



Cooperative future for Europe
Will you be part of it?



The power of cooperation: a European success

1 out of 5 people in the EU is a member of a cooperative.

Cooperative enterprises are lead actors in the construction of the European Union. They promote values such as democracy, solidarity and equality which have been at the heart of European cooperation since the beginning, shaping them into concrete opportunities for millions of European citizens.

Cooperatives Europe supports a political vision of Europe that is people-centred - putting citizens at the core of its concerns, championing inclusiveness and building a strong community of nations that, with respect of diversity, refuses to be inward looking.



An inclusive business where everybody has a say

Cooperative enterprises put the power into the hands of the citizens by doing business in a democratic way. Cooperatives are owned and run by their members (consumers, producers, employees or local communities) who have an equal say in the business management and the way the profits are shared. They exist in all sizes, from micro enterprises to major companies, operating in all sectors of the economy, from industry to services, healthcare to housing, agriculture to banking and energy to culture.

The benefits of a cooperative business are felt by the whole community.



Cooperatives Europe, the European cross-sectoral organization promoting the cooperative business model, represents over 140 million individual member cooperators, owning 176,000 cooperative enterprises and providing jobs to 4,7 million European citizens.



Talk to Cooperatives Europe.

Cooperatives Europe is keen to discuss how our recommendations to strengthen Europe's economy and society can be developed and implemented.

Discover Cooperatives Europe and our work:
www.coopseurope.coop

Cooperatives Europe
4, Rue du Trône
1000, Brussels
Belgium
+32 (0) 2 213 00 80

@coopseurope



Cooperatives inspire change

Enterprises that do business in a democratic, sustainable and social way, as cooperatives do, help to build a wider social economy. Innovating with the people and the community in mind, European cooperatives inspire change for the entire European community – from building a responsible collaborative economy and involving youth in common projects to prioritising sustainability in all their actions.

With societal goals at the core, cooperatives are in a primary position to support the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda across Europe.



Bringing Europe closer to people's needs

While locally rooted, Europe matters to cooperatives.

More than ever, cooperatives are key actors in promoting democracy, solidarity and human rights at a time where European project is facing several challenges from climate change, increasing inequality to employment and migration crisis.

As resilient and competitive enterprises meeting social and members' needs, cooperatives, and other social economy actors, provide shared solutions to meet the present and future challenges, promoting social cohesion and sustainable growth and development.



Cooperatives Europe's key priorities

With a view of a strong collaboration with the EU institutions towards a people-centred Europe, Cooperatives Europe has identified a high level agenda for EU policy-makers with a set of interlocking priority recommendations for action.

1. The Social Economy should be recognized as a key segment of the economy which, as an added value, aims to catalyse social cohesion.
2. The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) should remain a top priority on the European political agenda. In particular aiming at providing equal opportunities and inclusion. Social investment and legislation relating to social rights should be promoted as means of its implementation.
3. Entrepreneurship policies should be promoted across the diversity of enterprises models, taking into account the specifics of cooperatives in the design of actions such as financing or education. To help ensure this, an appropriate and enabling regulatory framework for cooperatives should be developed, to help ensure a level playing field.
4. Gender equality & women entrepreneurship policies should recognize cooperatives as important actors for empowering women entrepreneurs, providing employment opportunities to promote gender equality.
5. To mature and become sustainable, the collaborative economy would benefit from a positive European legal framework, preserving and stimulating in the process the emergence of innovative cooperative models.
6. International development outside the EU should use the cooperative model to strengthen the local private sector, so as to maximize impact and benefit for planet and people. This would include an explicit recognition of cooperatives in the EU External Investment Plan.
7. Invest in youth, in order to provide opportunities for young people to develop cooperative entrepreneurial projects.
8. Build an economy for the future. Europe should take further decisive steps towards an environmentally sustainable economy - engaging all stakeholders across society to achieve this - and a citizen centred economy, able to find a better balance between local and global.

We call for a permanent and constructive dialogue with the European institutions to build tomorrow's Europe. With cooperatives.