

Call for expression of interest:

Identifying the building blocks for the establishment of a global platform for co-operatives for health

1. Background and Justification

In order to further explore the potential of cooperatives to help advance Universal Health Coverage (UHC), discussions were initiated between a group of partners (i.e. Association de soutien aux Centres de Recherches, d'Enseignements et de Soins (ASCRES, Geneva), Centre International de Recherche, de l'Enseignement et des Soins (CIRES, Cameroon), NorWest Co-op Community Health (Canada), Federazione Sanita (component of Confcooperative, Italy) LPS production (Canada), International Summit of Cooperatives). They discussed the relevance of starting a pilot project in Africa aiming to strengthen existing or newly established cooperatives or mutuals' role in increasing the provision and use of quality health services to all strata of the population. The discussions led to the organization of the very first seminar on health cooperatives in Africa in May 2016 held in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The event brought together researchers, representatives from African governments, WHO, cooperative and mutual organizations, doctors¹, etc. The declaration adopted by all the participants "invite all officials at various levels of public health systems in our countries to support the development of cooperative models including cooperative health clinics and mutual insurance models to significantly increase the supply and use of quality healthcare services to all strata of the population of their countries".²

This role and potential were reaffirmed at global level at the 2016 International Summit of Cooperatives whose final declaration acknowledges the contribution of cooperatives and mutuals to sustainable development goals 3 (Good health), 1 (No poverty), and 10 (Reduced inequalities). Furthermore, the declaration urges cooperatives, among others, to i) make a full range of healthcare, primary care, and social services available to vulnerable and marginalized populations; ii) enable communities to assume ownership of the prevention, healthcare and social services that they need and to develop an integrated person-centred approach through social cooperatives and multi-stakeholder cooperatives involving both healthcare providers and users; and iii) develop primary care services through multidisciplinary networks with healthcare providers that offer integrated healthcare services outside hospitals.³

As a concrete follow-up to the two high-level events a technical meeting was organized in May 2017 to define possible steps towards the design of a programme aiming at realizing/unfolding the cooperative advantage in advancing UHC and contributing to SDG 3. The meeting gathered representatives from the Education and Solidarity Network (France); ASCRES; Federazione Sanita; LPS Productions; Alliance for Health Promotion (Geneva); African Institute for Law and Governance of Cooperatives (Cameroon); Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC); and the International Labour Organization.

The meeting concluded that more information was still required on the presence, activities, capacity and needs of existing cooperative stakeholders operating in the health sector. To this end, it was decided to conduct a needs assessment of cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy organizations in two pilot countries i.e. Cameroon and Kenya. It is worth mentioning that the two

¹ Which included participants from Côte-d'Ivoire, Benin and Cameroon as well and speakers or participants from Italy, USA, Canada, France, Switzerland.

² Declaration available at <http://productionslps.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Health-Coop-in-Africa-Yaoundé-Declaration-May-2016-EN.pdf>

³ See <https://www.sommetinter.coop/en/2016-edition/2016-declaration>

countries were selected based on the existence of relevant past and ongoing initiatives as well as partners, and also offering a 2 language situation: English and French.

In May 2018, representatives of International Health Cooperative Organization (IHCO) , Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Association de Soutien aux Centres de Recherches, d'Enseignements et de Soins, Novartis Social Business Team and the ILO met in Geneva to discuss the findings of the above mentioned need assessment and the next steps.

During the meeting, it was agreed *to explore the possibility of establishing a global platform for exchange, learning and support among cooperatives to leverage their comparative advantage and expertise for UHC in low and middle-income countries.* This additional component is expected to complement the country-level activities planned in Cameroon and Kenya in the sense that in future the platform may serve as the basis for new partnerships between cooperatives working for health and country-level interventions.

2. Scope of the assignment and methodology

This call outlines the exploratory and preparatory work to be undertaken *for the development of a global platform aiming at promoting and increasing the role of cooperatives and mutuals in advancing UHC.*

Currently, the following elements are considered as possible content that could be offered by the platform: a) an inventory of different cooperative and mutuals models working for health, including their good practices, b) capacity building tools/services/resources for cooperatives and mutuals that want to engage in the provision of health services, to strengthen their capacities or to extend their service range, c) global database of cooperatives and mutuals that provide health services, and d) database of cooperatives and mutuals with expertise and experience in the health sector that are willing to provide advice and support to peers.

This list is in no instance exhaustive and will be revised further, following consultations that will be initiated under this assignment.

In order to test and exemplify the added value of the platform for the partners⁴, special attention will be paid to needs of relevant cooperative and mutual organizations in Cameroon and Kenya where pilot activities to strengthen the provision and use of quality health services through cooperatives and mutuals are planned. As a way of illustration, priority should be given to identifying good practices that showcase relevant “cooperative intervention models” that could be tested and replicated in Kenya and Cameroon, e.g. experience of financial and health cooperative working together (in the case of Kenya) and health cooperatives/mutual interface experiences (in the case of Cameroon).

Specific tasks to be covered by this assignment include:

i) Conduct a mapping exercise:

Consist of researching and mapping existing (digital and other) sources of information relevant to cooperatives and mutuals working for health in order to identify the niche of the proposed platform. The purpose of this exercise is to avoid duplication on what is already available in terms of knowledge, content and data, and to provide unique value to the proposed platform. In addition, lessons learned from other platforms will help prevent sustainability traps.

⁴ The main project partners include: Association de Soutien aux Centres de Recherches, d'Enseignements et de Soins (ASCRES), Fundación Espriu, International Health Cooperative Organization (IHCO), International Labour Organization (ILO), Novartis Social Business Team, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Methodology proposed:

- Desk review
- Interviews with, among others, cooperative and/or health sector practitioners and academics.

ii) Prepare and conduct a needs assessment survey and report:

The survey aims at identifying the main potential users of the platform and their key needs in terms of capacity strengthening (knowledge, information, technical support etc.). The survey is key as it will help determine the content of the platform and the services, if any, that the platform will provide. Potential users are IHCO members, but co-operatives identified in Kenya and Cameroon may also be considered as well as other co-operatives from low- and middle-income income settings.

Note: **The needs assessment process should also be informed by the mapping exercise.**

Methodology proposed:

- Desk review;
- Identification and development of data base of key cooperative, mutual and/or health sector practitioners and academics which/who have good practices or capacity building tools/approaches to share;
- Interviews with cooperative and/or health sector practitioners and academics to guide development of survey questionnaires;
- Development of survey questionnaire;
- Translation of survey questionnaire;
- Launch of online survey;
- Dissemination of the survey in various regions and languages e.g. Europe, Africa (Kenya and Cameroon in particular), Latin America and Asia;
- Compilation and analysis of responses;
- Organization of possible additional interviews if further information or clarification is needed.

iii) Identify and analyze requirements for the organizational and governance set-up of the platform.

This work aims to define the necessary management capacity including monitoring of progress and challenges, financial resources and potential funders, as well as governance/steering structures to efficiently run the global platform. Part of this work will be the analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in relation to potential platform managers (and in particular some of the IHCO members like Espriu Foundation).

Methodology proposed:

- Desk review to identify the human and financial resources and capacities needed to manage a global platform;
- Revision of main project partners'⁵ institutional documents such as organizational chart, annual reports, financial reports, membership, among others;
- Development of SWOT questionnaire for potential platform managers (e.g. Espriu Foundation);
- Interviews with management and staff of potential platform managers (e.g. from Espriu Foundation).

⁵ Ibid

3. Outputs

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Estimated required time⁶</i>
Mapping exercise		
Mapping report in English	Analysis on existing offer of information sources relevant to cooperatives and mutuals working for health, and recommendations regarding platform niche, format and value added.	20 days
Needs assessment survey and report		
Data base of key cooperative, mutual and/or health sector practitioners and academics which/who have good practices or capacity building tools/approaches to share	IHCO will support the identification of these cooperatives/mutuals	5 days
Survey questionnaire in English, French and Spanish	The survey seeks to identify potential users, their needs, and their potential contribution to the platform content.	5 days
Needs assessment report in English	Analysis containing identification of potential users, their knowledge, information and other needs, and recommendations on platform content, type ⁷ and services. The report should be informed by the mapping exercise, desk review, survey responses and interviews.	30 days
Requirements for the organizational and governance set- up of the platform		
Concept note of 5-10 pages (without annexes) in English with recommendations for the organizational and governance set-up of the platform	The concept note should provide recommendations on the management set-up and maintenance of the platform and the approximate start-up and maintenance budget. It should also include the name of the suggested institution(s) to manage the platform and its	25 days

⁶ It is worth mentioning that certain tasks should be carried out simultaneously.

⁷ Different types of platforms exist (e.g. digital or non-digital). It is worth mentioning that this assignment aims as well as at identifying the most suitable type of platform that should be designed and promoted to meet users' needs and constraints.

	(their) SWOT analysis as annexes.	
Presentation of mapping and needs assessment		
Preparation for presentation		2 days
Presentation	Present the findings and recommendations of the mapping exercise and the needs assessment to the partners, and discuss the concept note for the organizational and governance set-up of the platform.	1 day
Workshop report	Report gathering feedback received and suggestions for next steps regarding the establishment of the global platform (content, management, and the way forward)	2 days

4. Timeframe

From 15 January to 31 May 2019

5. Supervision

The contract will be issued by ASCRES and will be supervised by a consultative committee composed by ASCRES, IHCO, and ILO.

6. Qualifications

Required qualifications include:

- Proven knowledge and experience in the development of web platforms (content and design)
- Familiarity with ICT tools that can be used for web platform development and data collection
- Experience in undertaking online surveys
- Good analytical, writing and presentation skills
- Language skills: all final products will be presented in English, nevertheless, French and Spanish in particular are required to undertake the surveys and the SWOT analysis
- Knowledge on health cooperatives and mutuals will be an asset

7. Application submission

- Candidates or companies interested in this consultancy are invited to submit a technical proposal (not exceeding 10 pages) which should include: i) CV of the person(s) or profile of the company that will undertake the assignment; ii) presentation of the different tasks to be undertaken and timeframe; iii) suggested methodology; and iv) detailed financial proposal. At least one example of a similar assignment that the person(s) company may have worked on in the past (this will not be counted within the 10 pages limit).
- Submissions should be sent to coop@ilo.org and ihco@fespriu.org no later than **11 January 2019**.