



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration



Workshop
**Entrepreneurship initiatives and solidarity economy models as a strategy
for the socio-economic integration of migrants.**

November 8, 2021

Concept Note and Agenda

CONTEXT

The period of the COVID-19 pandemic that the world is going through and the one that will come once overcome, requires the formulation of urgent economic and labor reactivation policies to recover lost jobs. It is estimated that the reduction in employment in Latin America and the Caribbean (ILO, 2021), between the first and second quarter of 2020, reached the figure of 43 million unemployed people; while in the first quarter of 2021 it was already close to 29 million, data that show the difficulty of compensating for the total loss of employment.

The challenge is even greater if the objective pursued is not only to create sources of work but to ensure that they are configured under the principles of decent work, especially in a regional context with high rates of informality – which prior to the pandemic was around 50% of the total employed – and gender gaps in terms of wages and occupation. In fact, a significant part of the recovered employment, around 70%, is made up of informal occupations and, in the case of women, their economic participation has been significantly reduced.

Talking about vulnerable populations such as migrants, before the pandemic they were struggling to enter the labour market and in general, were able to work in the informal economy. In the current context, the challenges are greater, so the reality requires the development of non-traditional models to generate income and livelihoods. The economic reactivation measures must bet on the creation of new companies where the entrepreneurship will continue to be a key piece, but that demands to also consider the development of organizations and companies of social and solidarity economy as a promising alternative.

As stated by the United Nations Inter-Institutional Working Group on the Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSE, for its acronym, 2020), it will be necessary to appeal to cooperation, creating decent work through diverse and complementary organizational models of production, such as Companies and Organizations of the Social and Solidarity Economy (EOESS). At the ILO Regional Conference on Social Economy (October 2019), the social and solidarity economy was defined as "a concept that designates companies and organizations, especially cooperatives, mutual societies, associations, foundations and social enterprises, which have the specific characteristic of producing goods, services and knowledge, while pursuing both social and economic objectives, and promoting solidarity" (ILO, 2017, p. 1). This type



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of company has emerged in recent decades as a productive alternative that comes to meet the needs of large groups of society that are not reached by traditional ways of business formulation.

For their purpose of generating businesses guided by social objectives, organizational structures are considered that can give significant contributions to unemployment, labor informality, poverty, exclusion and global warming (ILO, 2014) and the labor insertion of vulnerable groups such as migrants, who are faced with labor markets with insufficient decent work offers and high rates of labor informality, in addition to xenophobic and discriminatory attitudes, especially in host communities where the socioeconomic conditions of their inhabitants are unfavorable, generating a struggle to access the few job opportunities.

According to ILO studies, it has been shown that these productive units are resilient in the face of economic crisis situations and favor the transition to labor formality, in addition to creating jobs in non-traditional and emerging sectors based on the needs of their communities and society (UNTFSSSE, 2020; ILO, 2017). In addition, they help overcome gender gaps by employing more women and directly impacting their well-being for the services they provide.

For these reasons, it is considered an appropriate investment area to be promoted within the host communities, to benefit nationals, as well as refugees and migrants, as part of the strategies to promote entrepreneurship. These can provide decent work opportunities especially to the young population that lacks access to formal employment opportunities, which can accommodate migrants who are mostly of them of productive age and whose placement is even more complex.

JUSTIFICATION

There are experiences in the Latin American region where programs and initiatives have been launched to promote entrepreneurship and EOESS with the broad participation of refugees and migrants as well as locals. These have combined training processes with technical and financial assistance and the involvement of State institutions, municipalities, civil society organizations and international cooperation organizations. Among these are the pilots of *Emprende Segur@* from Ecuador and Peru; as well as *Oportunidades sin Fronteras* and *INNovación migrante*, from Colombia. Other experiences are collected in the technological platform *Companies with Refugees*, the result of the partnership between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Global Compact.

Some of these processes have used educational tools in entrepreneurship that account for the existence of multiple resources to guide productive development strategies at the local level. This is the case of the tool "Start and Improve Your Business (IMESUN), developed by the ILO, which consists of a training package that covers all stages of the development of an enterprise and that links with the principles of decent work, articulates with the world of finance, applies the gender approach, considers the conditions of disability that people may have and the impact on the environment. That consists of several modules: Generate your business idea (GIN); Start your business (ISUN, Manual and Business Plan); Improve your business (Marketing; Purchasing and Stock Control; Costing; Business planning; Human Resources and



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Productivity; and Accounting Records) . Another tool developed by the ILO is *Get Ahead*, aimed at women entrepreneurs; Green Ventures, among the most common.

As part of the search for alternatives to promote economic recovery and the insertion/reintegration into the labour market of refugees and migrants, within this workshop, it is proposed to present the usefulness that these tools can have and above all, to present the results of their implementation in communities hosting refugees and migrants in Latin American countries, in order to promote their development in the countries party to the Regional Conference on Migration.

In the field of cooperatives and other more competitive social and solidarity economy organizations, the ILO has tools such as: *Star.COOP*-A step-by-step tool for the creation of a cooperative and *Think.COOP*-A step-by-step tool for the creation of a cooperative-Training guide.

Due to the nature and principles that guide the associative model of social and solidarity economy, it can constitute a viable alternative to integrate refugees and migrants into the local labor market and host communities, precisely because of its community roots, so it is considered an added value to publicize through this workshop, what these associative models consist of and how they can generate better living conditions and greater socio-economic integration for refugees and migrants and nationals of the host communities.

It would be advisable to address how these entrepreneurship are sustainable in the medium term not only from the financial point of view but also from the community point of view? In the case of women, how can we link these entrepreneurship with access to care services in order to free up time and expand opportunities for economic autonomy to women who are both caregivers and providers?

Finally, and in accordance with the actions implemented by the ILO, in parallel, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), last May 2020, presented the "Manual for Migrant Entrepreneurship", whose objective is to provide recommendations in order to guide migrants in Mexico on the fundamental aspects they should take into account when starting a commercial venture.

This Manual focuses on the basic aspects to consider before starting a business or during the early stages of entrepreneurship, so it is very useful for those migrant or refugee population recently arrived in the host country.

OBJECTIVE

General Objective



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Publicize different models of promotion of enterprises, including those of social and solidarity economy, as alternatives for the labor insertion of refugees and migrants as well as nationals in a situation of return in the host communities.

Specific objectives

1. Identify the spaces for participation that public institutions, local governments and civil society can occupy in the development of experiences of promotion of entrepreneurship and social and solidarity economy in host communities.
2. Publicize the objectives and purpose of the different training tools available in the field of entrepreneurship and cooperativism.

ACTIVITIES

A virtual workshop will be held with two moments:

- 1) Presentation of entrepreneurship promotion tools and social and solidarity economy models.
- 2) Presentation of training tools in the field of entrepreneurship and cooperativism in Latin America and the Caribbean.

PARTICIPANTS

It is recommended to invite representatives by country (ideally at the level of Directors of Departments in the case of the public sector), with the following distribution:

- 2 representatives of the ministries of labour (labour migration units);
- 2 representatives of migration institutes or directorates related to the labour migration;
- 2 representatives of the ministries or institutions responsible for the promotion of social and solidarity economy enterprises and organizations;
- 1 representative of Ministries of Foreign Affairs related to the issue of labor migration.

In addition, it is proposed to invite, at the regional level:

- 2 representatives of representative workers' organizations.
- 2 representatives of representative employers' organizations.

Observer agencies of the RCM and the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration (RROCM), who wish to participate, are welcome.



AGENDA

Time (GMT-6)	Activity	Directs
09:00-09:15	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rocío González Higuera, Head of the UPMRIP-SEGOB, Pro Tempore Presidency of the RCM Coordination of the Working Group on Labour Migration (WGLM), INM and STPS 	RCM Executive Secretary
09:15-09:45	<p>What do we mean by social and solidarity economy models? Conceptualization and tools available for its promotion</p> <p><i>Leandro Morais, Professor Doctor and Researcher at the São Paulo State University (UNESP-Araraquara), United Nations Interagency Working Group on Social and Solidarity Economy</i></p>	ILO
09:45-10:15	<p>The development and strengthening of enterprises: what tools do we have?</p> <p><i>Merten Sievers, ILO</i></p>	Working Group on Labour Migration (WGLM)
10:15-11:00	<p>Experiences of promotion of entrepreneurship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovación migrante, Colombia, Luisa Fernanda ONG ALTERNATIVA, Peru, José Loayza Pacheco, microfinance manager Emprende Segur@, Ecuador, Edith Paredes, project coordinator. 	ILO
10:15-11:00	<p>Businesses with refugees: the experience of the Approach to Inclusive Market Systems and its implementation in different migratory contexts.</p> <p><i>Elisa Mendelli, ILO</i></p>	Working Group on Labour Migration (WGLM)
11:20-11:40	<p>Presentation of the Migrant Entrepreneurship Manual. Results at one year of its implementation.</p> <p>IOM Mexico.</p>	IOM
11:40-12:00	Closing	Working Group on Labour Migration (WGLM)



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