

cooperative manifesto

Our Cooperative Blueprint for Europe

Common policy priorities
for the 2024 European
Parliament elections.





A cooperative vision for Europe

Our policy priorities for 2024 European Elections

Cooperatives in Europe

The power of cooperation

Cooperatives are people-centred businesses that put the power back into the hands of the citizens. They are collectively owned and democratically governed 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. Cooperatives constitute a valuable alternative to traditional businesses and 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.

Cooperatives at the heart of inclusive innovation

With citizens' ownership and empowerment at the core of their DNA, cooperatives are championing inclusiveness and social cohesion in their communities. From platform cooperatives to cooperative energy communities or cooperative housing, these social, technological, or organizational innovations bring solutions to sectors facing strong challenges. This business model supports a vision of Europe where enterprises are pioneering inclusive innovations and putting citizens at the centre of their concerns.

A vehicle for sustainable development and prosperity

Cooperatives play an active role in reinforcing the social and economic fabric of Europe and its immediate neighbours like Turkey, Ukraine, Armenia and Moldova. In times of crisis, they prove to be particularly resilient and helpful in rebuilding local areas through cooperation, solidarity, and good governance. As a driving force for democracy and dialogue, cooperatives' real potential must be unleashed to secure sustainable development and democracy across the continent and beyond.



Our priorities





Decent Work and Citizen's Empowerment

Unleash the potential of cooperative enterprises for decent work and citizen's empowerment. We must rethink traditional businesses and promote models that allow democracy at work, fairer working conditions and better representation of citizens.



Competitiveness and Resilience

Support the competitiveness and resilience of cooperatives. They must be equally recognized in all legislations, sectors and countries with considerations for their unique characteristics, including when it comes to report obligations, taxation, access to finance or public procurement. Similar to the SME filter, we call for the creation of a "coop filter" to reduce ill-adapted legislations for cooperatives across Europe.



European Pillar of Social Rights

The European Pillar of Social Rights must remain a political priority with a strong commitment and ambitious leadership from the next Commission to implement the Social Economy Action Plan until 2030.





Youth Entrepreneurship

Further invest in youth (cooperative) entrepreneurship since this generation is at the forefront of social innovation, digitalization, and climate action. A strong focus must be given to skills and adapting curricula to the needs of the social economy and the twin transition.



Investments in the Twin Transition

Reiterate commitment to support investments in the twin transition in all areas, including the renewed industrial strategy. Long-term investments are needed to promote responsible, citizen-centered innovations and to facilitate their uptake at national and regional levels.



Democracy and Sustainable Development in the European Neighbourhood Policy

Leverage the power of cooperatives as a driver for democracy and sustainable development in the European Neighbourhood Policy and EU External Action. Cooperatives are particularly active in building the social and economic fabric of a country and must be recognized in candidate countries as well as in the Ukraine facility.



Cooperative Network in the European Parliament

Establish a Cooperative Network in the European Parliament. Through an active network of MEP “Coop supporters” acting as ambassadors of the movement, we aim to raise awareness about cooperatives and further promote this business model among co-legislators.



How to use this manifesto?

Get inspired from this manifesto to create your own! You can then contact and share it to Candidates and Parties in your country. Future Members of European Parliament will represent the interests of their national constituents for the next 5 years.

What is Cooperatives Europe?

We are the European cross-sectoral organization promoting the cooperative business model. We represent 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 can be developed and implemented together towards the strengthening of Europe's economy and society.

We encourage Candidates and Parties to approach us directly to collaborate and work together. You can contact Cooperatives Europe's director Ms. Agnès Mathis at a.mathis@coopseurope.coop

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