d.	1 350
South America	1 089 107	13 852	1 102 959	1 089 107	13 852	1 102 959
Africa	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Total	2 538 727	365 102	2 903 829	2 117 441	365 102	2 482 543

Note : the number in parenthesis is information only on CICOPA member organisations



[Figure 2] Distribution of employment* by continents



* Based on the total employment figures, regardless of workers' status and of affiliation to a CICOPA member organisation

The [Table 3] shows some information about the biggest countries in terms of the number of enterprises and, also, of employment, regardless of affiliation to CICOPA member organisations. Apparently, **Italy and Spain are the two biggest countries where worker cooperatives, social cooperatives and worker owned enterprises are abundant**. The number of enterprises in these two countries represents 77.1% of all enterprises identified in this data collection. The number of enterprises in 11 of the largest countries where there are over 900 enterprises in each country, represents 97.8% of all enterprises.

[Table 3] The number of enterprises and employment in the 11 largest countries

Country	Type	No. of enterprises	Employment figures		
			Worker members	Non-member workers	Total
Italy	worker coop+social coop	±54200	±963300	(±312843)	±1276143+a
Spain	worker coop+worker owned enterprise	31553	275806	n.d.	275806+a
Argentina	worker coop	±7500	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Colombia	worker coop	4307	610526	6290	616716
China	worker coop	±3400	75000	n.d.	75000+a
France	worker coop+social coop	2015	(22417)	(18963)	(41380)
Poland	worker coop	±1500	±40000	(±10000)	±50000+a
Brazil	Worker coop+production coop+social coop	1291	228581	7562	236143
Finland	worker coop+worker owned enterprise	±1100	(518)	(202)	(720)
Romania	worker coop	949	(14403)	(2001)	(16404)
Japan	worker coop+social coop	918	9986	1881	11867

Note : the number in parenthesis is information only on CICOPA member organisations



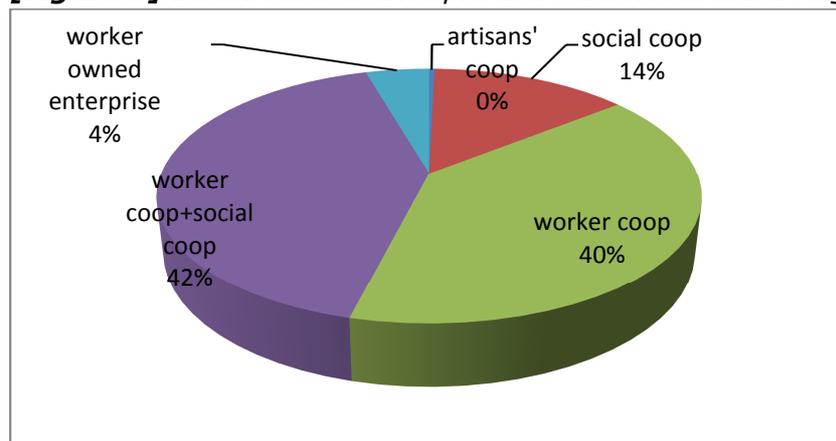
3. Typology

Although CICOPA represents worker, social, artisans' cooperatives and worker-owned enterprises, the ways of defining and even naming enterprises vary in each country. Therefore, it is important to note that the types grouped under the same titles as worker, social, artisans' cooperatives and worker-owned enterprises, are, in reality, very different to one another according to countries and sometimes to regions. However, thanks to CICOPA's continuous effort to establish a global definition of these categories, we can say that, at least for worker cooperatives and social cooperatives, what these concepts mean is sufficiently clear, whereas defining artisans' cooperatives and worker-owned enterprises is still to be done.

During the consultation process, we classified 47 different types of cooperative enterprises in member organisations into these 4 categories. Among collected data on 40 types (27 types of worker cooperatives, 9 types of social cooperatives, 3 types of worker-owned enterprises and 1 type of artisans' cooperative²), we found that the information on 7 types of worker cooperatives actually include information on social cooperatives or their equivalent for various reasons³. Therefore, we grouped these 7 types into a provisional category of 'worker coop+social coop' for this analysis.

In terms of the number of enterprises, in CICOPA member organisations, 40% of enterprises are in the form of worker cooperatives. Social cooperatives represent 14% and worker-owned enterprises, 4%. On the other hand, whereas the category of 'worker coop+social coop' represents 42%, because many of them have the form of worker cooperative as basic form, we can say that 82% of enterprises in CICOPA member organisations are in the form of worker cooperative.

[Figure 3] Distribution of enterprises in CICOPA member organisations by category



² Although we supposed that many enterprises in African member organisations would be in the form of artisans' cooperatives, we could not clearly verify this. On the other hand, we found that the form of production cooperatives in a Brazilian member organisation could be a kind of artisans' cooperative, in the sense of a producers' cooperative. We notice that, hereafter, when we say artisans' cooperative in this analysis, it refers to these production cooperatives in Brazil.

³ Some seem to need more careful analysis and reclassification. Others seem to have problem in collecting data.



If we analyse social cooperatives more deeply, we can distinguish enterprises that employ disadvantaged persons (work integration type) from those that do not explicitly declare that they employ disadvantaged persons.

According to available information on enterprises both in the social cooperative category and in the worker coop+social coop category, **2 761 enterprises employ 26 181 disadvantaged persons defined by the official criteria in given countries.** It means that other social cooperatives are either those who work in the social service sector, or those which have a specific governance structure defined by law.

4. Industrial classification

Concerning information on industrial classification, three things should be noticed. First, besides enterprises in Europe and in Asia, we could get little information from other continents. Among collected information from 15 countries, there is information from 11 European countries, 2 Asian countries, 1 North American country and very partial information from 1 South American country. Second, for some countries such as Spain and, partially, Italy, we could get information only on the main categories. Because these two countries represent an important number of enterprises, unfortunately we could not dispose information on detailed categories for whole Spanish enterprises nor for a large part of Italian enterprises. In this sense, it should be noted that the analysis on detailed categories does not give us a general overview. Thirdly, in the Italian case which represents the largest part of these enterprises, we used two different sources respectively for information on whole enterprises, and for information on enterprises affiliated to CICOPA member organisations. As a consequence, we can find some contradiction in information from these two different sources.

With this consideration, if we see, first of all, the number of enterprises according to the main categories, we can state that **the most important sectors are F. Construction (18 700 enterprises)', C. Manufacturing (13 878), N. Administrative and support service activities (8 479), and Q. Human health and social work activities (8 408).**

[Table 4] Number of enterprises by the main categories (regardless of affiliation to CICOPA member organisations)

A	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING	1 277
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	70
C	MANUFACTURING	13 878
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	123
E	WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	1 027
F	CONSTRUCTION	18 700
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	6 356
H	TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	7 588
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	3 837



J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	3 393
K	FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE ACTIVITIES	188
L	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	189
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	5 658
N	ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	8 479
O	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEFENCE, COMPULSORY SOCIAL SECURITY	8
P	EDUCATION	3 735
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	8 408
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	3 152
S	OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	2 624
T	ACTIVITIES OF HOUSEHOLDS AS EMPLOYERS; UNDIFFERENTIATED GOODS- AND SERVICES-PRODUCING ACTIVITIES OF HOUSEHOLDS FOR OWN USE	21
Total		88 711

Given that statistical meaning is significantly reduced upon the analysis of detailed categories, we need to consider the absolute numbers of enterprises in the detailed categories just as a reference.

According to available data, detailed categories under which the largest numbers of enterprises belong to are found in the service sector, particularly in the social service sector. An important part of them could be explained by Italian social cooperatives.

[Table 5] Detailed categories in order of number of enterprises

ISIC(NACE)	DESCRIPTION	Number of enterprises	Number of countries
881(88.1)	Social work activities without accommodation for the elderly and disabled	1357	5
873(87.3)	Residential care activities for the elderly and disabled	759	4
8299(82.99)	Other business support service activities n.e.c.	731	5
8890(88.99)	Other social work activities without accommodation n.e.c.	724	6
851(85.1)	Pre-primary education	707	2
9609(96.09)	Other personal service activities n.e.c.	667	6
8890(88.91)	Child day-care activities	655	7
812(81.2)	Cleaning activities	648	8

If we consider the number of countries in which the same activities are found, we can get completely different results. We think that this kind of analysis could help in promoting cooperation and exchange among member organisations through common economic activities. The [Table 6] shows the most common activities across countries.



[Table 6] Detailed categories in order of number of countries where same activities are found

ISIC(NACE)	DESCRIPTION	Number of countries	Number of enterprises
56(56)	Food and beverage service activities	10	451
47(47)	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	10	395
41(41)	Construction of buildings	9	435
812(81.2)	Cleaning activities	8	648
14(14)	Manufacture of wearing apparel	8	208
18(18)	Printing and reproduction of recorded media	8	146
10(10)	Manufacture of food products	8	106
13(13)	Manufacture of textiles	8	58

5. Conclusion

In this report, we tried to illustrate the actual situation of worker, social and artisans' cooperatives on a worldwide level. Based on collected information, we identified 111 200 enterprises which employ almost 3 million workers. However, in considering that this information is still very limited in terms of quality of information, of geographical coverage, and of uncertain definition of several categories, we carefully estimated that about 4 million workers would work in these non-capitalist types of enterprises.

Collected information showed also that these types of enterprises work in almost every economic activity, in being affected by broader industrial structures in each country, for instance, as illustrated by manufacturing in China and social service in Italy. On the other hand, it seems that there are some activities developed by these enterprises across countries, such as food and beverage services, retail, construction and cleaning etc. which could suggest an important relation between the way of organising work and the organisational form.

This report shows that worker cooperatives are dominant, but there are also significant parts of social cooperatives and worker-owned enterprises. However, we found that an important part of worker cooperatives have also characteristics of social cooperatives or even secondary legal status as a social cooperative. The data collection also shows that the category of artisans' cooperatives is not well defined yet nor has it sufficient common understanding between CICOPA member organisations. This indicates the direction in which CICOPA data collection should develop.

CICOPA will continue an annual data collection to improve the systems used both in CICOPA and in member organisation. We hope that the accumulation of data would give more synthesised information on worker, social and artisans' cooperatives on a worldwide level, and their dynamics. We believe that this development will, externally, give more visibility to these enterprises which have not been sufficiently recognised and, internally, promote a more dynamic exchange and communication among enterprises in member organisations.