



# Are you cooperative?

**1 out of 5 people  
in Europe are members  
of a cooperative.**

**You may not have realised,  
but you could be one of them.**

# Cooperatives are owned by people like **you**

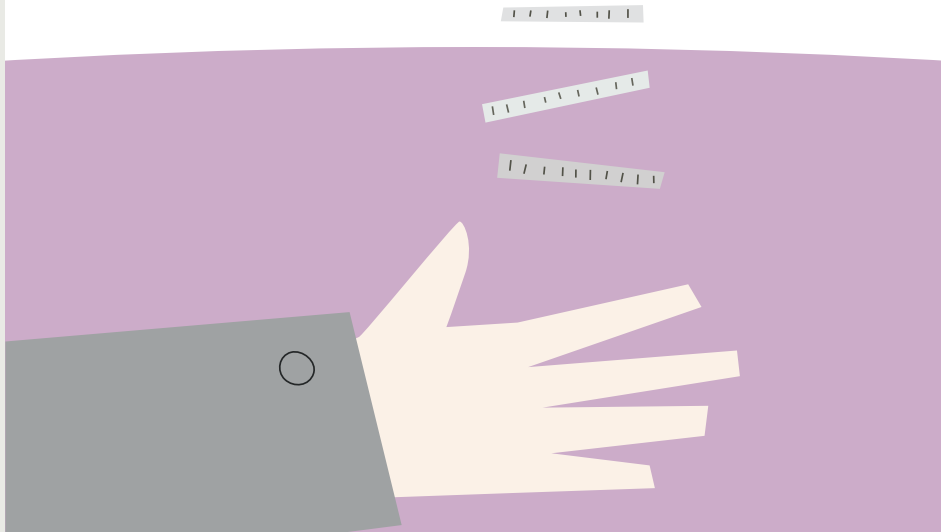
Cooperatives exist to serve their members, whether they are customers, employees or producers. What's more, these members are the owners, with an equal say in what the cooperative does. So, as well as getting the products and services they need, **members help shape the decisions their cooperatives make.**



# Cooperatives share their profits

Cooperatives want to trade successfully – they are businesses, not charities, after all. Members, such as farmers or freelancers, tenants or taxi drivers, can often do better by working together.

And sharing the profit is a way to keep it fair and make it worthwhile. Rather than rewarding outside investors, a cooperative shares its profits amongst the members.



# Cooperatives are another way of doing business

Cooperatives are ethical businesses that work for the benefit of the community now and in the future.

They come in all types and sizes: from small companies owned by employees, to large banks owned by clients. They work in all parts of the economy: from healthcare to housing, farms to pharmacies, supermarkets to sports clubs, energy to bakeries, insurance to internet services.



# Cooperatives Europe gives a voice to cooperative enterprises in Europe

On behalf of our 90 member organisations,  
we represent 160.000 cooperative enterprises  
from all sectors of the economy, 123 million  
members and 5,4 million employees.

We advocate for a level playing field  
between cooperatives and other forms  
of enterprise.

We work to increase the knowledge of the  
cooperative business model across Europe  
and to facilitate the development of  
cooperative enterprises.



We are promoting an enterprise model which  
**puts people at the heart of its activities.**

Like any other business, cooperatives must  
trade successfully, but not at any price.

Cooperatives exist to satisfy people's needs,  
and not human greed.

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