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# YOUTH AMBASSADOR APPLICATION

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APPLY TO BECOME A YOUTH AMBASSADOR IN THE GLOBAL COOPERATIVE ENTREPRENEURS (GCE) PROGRAM AND GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW TO START A COOPERATIVE TO SOLVE A COMMUNITY NEED!

## Why is the cooperative business model a great option for youth-led start-ups?

The cooperative model is a great business form option for youth entrepreneurs as it allows people to take control of their economic future. The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) defines cooperatives as **people-centred enterprises** owned, controlled and run by and for their members to realise their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations. Cooperatives bring people together in a democratic and equal way. Whether the members are the customers, employees, users or residents, cooperatives are democratically managed by the '*one member, one vote*' rule. Members share equal voting rights regardless of the amount of capital they put into the enterprise. As businesses **driven by values**, not just profit, cooperatives share [internationally agreed principles](#) and act together to build a better world through cooperation. Putting fairness, equality and social justice at the heart of the enterprise, cooperatives around the world are allowing people to work together to create **sustainable enterprises** that generate long-term jobs and prosperity.

## What is GCE?

The **GCE** is an experimental mentoring program aiming at providing support to youth ambassadors interested in setting up a cooperative. The program builds on a 3-steps methodology of mobilising youth and together solve community needs by setting up cooperatives.

Inspired in the Cooperatives Europe's [CoopStarter 2.0](#) Erasmus+ funded project, the GCE is an initiative of the [ICA-EU Partnership for international cooperative development](#) (#coops4dev🌍), which aims to bring the cooperative model to the next level within international development policies and programs.

## Why should you become a GCE youth ambassador?

As a **GCE youth ambassadors**, you will be provided a unique opportunity to participate in 6 months mentoring program to support you in realising your cooperative business idea. The GCE mentors are experts from cooperative associations and youth organizations working together in a vocational, education and training (VET) partnership to stimulate enabling environments for innovative and youth-led cooperative start-ups. As a youth ambassador you will also get access to online and offline learning opportunities to build new networks and to create new positive change for your communities.

## What will you be expected to do as a youth ambassador?

The GCE program will kick-off by providing the youth ambassadors regional training events, organized by the International Cooperative Alliance. After the training, you will be connected to the mentors in your country and you will receive continuous support on how to start a cooperative and how to mobilise youth around your ideas.

As a GCE youth ambassador, you are expected to mobilise youth around a cooperative start-up idea by planning and delivering 3 multiplier events with support from your mentors. The first event is called 'Let's Cooperate!' and it is intended to be the first stage of realising your initial cooperative start-up idea by working together with youth from your communities. As a second step, you are expected to organise a 'Coopathon' – a form of a hackathon to further the opportunities and strategic ideas created during the first event. As a last step, you will organize a third event involving interested youth to establish the cooperative.

### Are you one of the youth ambassadors we are looking for?

Are you between 18-35 years old and have an entrepreneurial idea that can solve a community need by setting up a cooperative? Are you an innovative person who enjoy solving problems? Do you like to organise events? Are you a confident communicator who likes to mobilise youth and to work in a collaborative way?

In 2019, the GCE program is implemented in 9 countries and the youth ambassadors need to be based in these countries to enable face-to-face meetings with the mentors. The participating countries are Colombia, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Poland.

If yes to the above, then apply to become a youth ambassador of the Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs program!

### What will you get out of the program?

At the end of the program, youth ambassadors will have had a chance to realise their cooperative business ideas by learning more about cooperatives and how to start them. At the same time, they will strengthen their network of like-minded youth across the world.

\*Interested candidates are asked to apply by submitting the application form below to [h.persson@coopseurope.coop](mailto:h.persson@coopseurope.coop) Please mention in the email subject your name followed by the name of your country. Deadline for applications is the June 24th, 2019. Only those candidates selected for the next steps will be contacted.

*This project has been co-funded by the European Union. The contents of this application are the sole responsibility of the International Cooperative Alliance and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.*

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APPLICATION FORM

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First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Country and city of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email-address: \_\_\_\_\_

English proficiency:

None

Very Limited

Moderate

Advanced

Excellent

1. Do you have experience in- and knowledge of cooperatives? Please mark the statements that correctly describe you and specify when asked:

Knowledge about what a cooperative is, if so how did you learn about it:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Member of a cooperative, if so please specify what type of cooperative and your role:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Don't know about cooperatives but would like to learn, if so please tell us on your interest

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you have experiences from helping a wider community? Are you an active member of a group aimed at supporting your community? Please mark the experiences you have had and specify for how long you have done this:

Neighborhood initiative/local committee

Only 1 - 2 times	Occasionally, on an ad hoc basis	Regularly for up to 6 months	Regularly for up to 1 year	Regularly for up to 2 years	Regularly for more than 2 years
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Trade/student union

Only 1 - 2 times	Occasionally, on an ad hoc basis	Regularly for up to 6 months	Regularly for up to 1 year	Regularly for up to 2 years	Regularly for more than 2 years
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University club/group

Only 1 - 2 times	Occasionally, on an ad hoc basis	Regularly for up to 6 months	Regularly for up to 1 year	Regularly for up to 2 years	Regularly for more than 2 years
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Non-governmental organization/voluntary initiatives

Only 1 - 2 times	Occasionally, on an ad hoc basis	Regularly for up to 6 months	Regularly for up to 1 year	Regularly for up to 2 years	Regularly for more than 2 years
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Sports club

Only 1 - 2 times	Occasionally, on an ad hoc basis	Regularly for up to 6 months	Regularly for up to 1 year	Regularly for up to 2 years	Regularly for more than 2 years
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Youth movement/Scouts

Only 1 - 2 times	Occasionally, on an ad hoc basis	Regularly for up to 6 months	Regularly for up to 1 year	Regularly for up to 2 years	Regularly for more than 2 years
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Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Only 1 - 2 times	Occasionally, on an ad hoc basis	Regularly for up to 6 months	Regularly for up to 1 year	Regularly for up to 2 years	Regularly for more than 2 years
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3. Have you got experience in planning and delivering an event/activity for youth in your community and if so, how many people attended?

No, never	Yes, for 0-10 people	Yes, for 11-20 people	Yes, for 20-40 people	Yes, for more than 40 people
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If yes, please state what the event/activity was about and what your role was:

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4. Please circle the types of communication channels that you are familiar with and use on a regular basis:

- |           |              |           |            |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Facebook  | Email        | WhatsApp  | WeChat     |
| Instagram | Telegram     | SMS/Calls | Line       |
| Twitter   | Snapchat     | Viber     | Networking |
| Debates   | Peer-to-peer | Radio     | TV         |

Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have experience in public speaking?

No, never	I have very limited experience	I have some experience	I have a lot of experience	I don't know
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If yes, please state what the public speaking was about:

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6. Is there a need in your community that you believe can be solved through the people-centered business like the cooperative model? Please explain your idea and why you believe a cooperative start-up can be a solution (including your intended target group, how the cooperative would work, potential support you may need, tentative timeline, sustainability and feasibility), using the space below:

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7. Do you find creative solutions to problems? Tell us about what was for you the biggest challenge you faced during your studies or professional life, and what you did to overcome it!

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**How information about you will be used**

Individual contact information which you supply to us will be used to deliver our newsletters, important press releases, invitations to events, and may be used to contact you for statistical information and networking within the co-operative movement. We will not sell your information. We will not share your personal information with anyone outside of the International Co-operative Alliance structures, partners, and a selection committee which includes representatives from the global and regional youth networks of the ICA structures. For further information on how your information is used, how we maintain the security of your information, and your rights, please [click here](#) or email [dataprotection@ica.coop](mailto:dataprotection@ica.coop).

	Yes, I understand and accept the data protection policy of the International Co-operative Alliance and consent to my information being used as per the policy.
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