

Euro Coop Flash

SEPTEMBER 2012

International Year 2012

Voting in Coop'Art contest open until 30th September

Only two weeks remain to vote for the winners of Coop'Art, the global youth art competition organised by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA).

The finalist entries in the three categories (music, photography and video) are now posted on the www.2012.coop website, where the public can vote for their favourites until 30th September 2012.

The finalists hail from all around the world, including the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, India and Argentina, among others.

First-place, second-place and third-place winners will be named in each category, with the first-place winners receiving USD 3,000 and a trip to the [Co-operatives United](#) festival in Manchester that begins at the end of October.

Coop'Art aims to engage young people in the co-operative sector during the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives and identify future leaders of the co-operative movement.

More than 170 participants from around the world submitted projects inspired by the co-operative principles to be considered in Coop'Art.

You can view the Coop'Art finalists and vote for your favourites [here](#).

Festival boosts awareness of Ukrainian consumer co-operatives

Ukoopspilka, the Central Union of Consumer Societies of Ukraine, organised a large festival at Kyiv's Independence Square on 23rd July to promote consumer co-operatives.

The festival included a concert that showcased ensemble performances of Ukoopspilka's educational institutions and a performance from well-known rapper Giga.

Participants also enjoyed contests, quizzes on co-operative trivia and a raffle.

The winning raffle ticket, picked up by one of the quiz participants, was for a twelve-day trip for two to Crimea.

(continued on next page)



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Celebrating the United Nations
International Year of
Cooperatives 2012
www.2012.coop

COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD

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Ukoopspilka (continued)

Vladyslav Goncharenko, CEO of Ukoopspilka, said, "We created a street party and invited popular young performers to reach to the new generation and get them acquainted more deeply with the idea of co-operation, a key element for understanding co-operative concepts. I'm sincerely pleased that the participants of the festival were interested in the issues and principles of the system."



Euro Coop to host events during Co-operatives United

On the occasion of [Co-operatives United in Manchester](#), Euro Coop and Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW) will be hosting a number of events at the end of the weeklong festival.

On Wednesday, 31st October, CCW's Executive Committee will meet, and that evening will see the awards ceremony for Coop'Art during the International Dinner.

On the morning of Thursday, 1st November, Euro Coop and CCW will host a workshop on the topic "Loyalty programmes and consumer data: Maximising the co-operative experience".

Organised in collaboration with the Co-operative Identity Working Group, the workshop will feature speakers from The Co-operative Group (UK), Coop Norway, Coop Marknad (Sweden), S Group (Finland) and the Union of Czech and Moravian Consumer Co-operatives.

Euro Coop's Board meeting will follow the workshop, and the day will finish with a Meet & Greet with the Sustainability Policy Working Group, who will launch Euro Coop's 2012 report on climate change and present their work to the co-operative world.

To register or receive more information about Euro Coop's events within Co-operatives United, please contact [Fran McCrae](#).

CO-OPERATIVES UNITED / WORLD FESTIVAL AND ICAEXPO
29 OCT—2 NOV 2012
MANCHESTER CENTRAL, UK



VALG 2012
FDB Landsråd

Co-operative Governance

FDB to elect members to National Council

The more than one million members of Danish consumer co-operative FDB had the opportunity to run for election in the organisation's National Council.

78 candidates are running for 51 seats, and members are able to vote online from 25th September to 4th October.

The National Council sets the future framework for FDB and Coop, Denmark's largest grocery company, on four key issues: health, climate, environment and ethical trade.

FDB President Lasse Bolander elaborated, "The National Council must in the near future further develop ways in which we can make the next generation healthier and better cooks than their parents, climate-friendly solutions to consumption and increased action to reduce poverty in Africa."

"We must be those who are at the forefront of finding new ways for grocery consumption in a responsible and sustainable direction. It is very much the National Council that helps ensure that."

ETK Group reports increase in sales in first semester

ETK Group (Estonia) recently announced that sales for the first semester increased by 8.5% and rose to 200.6 million euros despite tough competition in the Estonian retail market.



Estonian Consumers Cooperatives

The Konsum supermarket chain accounted for 99.5 million euros of overall sales, up 13% from 2011, with Alpha and Omega sales increasing by 1.4% and Maksimarket sales by 7.9%.

Additionally during the first semester, three Konsum stores were refurbished.

Konsum represents 50% of ETK Group's stores, A and O 14% and Maksimarket 21%.

Coop Norway receives reputation prize

On 30th August, Coop Norway was presented a 2012 Omdømmeprisen award by the Ipsos Group, the second largest research agency in Norway that carries out surveys among the Norwegian population to identify the best-liked companies.



Coop Norway's commitments to promoting sustainable consumption and guaranteeing food safety and security to its 1.3 million consumer-members are the main criteria that were taken into account in the process assessment.

Coop Norway placed second out of all companies, up one spot from 2011. It has won the second or third place position every year since 2003.

Commission launches consultation on Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan

On 1st October, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry will close its consultation on the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan.

The objective of this consultation is to address areas where entrepreneurial

potential can be unleashed, key bottlenecks can be overcome and obstacles to entrepreneurial activities removed.

Euro Coop will contribute to this consultation in collaboration with Cooperatives Europe in order to highlight the potential of co-operative organisations

in European entrepreneurial policy.

For further information, please visit the [Consultation on Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan](#).

Environmental Policy

Euro Coop participates in conference on GMOs

On the 4th and 5th of September 2012 in Brussels, Euro Coop participated in the 7th European GMO-free Regions Conference co-organised by the European Commission and environmental NGOs.

The event gathered 200 participants, which included representatives from the European Commission, parliamentarians, environmental NGOs, consumer organisations and national ministry representatives from 33 countries.

The two days of workshops addressed many topics such as the right to nation-

al bans on GMO cultivation, deficient risk assessment of GMOs by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the upcoming seed legislation, the imports of GM soy in connection with the next European CAP reform and GM labelling.

Further discussions are expected at the Council by the end of the year on this very sensitive dossier, which Euro Coop will continue to monitor.

The Secretariat also plans to elaborate a new position to better reflect Europe-



an consumer co-operatives' views on GMOs.

Co-operative Group installs hydrocarbon units in 420 more stores

In its latest sustainability report, The Co-operative Group (UK) announced the installation of hydrocarbon stand-alone refrigeration units in 420 stores in 2011, to add on to the 290 stores that have already received the upgrades.



Having met its target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% compared to 2006 levels six years early, The Co-operative Group (UK) now aims to reduce emissions by 50% before 2020, and purchasing HFC-free equipment for its stores will help achieve this objective.

In addition to using only HFC-free working fluids in all stores by 2030, the retailer is determined to deploy natural refrigerants in all new installations as of 2015 and intensify future retrofits.

The Co-operative Group's new headquarters in Manchester, which is expected to be completed in 2012, will use natural refrigerants in all systems and has been accredited the BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) 'outstanding rating', the highest ranking.

The Group's approach to climate change is five-fold, embracing energy efficiency, support for renewable energy, carbon offsetting, the provision of finance and public policy lobbying.

Food Policy

Eroski provides nutritional refreshments at Spanish Athletics Championships

Spanish consumer co-operative Eroski collaborated with the organising committee of the Spanish Athletics Championships in which it agreed to provide the necessary solid food and drinks for athletes, judges and volunteers.

The agreement specified that Eroski would provide 12,000 bottles of water, 2,000 bottles of sports drinks and solid food, all from Eroski's own brand and its Sannia range, low in salt and fat.

Enrique Sanchez Sexton, President of the Organising Committee and President of the Athletics Federation of

Navarra, said, "Eroski demonstrates a strong commitment to sports and the promotion of healthy lifestyles by providing products to fuel the participants in the championship."

According to Anabel Zariquiegui Asiain, Manager of the Eroski Hypermarket in Iruña, "This agreement will help the development and promotion of amateur sports and human values in terms of effort, perseverance and discipline."

The Spanish Athletics Championships, which are organised by the Spanish Athletics Federation, the Government

Coop Netherlands promotes sale of sustainable fish

Coop Netherlands is now the first retailer in the country to sell the Aquaculture Stewardship Council's (ASC) labelled Queens Tilapia in its supermarkets.

In order to prevent food waste, Coop is opting to expand the range of frozen fish and reduce the number of fresh offerings, while ensuring that the frozen products are sustainably sourced.

The ASC logo is the sister of the Marine Stewardship Council ecolabel, which designates sustainable seafood products from fisheries.

The independent, international certification for responsibly farmed fish was launched recently in Amsterdam, and the Queens tilapia is the first farmed fish certified by the ASC.



of Navarra and the Pamplona City Council, were held on the 25th and 26th of August at the Estadio Larrabide of Pamplona. It involved 800 male and female athletes.



EFSA could do better, according to independent review

An independent evaluation of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), recently carried out by audit consultants Ernst & Young, found no major problems with the organisation, but noted that it had some areas for improvement.

The review, required by EFSA's founding regulation, urged the Authority to deliver its opinions more quickly, make them more relevant and explain better how verdicts are reached.

It also recommended that EFSA be more transparent about why some comments are accepted over others in its public consultations, more proactive in identifying emerging risks to consumers and more co-operative with member states.

However, the review noted that the Authority's current policy on conflicts of interest and independence was robust and required no changes.

The evaluation is currently available online on the [EFSA website](#).

Consumer Policy

Coop Netherlands supports mothers in developing world

Coop Netherlands, as a values-based organisation, is engaging in a new project to support the public health organisation called Simavi.



This organisation aims at empowering mothers in developing countries and providing them with safe drinking water, sanitation and personal hygiene.

Launched on 20th August, this initiative is running until the end of October in Coop stores, where consumer-members are offered the opportunity to donate to the benefit of the organisation.

Coop Netherlands expects a high level of participation, as more than half a million of Coop consumer-members committed to supporting charities over the past four years.

Tesco, Aldi and Lidl adopt traffic light labelling schemes in UK

Tesco, the UK's largest food supermarket, has said it will put traffic light nutritional information on its own-label products in combination with the Guideline Daily Amounts (GDAs) that it already uses, in a major U-turn over colour-coded food labelling.

The initiative is a huge step towards the UK Department of Health's goal for a harmonised national labelling scheme, especially in light of Tesco's long-time opposition to traffic light labelling.

Philip Clarke, Tesco's chief executive, said, "We always listen to our customers and they have told us that by combining our popular GDAs with traffic light colour coding we can make it even easier for them to make informed and healthy choices."



Shortly after Tesco's announcement, major retailers Aldi and Lidl agreed to adopt traffic light labelling schemes that will incorporate GDAs.

Both said they were waiting for guidance from the government on how to implement the changes.

Since 2006, The Co-operative Group has used traffic light labelling on all of its own brand products, and on shelf edge tickets for their range of takeaway food and their products served in the Espresso café bars since 2008.

Eroski offers discount on school supplies

Basque consumer co-operative Eroski recently launched a new initiative offering consumer-members a 21% discount on school supplies and computers.

With school budgets tightening, this discount aims to enable Spanish families to better face the economic crisis. In addition to that, the group decided to lower the price of 1,500 daily food products.



Eroski estimates that the discount will save its members 1% in their overall spending by January.

Euro Coop Agenda

September 2012

- 18 **Euro Coop Food Retail Working Group meeting; Brussels, BE**
- 18 “European Retailing: Towards Sustainability” conference and exhibition; European Parliament, Brussels, BE
- 18 Livewell for Life’s first stakeholder workshop; Bibliothèque Solvay, Brussels, BE
- 19 Sector Organisation Liaison Group (SOLG) meeting; Euro Coop offices, Brussels, BE
- 19 Workshop on packaging of unhealthy products; European Parliament, Brussels, BE
- 19 ARC 2020 and Slow Food conference; European Parliament, Brussels, BE
- 19 I European Green Commerce Congress; Brussels Chamber of Commerce and Business Federation; Brussels, BE
- 20 **Euro Coop Co-operative Identity Working Group meeting; Brussels, BE**
- 20 EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health Plenary Session; Brussels, BE
- 20 Meeting of the Expert Platform on business-to-business contractual relations along the food supply chain; Brussels, BE
- 27 Brussels Development Briefing “Climate change, agriculture and food security: proven approaches and new investments”; European Commission Charlemagne Building, Brussels, BE
- 28-29 “Co-operative enterprises build a better world” conference hosted by the Cyprus National Committee; Nicosia, Cyprus
- 16 DG AGRI Working Group on quality of agriculture production; Brussels, BE
- 16 Cooperatives Europe EUCC meeting; Brussels, BE
- 18 **Euro Coop Presidency meeting; Euro Coop offices, Brussels, BE**
- 19 Meeting on the future of DG AGRI’s civil society dialogue; Brussels, BE
- 24 DG SANCO conference on the protection of animals in slaughterhouses; Brussels, BE
- 29-2 Co-operatives United World Festival and ICAEXPO; Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester UK
- 31 **CCW Executive Committee meeting; Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester, UK**
- 31 **International Dinner and Coop’Art Awards Ceremony; Manchester, UK**
- 31 ICA Extraordinary General Assembly; Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester, UK

November 2012

October 2012

- 3 “Social enterprises and the Europe 2020 strategy: innovative solutions for a sustainable Europe” conference; European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels, BE
- 5 DG SANCO meeting on food losses and food waste; European Commission, Brussels, BE
- 8-11 2012 International Summit of Co-operatives; Quebec City Convention Centre, Quebec City, Canada
- 9 Retail Forum for Sustainability Annual Event “The Green Economy in the current economic crisis: How is the financial crisis influencing consumers’ and retailers’ behaviours?”; Autoworld, Museum, Brussels, BE
- 1 **CCW annual workshop on “Loyalty programmes and consumer data: Maximising the co-operative experience”; Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester, UK**
- 1 **Euro Coop Board meeting; Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester, UK**
- 1 **Euro Coop Sustainability Policy Working Group Meet & Greet; Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester, UK**
- 2 **Euro Coop Sustainability Policy Working Group meeting; The Co-operative Group offices, Manchester, UK**
- 2 Fairtrade conference; Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester, UK
- 7-8 European Waste and Resource Days “Local and Regional Innovation for Prevention, Reuse and Recycling”; Committee of the Regions, Brussels, BE
- 14 EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health joint meeting with High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain; Brussels, BE
- 19-20 European Parliament hearing on sustainable food; Brussels, BE
- 28 Retail Forum for Sustainability; Brussels, BE
- 29 European Consumer Consultative Group meeting; Brussels, BE