

Members Services Brochure

• Value of Membership: •

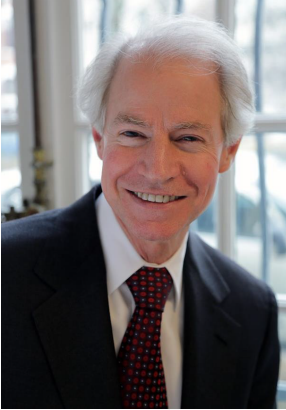
• Networking •

• Knowledge •

• Your Global Voice •




The value of membership



We are delighted that you are interested in membership in the International Co-operative Alliance, of the oldest and largest nongovernmental organisations -- measured by people represented. Since our founding in 1895, the Alliance has developed a variety of internal groups to ensure that we remain responsive to serving members in ways of importance to them. This document explains the benefits of membership and the various ways to engage, e.g. through our geographic regions, our business sectors, and our thematic committees. When you join the Alliance, these various options are available to you at no additional fee.

After reviewing this brochure, I hope that you will free to contact me (gould@ica.coop) or our Membership Director (hacquard@ica.coop) if you have any unanswered questions. As the global voice for the co-operative movement, the Alliance is committed to representing your interests and those of co-operative organisations worldwide. We look forward to your joining us.



Charles Gould
Director-General

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Global Reach

Who is the Alliance?

The International Co-operative Alliance is an independent, non-governmental organisation established in 1895 to unite, represent and serve co-operatives worldwide. It provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about co-operatives.

The Alliance's members are international and national co-operative organisations from all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, health, housing, insurance,

and industry & services. The Alliance has members from over 100 countries, representing one billion individuals worldwide. 250 million people organise their livelihoods through a co-operative.

The Alliance is the guardian of the Co-operative Identity, Values and Principles.

To accomplish its purpose, the Alliance is organised with a Global Office, four Regional Offices (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe), eight Global Sectorial Organisations (Agriculture, Banking, Retail, Fisheries, Health, Housing, Insurance, Industrial, Artisanal & services production), and five Committees and Networks (gender, research, law, youth, and communications). Your one subscription fee entitles you to participate in all of these areas.

The Alliance staff (<http://ica.coop/en/alliance-staff>) are based in various locations around the globe and are committed to helping members and the co-operative movement. No matter your questions, we are here to help you find the answers and to serve you in the best way we can.

Alliance member organisations are based in 105 countries

Members are based in the following countries (as of June 2017):

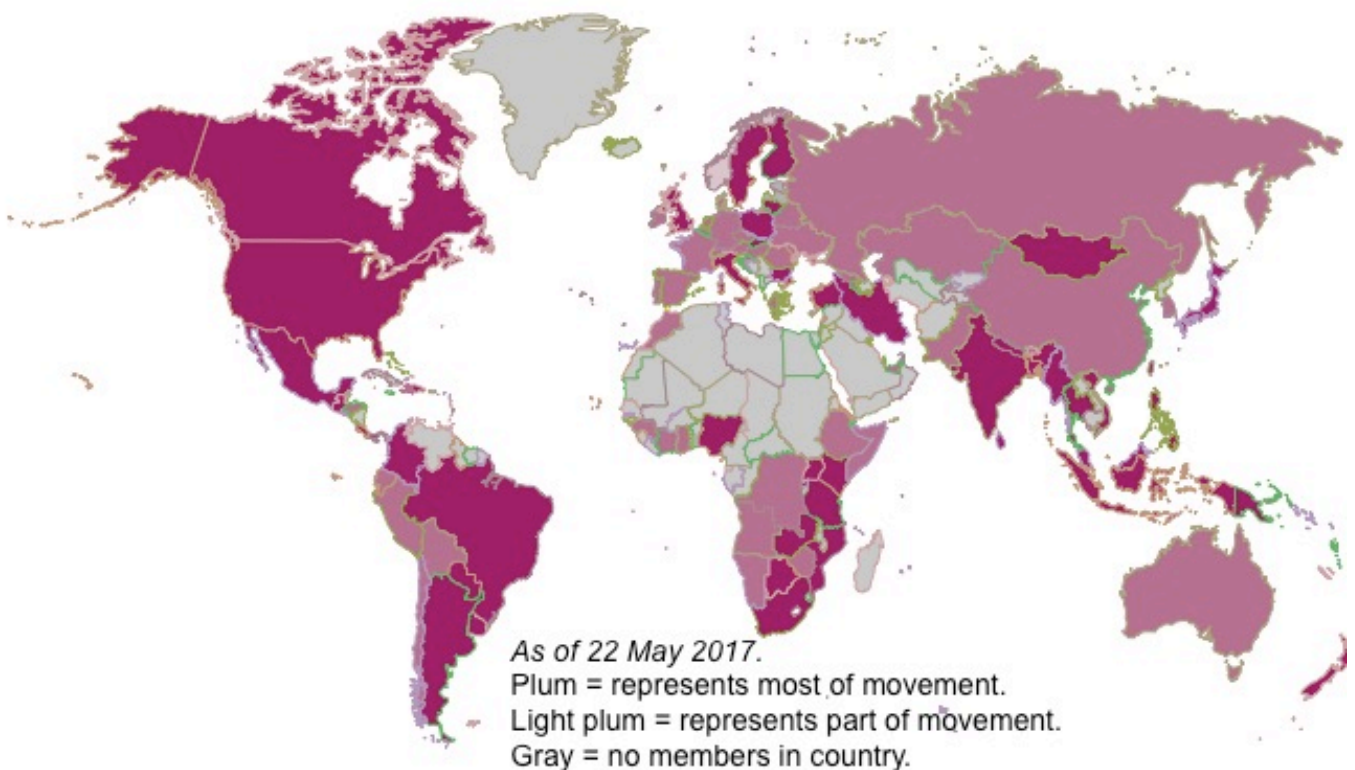
ANGOLA	CYPRUS	IRELAND	NEPAL
ARGENTINA	CZECH REPUBLIC	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS
ARMENIA	DENMARK	ITALY	NEW ZEALAND
AUSTRALIA	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	JAMAICA	NIGER
AUSTRIA	ECUADOR	JAPAN	NIGERIA
BANGLADESH	EL SALVADOR	KAZAKHSTAN (Rep.of)	NORWAY
BELARUS (Rep. of)	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	PAKISTAN
BELGIUM	FIJI	KOREA (Rep. of)	PALESTINE
BHUTAN	FINLAND	KUWAIT	PANAMA
BOLIVIA	FRANCE	LITHUANIA	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
BOTSWANA	GERMANY	MALAYSIA	PARAGUAY
BRAZIL	GHANA	MALDIVES	PERU
BULGARIA	GREECE	MALTA	PHILIPPINES
CANADA	GUATEMALA	MAURITIUS	POLAND
CHILE	GUINEA	MEXICO (Rep. of)	PORTUGAL
CHINA (P.R. of)	HAITI	MOLDOVA (Rep. of)	PUERTO RICO
COLOMBIA	HONDURAS	MONGOLIA	ROMANIA
CONGO, Democratic Republic of	HUNGARY	MOROCCO	RUSSIA
COSTA RICA	INDIA	MOZAMBIQUE	RWANDA
COTE D'IVOIRE	INDONESIA	MYANMAR	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
CROATIA	IRAN	NAMIBIA	SAUDI ARABIA

SINGAPORE	SWITZERLAND	UKRAINE	VANUATU
SLOVAKIA	TANZANIA	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	VIETNAM
SOUTH AFRICA	THAILAND	UNITED KINGDOM	ZAMBIA
SPAIN	TIMOR-LESTE	UNITED STATES	ZIMBABWE
SRI LANKA	TURKEY	URUGUAY	
SWEDEN	UGANDA		

The Alliance also has a number of members who are regional or sectoral federations of co-operatives, representing multiple countries, not all whom are on this list.

Alliance members are located in more than half of the countries globally.

Alliance Member Countries

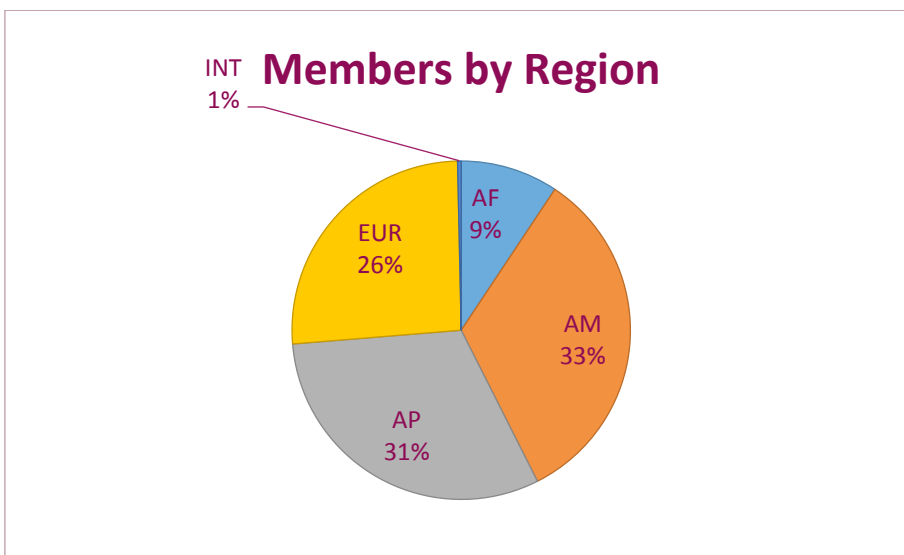


Membership Statistics¹



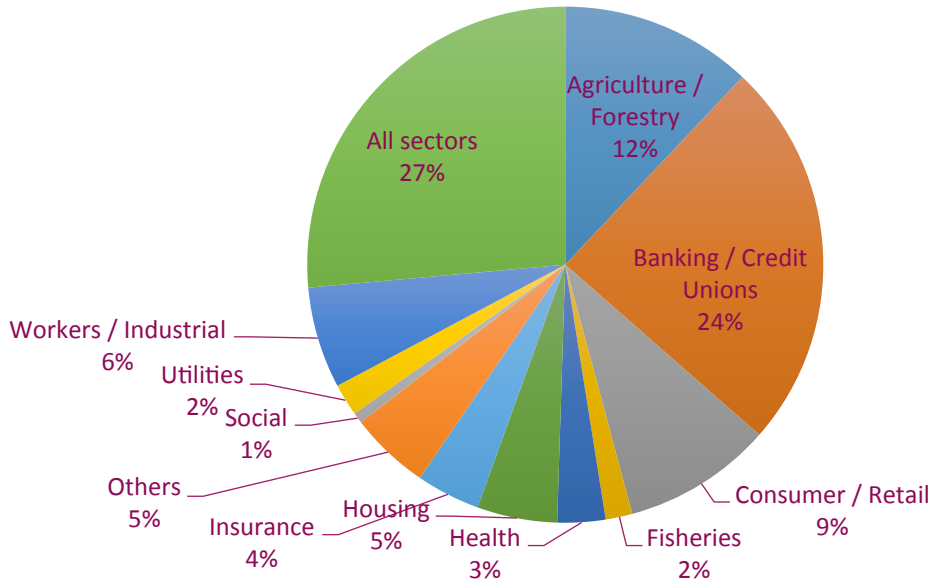
Members by type

Type of membership	Count
Full Members (with voting rights)	300
<i>of which are supranational</i>	5
Association Members	45
<i>of which are government entities</i>	6

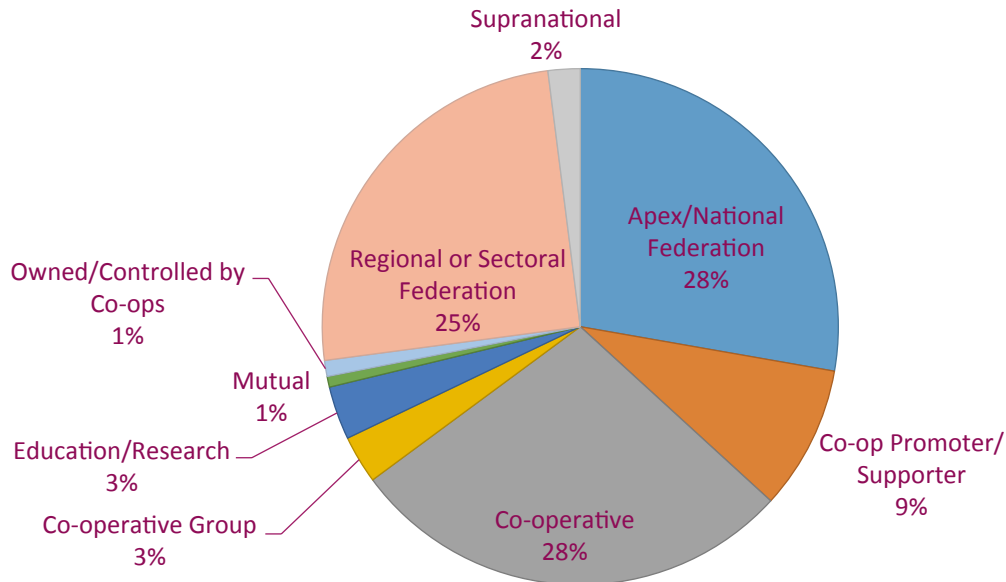


¹ As of May 2017

Primary Sectors



Structure type of members



2

² Alliance members represent and provide services under many sectors and many could fall under multiple categories. The primary sector that the member represents is provided for purposes of illustration, unless they have members

The Alliance represents more than 670,000,000 individual members globally, through its members, which is about 10% of the world's population.

Regional Offices

The Alliance has four regional offices. Members of the Alliance automatically become members of their region.



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Alliance – Africa**
A Region of the International
Co-operative Alliance

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Co-operatives of the Americas
A Region of the International
Co-operative Alliance

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Cooperatives of the Americas (formerly ICA-Americas) represents the International Cooperative Alliance in the American continent and links regional cooperatives with the world network.

Established in Costa Rica since 1990, Cooperatives of the Americas strengthens regional capacity to promote and defend cooperatives as the builders of economic, social and environmental sustainability consistent with their identity.

We represent, support and link around one hundred entities, including confederations, federations and primary cooperatives in the north, central, south and Caribbean region of the Americas. We promote an American cooperativist movement in expansion, with greater incorporation of women and youth- a movement also linked with other entities of the region's social and solidarity economy.

As part of the largest organisation in the global cooperative movement, we are the keepers of cooperative doctrine, with the commitment to watch over and promote it and empower our membership in its principles.

By being part of Cooperatives of the Americas, member organisations have greater means for regional and global linkage, whether through participation in specialized networks in their sector of interest or through interaction with other experiences in diverse arenas. The organisation also participates in policy influencing processes, toward positioning as a leader in the construction of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Our actions include generating spaces to spread and debate ideas about cooperativism and the challenges it confronts in the region and world. We develop opportunities for training in themes

representing many sectors, in which case they are coded as "all sectors".

relevant to the Membership in Cooperatives of the Americas provides access to the following services, with first-hand information:

- Cooperative Social Balance Certification
- Cooperative Green Office Certification
- Good Cooperative Government Certification
- Cooperative Education workshop/seminar
- Public Policy Influencing workshop/seminar
- ILO Recommendation 193 workshop/seminar
- Cooperative Identity workshop/seminar
- Training in Cooperative Management and Doctrine
- Training in Gender Equity
- Training in Cooperative Sustainability
- Internships
- Exchanges

Likewise, members of Cooperatives of the Americas benefit from publicising and promotion of their activities among the entire membership through our communication media and social networks.

On diverse occasions we have provided institutional support in activities and advocacy through the presence of our top officers or high-profile actions.

Members can participate in the following regional sectoral organisations, committees and networks :

- Regional Gender Equity Committee
- Regional Youth Committee
- CICOPA Americas
- COFIA Americas
- Agricultural Network



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The ICA in the Asia Pacific region began its journey as a Regional Office & Education Centre [ICA ROEC] that was established on November 14, 1960 with help from co-operative movements of India and Sweden. The office was inaugurated by late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India in New Delhi (India). ICA ROEC was the first to be set up by the ICA and was the precursor and a model for other regional offices to be set up for Africa, Americas and Europe. Since 1990 the office is known as International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific [ICA-AP] and currently serves 96 Alliance members who are national and supranational co-operative organizations from 30 countries across all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, industry, services, banking, retail, fisheries, health, housing and insurance. The ICA-AP also houses the

Asia Pacific Unit of the ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development (People Centered Businesses in Action), which is a development project co-funded by the European Union, that involves all regional offices of the ICA and will run until August 2020. The ICA-AP also works with the ICA Malaysia Business Office situated in Kuala Lumpur that looks after the trade and business needs of co-operatives in a structured way.

Benefits

ICA-AP takes forward the mandate of Alliance members from Global and Regional Assemblies in its action on uniting, representing and developing co-operatives. The office creates several co-operative platforms and conferencing instruments to create a congenial environment for co-operative enterprises to thrive in the region. In addition, knowledge reports, newsletters, thematic publications highlighting the work of the ICA and its members are released periodically.

At the macro-level, the ICA-AP organizes its biennial regional assembly – which is its highest decision making authority, and helps members elect a regional board that comprises of 11 members from distinct nationalities and 2 co-opted members representative of women and youth, on a quadrennial basis. ICA-AP periodically organizes several high level conferences and meetings on policy and advocacy such as the Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, Co-operative Registrars' Conference, Co-operative Forum and Regional Consultations.

All Alliance members in the region can nominate their representatives to specialized regional committees to share and learn on co-operative business sectors as well as thematic areas. These committees organize annual meetings and workshops and aspire to closely knit subject matter experts and practitioners. The 'research conference' attracts technical papers on co-operatives every year; the 'women's conference' brings together women co-operative leaders to chalk the course of action for gender equality in co-operatives, and the 'youth summit' provides a co-operative platform to young persons involved with ethical and value based enterprises to share experiences and learn new trends. The ICA-AP houses 10 committees on the following: Agriculture, Credit and Banking, Human Resource Development, Forestry, Consumer, Co-operative Research, Gender, Youth, University/Campus Co-operatives and Co-operative Trade.

ICA-AP curates and implements several training courses in collaboration with co-operative federations, industry leaders and governments for the benefit of members and their staff, and co-operative structures at various levels. The training courses focus on agricultural business, leadership and participation of women in co-operatives.



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Cooperatives Europe is the voice of cooperative enterprises in Europe.

On behalf of its 86 member organisations from 33 European countries across all business sectors it promotes the cooperative business model in Europe. CECOP (Industry – Services) COGECA (Agri), Eurocoop (Consumer coop), EACB (Banking), Housing Europe (Housing), Rescoop.eu (Energy), UEPS (Pharmacies).

Its members represent 141 million individual member cooperators owning 176.000 co-operative enterprises and providing jobs to 4.7 million European citizens - a force for economic growth and social change.

7 sectoral organizations are also members of Cooperatives Europe.

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 by implementing programs set up with members and partners.

We are focusing more specifically on following topics:

- Entrepreneurship
- Social Economy
- Legal framework impacting co-ops
- Collaborative economy
- International development
- Youth gender issue
- Care co-operatives

Sectoral Organisations

Your one subscription fee to the Alliance gives you the right to participate at all levels, including in the relevant sectoral organisation. You can also designate one of your members to participate, on your behalf, in a sectoral organisation.



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The International Cooperative Agricultural Organization (ICAO) is proud to support 36 member organizations from 28 countries in their pursuit of growing as organizations and better connecting to other agricultural cooperatives and opportunities. ICAO primarily serves as a hub for information, offering monthly news outlets and biannual seminars, open to all members. In addition, the ICAO hosts a general meeting in conjunction with major regional ICA events each year, in which members are encouraged to network in order to forge business agreements and promote cooperative bonds. Their primary initiatives for 2017 and 2018 are highlighted in their Declaration of Ambitions: <http://icaop.coop/sub5/sub1.php?mode=detail&no=101>.



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International Health Co-operative Organisation, IHCO, a sectoral organization of the International Cooperative Alliance, is a voluntary association of consumer, provider and multi-stakeholder health co-operatives which seek to provide high-quality, cost-effective healthcare, based on freedom of choice, integration of services, self-care and ethical working conditions sets.

IHCO provides a forum for the discussion and exchange on issues of relevance to its member organizations. IHCO members from different countries worldwide share their model, their know-how and their experience and intercooperate to improve citizen's access to healthcare services and doctor's professional conditions.

IHCO will launch in November a report that will make available reliable information about the impact of health cooperatives on the global health and the role they play in contributing to different national welfare systems. In addition to being a powerful tool for communicating with the general public, the report will be a useful policy instrument for cooperative leaders and managers to address national and local governments.

For membership information: <https://ihco.coop/members/how-to-become-a-member/>

More information:

website: www.ihco.coop

twitter: @IHCO_coophealth

facebook: www.facebook.com/IHCO.Health.Coops



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ICFO, one of the ICA's eight sectoral organizations, was established in 1976. The ICFO contributes to improving the living standards of fishermen, developing fisheries cooperatives within each of the ICFO member countries through research and study of the various problems

concerning fisheries cooperative organizations, and promoting better mutual understanding and economic cooperation among fisheries cooperatives.

There are a lot of Benefits to members offered by the ICFO

- Education and training (The Korean fisheries cooperatives' business knowledge sharing education)
- ICFO scholarship program to nurture talents in member countries
- Donation of IT equipment to member countries, etc.

ICFO website : www.icfo.coop, Email : newyork1@suhyup.co.kr



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Co-operative Housing International helps our members win the legal and financial supports they need for success. We speak out about the movement's success in creating socially, economically and environmentally sustainable housing. We promote, encourage and help in the establishment of housing co-operatives in transitional economies and in developing and developed countries. We strengthen and encourage good governance principles and foster an inclusive co-operative culture. And we join with the broader co-operative movement to promote co-operatives as the people-centered form of business enterprise. We hold education and training events for the sharing of best practices in co-operative housing. And we encourage partnership initiatives among our members and with other co-operatives to access financial capital so they can invest in the sustainable development, regeneration and expansion of their housing co-operatives.

Benefits of CHI Membership

Everyone gains from being connected to a wider movement. We practice the fifth co-operative principle of education, training and information and we are committed to our members learning about best practices and being inspired by the innovations in co-operative housing in various countries.

Members elect and are eligible for board of director and committee positions who in turn help to define CHI's priorities. CHI's leadership also help to develop a framework which will lead to the growth of co-operative and mutual housing solutions.

By using the capacity of the Alliance, together we can increase the influence of housing co-operatives at the global, regional and sectoral levels. Housing co-operatives are more important now than ever and it's by thinking and acting collectively that we can demonstrate the power of the co-operative movement.



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International Co-operative & Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF).

While ICMIF is formally a sectoral organisation of the Alliance, it does not share membership and thus is not highlighted in this brochure as a member service.



**International Organisation of
Industrial and Service Cooperatives**
A Sector of the International
Co-operative Alliance

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The International organisation of industrial and service cooperatives, or CICOPA, has been a sectoral organisation of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) since 1947. Its full members are representative organisations of cooperatives from different sectors: graphic design, construction, social services, renewable energy production, industrial production, education, transport, health, intellectual services, artisanal activities, etc. Its associated members are support organisations promoting cooperatives in those sectors.

Membership brochure : <http://www.cicopa.coop/How-to-become-a-member.html>

We own it! Campaign : <http://www.we-own-it.coop/>

Thematic Committees & Networks



**International
Co-operative
Alliance**
Gender Equality
Committee

Email : mccrae@ica.coop
Website : <http://ica.coop/gender-equality-committee>

As drivers of equality, co-operators can serve as thought leaders for advancing gender equity and women's empowerment. To this end, the Alliance coordinates a global-level Gender Equality Committee, which serves as a catalyst for change to make gender equality a reality in all co-operatives and as a forum for the discussion and exchange of experiences and ideas on issues related to gender equality.

The Committee is an opportunity for Alliance members to share their expertise on advancing gender issues and serve as thought leaders on gender equality. Through the Committee, the Alliance also coordinates a delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, which takes place every March, to advocate for co-operative interests – an important visibility opportunity for all Committee members.

Committee members can also influence Alliance policy gender issues and provide feedback on gender-related work.



Website: <http://ccr.ica.coop/en>
Email: elyoussef@ica.coop

The **Committee on Co-operative Research** (CCR) is a Thematic Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance. It serves to provide a bridge between academic research and the co-operative world.

The CCR began its work in 1957 as the Research Officers Group. In the 1970s the group changed its name to the ICA Research, Planning, and Development Group reflecting its widening scope of activities, aspirations, and efforts to provide practical input to co-operatives' economic and social concerns. The CCR today functions as a network open to all those interested in sharing research on the co-operative model of enterprise.

The CCR aims to strengthen research activities and increase the visibility of co-operative research and researchers. The committee is particularly interested in ensuring that co-operative directors, managers, and employees have access to the latest research so that the results can be applied to current co-operative practice.

As Alliance members, organisations can receive information from the CCR, announcing opportunities for co-operative research, intelligence, and thought leadership, as well as attend its global and regional conferences by subscribing to its *ad hoc* emails (to subscribe, please contact Hanan El-Youssef at elyoussef@ica.coop). The conferences provide value for both the academic and practitioner communities, so co-operators are always welcome and encouraged to submit papers and attend these events.

Join the Emerging Scholars LinkedIn Group to mentor scholars at <http://s.coop/1xstr>

Follow the CCR on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/CoopResearch>

In 2014, the CCR inaugurated its **Young Scholars Programme**, which aims to provide discrete opportunities for young and / or emerging scholars in co-operative research to:

- Attend and participate fully in co-operative research conferences
- Connect to a network of seasoned co-operative researchers who can serve as future mentors
- Intelligence on the latest and most relevant co-operative business research trends and queries
- Financial support and awards to attend the CCR global and regional conferences
- A fully enmeshed and embedded participation in CCR conferences at the global and regional levels

For more information, please visit:

- <http://ccr.ica.coop/en/young-scholars/ccr-young-scholars-program>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7039257/profile>

 International Co-operative Alliance Co-operative Law Committee	Email: gouveia@ica.coop Website: http://ica.coop/co-operative-law-committee
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 International Co-operative Alliance Youth Network	Website: www.globalyouth.coop Email: hacquard@ica.coop
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The Alliance's **Youth Network** is an advisory, assistance and representation body for the co-operative youth movement with the purpose of organizing to address its singularity and complexity; promoting education and co-operative principles, encouraging the participation and development of youth from all nationalities within the co-operative movement; and undertaking actions to build more just and equitable societies. The aims of the Alliance Youth Network are:

- To provide consultation to the Alliance on matters and issues of the co-operative youth movement.
- To support the Alliance in defense of the movement and coordination with international and government agencies advocating for policies and programs for youth.
- To promote opportunities for reflection, discussion, exchange, research and training to facilitate the participation and integration of youth in co-operatives.
- To promote the dissemination of information on issues involving co-operative youth.
- To facilitate interaction between regional youth committees.
- To encourage the work of youth in co-operatives and related associations.

Member Service: Networking

The Alliance is a network for the global co-operative movement

- Develop business relationships and partnerships with members
- Access to the Alliance's network
- Connection to the global development network

We can provide you with global reach to strengthen your movement locally. Sometimes the best ideas come from others! Just email us if you have any questions, and we can help you utilise the co-op network to find your answers.

Upcoming Events

Attend our events to network, learn and share!

2017 Events

Dates	Event & Link	Location	Organiser / Host
May-September	Cooperativism and Gender, online course. http://www.aciamericas.coop/Curso-Virtual-Cooperativismo-y-Genero-Desarrollo-de-competencias-para-un-6094	Online	Co-operatives of the Americas
June 6-9	Educational Internship: "Innovation in Productive Projects as Engine for the Integration of Cooperative Youth" http://www.aciamericas.coop/Pasantia-Educativa-innovacion-en-proyectos-productivos-como-motor-de	Costa Rica	Co-operatives of the Americas
June 19-20	Workshop on Strategies for Policy Influencing	Paraguay	Co-operatives of the Americas
June 21	Seminar for supporting development of Nepalese inland aquaculture	Pokhara, Nepal	ICFO
June 20-23	2017 CCR Co-operative Research Conference, Developing Inclusive, Collaborative, and Responsible Businesses: Co-operatives in Theory, Policy, and Practice http://ccr.ica.coop/en/2017-ccr-international-research-conference-stirling-uk	United Kingdom	Alliance / University of Stirling
June 30 & 1 July	ICA-AP Forum on Development on Co-operatives in Central Asia Celebration of International Day of Co-operatives	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan	ICA-AP
July 1	International Day of Cooperatives http://ica.coop/en/media/news/inclusion-theme-of-the-2017-international-day-of-co-operatives	Global	
July 10-19	Observance of the International Day of Co-operatives at the	New York	COPAC

Dates	Event & Link	Location	Organiser / Host
	United Nations during the High-level political forum on sustainable development – open to all Alliance members. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org		
August 14-18	ICA-AP Platform on Co-operative Awareness for University Students	New Delhi, India	ICA-AP
August 17	Videoconference “International Youth Day”	Online	Co-operatives of the Americas
August-September	ASEAN Co-operative Development Meeting	Philippines	ICA-AP
September	Youth Policies and Co-operative Laws in SAARC – Where are we at? Policy Event	Thimpu, Bhutan	ICA-AP
October 11-13	20 th Regional Conference of the Americas “Cooperativism in the Face of Hemispheric Challenges” http://www.aciamericas.coop/conferencia2017/	Ixtapa, Zihuatanejo, Mexico	Co-operatives of the Americas
November 11-12	International Co-operative Alliance Research Committee of the Asia and the Pacific Region conference: “Cooperatives: The Key solution for Social Innovation”	Seoul, R.O. Korea	ICA-AP
November 14-17	Global Conference & General Assembly www.malaysia2017.coop Most sectoral organisations and thematic committees will also have meetings and assemblies during the week.	Malaysia	Alliance / ANGKASA
December	ICA-AP Platform on Building Alliances with CSOs	New Delhi	ICA-AP

2018 Events

Dates	Event & Link	Location	Organiser / Host
January-February	Asia Pacific Co-operative Development Meeting	Sri Lanka	ICA-AP
August 17	Videoconference “International Youth Day”	Online	Co-operatives of the Americas
October 8-12	5 th Summit of Cooperatives of the Americas	Argentina	Co-operatives of the Americas
November	13 th ICA-AP Regional Assembly	Iran	ICA-AP
TBC	2 nd Asia Pacific Co-operative Registrars’ Conference	TBC	ICA-AP
TBC	European regional co-operative conference	TBC	CCR

2019 Events

Dates	Event & Link	Location	Organiser / Host
TBC	CCR Biennial Global Conference 2019	TBC	CCR

Global Conference & General Assembly

The Alliance's global conferences each time bring together co-operative thought leaders and businesses for learning, debating and networking. The global conferences happen every other year.

The General Assembly is the highest authority of the Alliance and is made up of representatives appointed by Alliance member organisations. The Assembly meets every year, for a full agenda during the Global Conference, and with a limited agenda on off years.

International Summit of Co-operatives

The International Summit of Co-operatives, co-hosted by the Alliance, is an achievement in bringing together the global co-operative business community. The three editions of the Summit since 2012 have yielded exchanges between participants and speakers from well-over 100 countries, as well as numerous studies capturing powerful information about the movement. In 2014, the Summit drew more than 3000 participants, featured 227 speakers and panellists, and featured 13 major studies on aspects of co-operative business.

Information on the next edition of the International Summit will be coming soon!

Connection to the global development network

The International Co-operative Alliance is a representative organisation for the world co-operative movement and not a funding agency for development projects. For activities, we depend ourselves on support from development partners in different parts of the world. As a member, you can take advantage of the training programmes, events, and publications developed in partnership with co-operative development agencies.

Co-operatives in development – people-centered businesses in action

After several years of advocating and promoting the cooperative model in development, Cooperatives Europe, the Regional Office of the ICA, led the ICA global and regional offices into a Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission in March 2016. This historic Partnership lasting until 2020 was signed by Commissioner Mimica, in charge of Development and Cooperation.

Since then, the ICA-EU Partnership launched in Quebec the Global Co-operative Development Platform, bringing together cooperative organisations active in international development to facilitate coordination, joint activities and projects.

New relationships have been built within the co-operative movement and with International Institutions and other civil society organisations, such as the International Trade Union Confederation, the Fair Trade movement, NGO confederations and Alliances on SDGs.

Through the partnership, the Alliance made several achievements towards a stronger recognition of cooperatives as development actors. The Alliance participated in high-level events and processes of the United Nations, including the Climate Change Conference, the Commission on the Status of Women, European Development Days, and organised seminars to strengthen relationships with institutional contacts on development.

New research foreseen within the partnership will include a mapping of cooperative organisations and a review of cooperative legal frameworks worldwide. It will enable members to gain better knowledge of the cooperative landscape around the world, and to use the research findings as tools to strengthen advocacy and visibility.

Policy events will be organised at the global and regional level providing the opportunity for cooperative development actors to exchange with international institutions active in development and debate further with other development actors regarding the specificities of international cooperative development. Aiming on partnerships and the political recognition of the cooperative actor, the policy events will empower the global cooperative movement to showcase its added value in contributing to socio-economic development by convening its members, the cooperative development actors, and highlighting relevant policy themes towards decision-makers.

Over time, the programme aims at improving members' opportunities, particularly in low-income countries, by advocating international institutions and increasing their capacity for setting up funding applications.

Member Service: Knowledge

The Alliance convenes co-operative knowledge, information, and guidance:

- Gain access to the Alliance as a resource for co-operative expertise, in particular co-operative statistics, information and intelligence
- Participate in capacity building/training programmes
- Exchange information and technical resources
- Receive and access information on co-operatives including regular publications
- Access member-only resources including member contacts, member-only information releases, and global co-operative statistics

Publications

We live in an information age, with too much information! The Alliance helps you by analyzing and sharing the most relevant information. The following are some important publications that you might have missed:

Publication & Link	About	Author & Date
Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade http://ica.coop/en/a-world-wide-strategic-plan-for-co-operatives	See section below about the Blueprint, the strategy for the co-operative movement.	Alliance, 2012
World Co-operative Monitor www.monitor.coop	Annual data on the size of the co-operative economy. See section below for more information.	Euricse & Alliance, all years
Stories.coop www.stories.coop	Short stories about co-operatives as well as some in-depth case studies. See section below for more information.	Euricse & Alliance, ongoing
Co-operative Governance: Fit to Build Resilience in the Face of Complexity http://ica.coop/en/co-operative-governance-fit-build-resilience-face-complexity	Provides insight on innovative governance as the complexity of large, multi-stakeholder, and hybrid co-operative typologies increases.	Saint Mary's University, 2015
Gender equality and women's empowerment in co-operatives: A literature review http://ica.coop/en/media/library/research-and-reviews/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-in-co-operatives-a	A review of literature on how co-operatives achieve women's empowerment and gender equity.	ICA & COPAC, 2016

Publication & Link	About	Author & Date
Sustainability Scan http://ica.coop/en/blueprint-themes/sustainability/sustainability-scan	The Sustainability Scan () examined how co-operatives report on sustainability. The Scan underscores that co-operative federations lag behind primary level businesses in reporting on sustainability.	Sustainability Solutions Group, 2013
Co-operative Growth for the 21st Century http://ica.coop/en/publications/co-operative-growth-21st-century	Articulates a co-operative notion of growth and recommends that co-operatives do more to measure their contributions to equitable economy.	CICOPA, 2013
Feasibility Study on a Co-operative Trade Platform	Examined current levels of C2C trade and identified some potential initiatives the Alliance could pursue to facilitate global C2C trade.	Dalberg, 2015
Guidance Notes on the Co-operative Principles http://ica.coop/en/blueprint-themes/identity/guidancenotes	These Guidance Notes give detailed guidance and advice on the practical application of the Principles to co-operative enterprise.	Alliance Principles Committee
Doing Co-operative Business http://ica.coop/en/dcb	Captures exciting correlations between co-operative activity and other global indices such as the Gini Coefficient (measuring inequality) and the Democracy Index. It establishes a methodology by which the broad environment for co-operatives can be assessed and compared and includes a pilot application in 33 countries.	Tilburg University's TIAS School for Business and Society, 2015
Survey of Co-operative Capital http://ica.coop/en/blueprint-themes/capital/capital-survey	The Blue Ribbon Commission on Co-operative Capital (BRC) secured the first edition of the Survey of Co-operative Capital. It provides an unprecedented taxonomy of capital instruments used by co-operatives. The second edition of the Survey (2016) is now an integral part of the World Co-operative Monitor, explained in a separate section below.	Filene Research Institute, 2015
The Capital Conundrum for Co-operatives http://ica.coop/en/media/news/new-report-capital-conundrum-co-operatives	The BRC convened provocative questions about how co-operatives navigate capital.	Alliance Blue Ribbon Commission, 2016
Feasibility Study for a Co-operative Social Media Platform	The Alliance Youth Network commissioned a study on building a social media platform specifically for use by the co-operative movement.	CDS Consulting Co-op
Cooperatives and Employment: A Global Report http://www.cicopa.coop/The-study-Cooperatives-and.html	The next edition is coming soon.	CICOPA, 2014
CHI Blueprint http://www.housinginternational.coop/resources/the-blueprint-for-a-co-	The Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade and its Special Application to the Housing Sector	CHI, 2012

Publication & Link	About	Author & Date
operative-decade-and-its-special-application-to-the-housing-sector/		
<p>The Co-operative Housing International Good Governance Test</p> <p>http://www.housinginternational.coop/resources/the-co-operative-housing-international-good-governance-test/</p>	<p>The purpose of the Governance Test is to provide a means for housing co-ops affiliated to CHI to measure their standards of governance and to help them develop a good governance action plan to improve governance in weaker areas.</p>	CHI
<p>Resources for Housing Co-operatives</p> <p>http://www.housinginternational.coop/resources/</p>	<p>CHI provides a number of resources to help housing co-operatives.</p>	CHI
<p>Resources for Agriculture Co-operatives</p> <p>www.icaop.coop</p>	<p>ICAO provides a number of resources to help agriculture co-operatives.</p>	ICAO
2016 Literature Review	<p>Review of literature addressing co-operatives and gender.</p>	Alliance GEC
<p>Newsletters by the Regional Office for Asia-Pacific</p> <p>http://ica-ap.coop/ica-newsletters?field_publication_category_value=Asia-Pacific+Co-op+News</p>	<p>Monthly newsletters</p>	ICA-AP
<p>Gender is not a statistic - 2016</p> <p>http://www.ica-ap.coop/sites/ica-ap.coop/files/Data%20Study%20Report.PDF</p>	<p>Status of Women in the Cooperatives of the Asia Pacific Region</p> <p>Ten Year Gender Disaggregated Database</p>	ICA-AP
<p>Resource Guide</p> <p>http://ica-ap.coop/sites/ica-ap.coop/files/Resource%20Guide-%28W%29_0.pdf</p>	<p>For advanced training of co-operatives on entrepreneurship development of women and gender equality.</p>	ICA-AP
<p>Study on By laws of Primary co-operatives</p> <p>http://www.ica-ap.coop/sites/all/themes/ica_theme/ica_images/ICA%20AP%20Study%20on%20By-Laws%20of%20Primary%20Co-operative%20Societies.pdf</p>	<p>To study on countries' Bye-laws of primary cooperatives, and to draw a model Byelaws with a view to ensure the financial sustainability of cooperatives and participatory governance and decision-making of members, especially for women and youth to have certain seats in their Board structure.</p>	ICA-AP
<p>Review of International Co-operation</p> <p>http://ccr.ica.coop/en/publications/review-international-co-operation</p>	<p>Collects the latest on academic and praxis-based research on co-operatives from writers in a plethora of disciplines, from across the world, and focusing on all aspects of co-operative business – from governance to marketing in all the sectors and</p>	CCR

Publication & Link	About	Author & Date
	industries in which co-operatives operate.	
Co-operatives of the Americas publications http://www.aciamericas.coop/-Publicaciones-impresas-	Publication library. There are a number of tools that can be ordered directly from the office, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Office Handbook • Sustainability Handbook • Good Governance Handbook • Guide on Formulating Policy Influencing Plans • Handbook on Training for Trainers • Mobile app on cooperative governance 	Co-operatives of the Americas
Digital Bulletin http://www.aciamericas.coop/-Boletines-electronicos-	News from the Americas.	Co-operatives of the Americas
Fisheries publications	Contact ICFO for the following publications or visit their website www.icfo.coop : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Korean Fisheries Cooperatives' Business Knowledge Sharing Program • The Fisheries Cooperative Movement in Korea • The Fisheries Cooperative Movement Around the World • ICFO Newsletter, etc. 	ICFO
CICOPA publications and multimedia http://www.cicopa.coop/-Studies-.html	Publications, news and multimedia from CICOPA.	CICOPA

Our Current Strategy Unites, Promotes, Develops

The **Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade** is a strategy for both the global co-operative movement and the Alliance.

In the four years following its adoption, the Alliance has used the Blueprint as an opportunity to address member needs and build meaningful initiatives that deliver value back to membership. These reflect the 5 key pillars of the Blueprint – areas of co-operative entrepreneurship that are shared across region and sector: Participation (Engagement), Sustainability, Identity, Legal Frameworks, and Capital.

From 2012 to 2016, the Alliance successfully engaged with its members to maximise the Blueprint and develop research, measurement guides, and thought leadership. With the support of its various regional offices, sectoral organisations, thematic committees, and advisory groups – as well as world-class partners and generous contributors to the Blueprint Fund – the Alliance has made progress towards the Blueprint's 2020 Vision.

You can download and use the Blueprint in various languages from our website: <http://ica.coop/en/a-world-wide-strategic-plan-for-co-operatives>

- The Leadership Circle was established as a high-level strategic advisory group to the activities of the Blueprint. Its members also make generous contributions to the Blueprint

Fund (as aforementioned). It includes 8 member organisations and seeks to expand to twelve.

- The Co-operative Roundtable was established to foster a more specific service delivery response to primary co-operatives through Alliance activity – bringing co-operative management expertise to the design and implementation of Blueprint initiatives. It has expanded to 16 organisations and continues to seek additional members.

It will be essential to harmonize and integrate as fully as possible the work of CBW and the Alliance. These two groups are also exploring how a business platform, such as a Coop2Coop trade facility or Coop2Consumer platform, might have global impact for primary co-operatives.

World Co-operative Monitor

The World Co-operative Monitor, published by the International Co-operative Alliance in conjunction with our scientific partner, Euricse, has become the premier source of annual data on the size of the co-operative economy. It has become a crucial resource for raising the co-operative profile and impact with policymakers, industry professionals and the public at large. It is also an important tool for researchers around the globe.

At the core of the Monitor is a list of the 300 largest co-operatives in the world, as measured by turnover. In addition, the Monitor presents an analysis on capital in co-operative enterprises as well as sectorial rankings and in-depth looks at particular sectors or regions.

The benefits of the yearly World Co-operative Monitor include the opportunities to:

- Raise the profile of co-operatives within their own industries and countries, as well as internationally;
- Demonstrate the economic and social importance of co-operatives and mutuals to government and regulatory agencies;
- Model good practices and highlight successful co-operative business models and innovative approaches; and
- Create networks between co-operatives and mutuals for greater sharing of information, business intelligence, and business opportunities.

With the collaboration of Alliance members and co-operatives around the world, the World Co-operative Monitor has the potential to demonstrate the difference of the cooperative model and its extraordinary capacity to innovate. If national federations produce the information necessary to develop a global Monitor able to define a standard of social impact measurement it would be not only a major project of the cooperative movement, but an international benchmark.

Federations and supporters of co-operatives are encouraged to mobilise the co-operatives in their membership and network to participate in the World Co-operative Monitor research. For more information, visit www.monitor.coop.

Stories.coop

Stories.coop is the world's first global, digital campaign to spread the benefits of co-operation through the tradition of story-telling. Developed by Euricse (European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises) and the International Co-operative Alliance, the aim of Stories.coop is to present stories of co-operation from around the world by exploring a wide variety

of sectors, sizes and countries. The project promotes the co-operative model in all its diversity, highlighting cooperatives' contribution to social and economic development and supporting the formation and growth of co-operative enterprises at an international level.

With almost 500 stories available and more added each year, Stories.coop offers a rich database of co-operative experiences. Co-operatives are invited to upload their stories directly to the website (www.stories.coop) and to continue to update existing stories. Co-operative promoters and academics are invited to use the stories to highlight the worldwide co-operative experience.

Stories.coop shares stories of co-operation from every corner of the globe; from the smallest co-operative to the biggest; personal stories or those of business successes; or even observations on the co-operative model. We want to demonstrate to the globe the benefits of the co-operative way of doing business, through your stories of co-operation.

Service: Global Voice

The Alliance is the voice of the global movement:

- Represents the co-operative movement in multilateral organisations including the United Nations, ILO, FAO, the International Accounting Standards Board, and the European Union among others
- The global co-operative Marque and a .coop domain name - symbols of the global co-operative movement and of our collective identity
- Defines and promotes the co-operative difference towards media and policy-makers
- Defends the co-operative movement towards national governments at the request of members
- Members participate in the governance of the Alliance

Advocacy & Policy Work

The International Co-operative Alliance represents its members and the wider co-operative movement towards international organisations, advocating for their concerns and interests in global policy. The Alliance was one of the first organisations recognised as having consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and also has long-standing agreements of partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). In addition, the Alliance has established relationships with the B20, World Bank, International Trade Centre, and others.

Advocacy and representation are also done at regional and sectoral level by the Alliance's regional offices and sectoral organisations. These structures influence directly bodies such as the European Union, Mercosur, African Union, ASEAN, etc.

Members benefit from this activity because it creates awareness and political interest by policy-makers about co-operatives, which often leads to the creation of better legal, administrative and business environments for co-operatives at national level. This activity is particularly important for national co-operative associations because it provides them with the political framework at global, regional and sectoral level that they can use for their national advocacy strategies.

As an example, it was thanks to the advocacy efforts of the Alliance that the ILO approved in 2002, its Recommendation 193 on the promotion of co-operatives, which is a binding instrument for all countries. More recently, the Alliance secured the recognition of co-operatives as partners for the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as their role on employment, education, SME development, financing and insurance in the framework of the Business20 (B20), a group of businesses and trade associations that provide recommendations to G20 leaders.

Members also benefit, more directly, from this activity by having access and being able to participate in different expert groups, networks, conferences and more, including, in some cases,

access to funding from Alliance partners. This participation enables them to provide opinions and recommendations on issues that affect their co-operatives and to have access to knowledge, contacts and expertise. Some of the recurrent events that the Alliance is accredited to send representatives to, are:

- UN Commission on Social Development
- B20 Summit and taskforces
- UN Commission on the Status of Women
- International Labour Conference
- Conference of the Parties (COP) on Climate Change
- High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
- Commission on World Food Security
- World Bank Group meetings

Advocating for a co-operative friendly legal and regulatory environment

The Alliance participates in several high-level platforms to increase the co-operative movement's influence in policy processes: the UN Global Compact, the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNSSE, www.unsse.org), and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Co-operatives (COPAC, www.copac.coop).

Mobilising co-operative engagement in the Sustainable Development Goals

The Alliance launched in 2016 *Co-ops for 2030* (www.coopsfor2030.coop), an exclusive platform for co-operatives to learn about and register their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Available in English, French, and Spanish (with other languages to come), *Co-ops for 2030* translates the SDGs into co-operative specific language, makes suggestions for the ways co-ops can contribute to the SDGs, and allows users to see how other co-operators are engaging.

Co-ops for 2030 is an invaluable advocacy tool for Alliance members. When meeting with government representatives or the UN, they can use *Co-ops for 2030* pledges as case study examples of how co-operatives are essential partners to achieve the SDGs. The platform can also be used to identify fellow co-operators who are undertaking similar development initiatives.

The global office will produce a report of all *Co-ops for 2030* pledges for the International Day of Co-operatives every July, to be presented to the United Nations to demonstrate the value of co-operatives and encourage policymakers to increase awareness and support for their contributions.

Co-ops for 2030 brochures are also available for members to help spread the word to their members.

Co-operative Identity

Towards the .coop economy

The internet is crowded with investor-owned businesses. A .coop domain is the simple way for an organization guided by co-operative values to stand out online.

.Coop is a top level domain. The four letters after the dot are reserved for co-operatives and cooperative organizations. It's our namespace. Our cooperative real estate online. And it's valuable.

There are over 100 million web addresses on the internet ending in .com. Since 2013 the internet industry regulator added a thousand new web address endings. That's a sea of domain names and none of them say much more than 'we're a company'. A .coop web or email address says 'we're a co-op'. The brand of 750,000 cooperatives around the world that consumers, workers and members recognise instantly. The brand the Alliance has made even more valuable pairing it with the global coop marque, the logo for co-operatives worldwide.

Anyone can be a .com. Few can be a .coop

 **The dot that says a lot**

And the worth of the .coop internet suffix isn't just in brand recognition. In a world of scam sites and fake news, every .coop domain comes with another priceless asset; trust. Only genuine co-ops can use the .coop domain and, with the entire ICA global membership working with us to vet .coop users, we have the internet's most effective verification system.

When .coop was established in 2002, it was an easy way to find co-operatives online. In the last decade, as more co-operatives added .coop to their online presence, it's helped bring the movement together in virtual space.

Our task now is to show the rest of the world how, together with .coop, co-operatives can create new economic opportunity for everyone both on and offline. So, whether you're already a .coop or haven't yet got your online space, visit us online - www.coop - where you'll find some exciting new ways to tell the world.

Co-op Shop

Members can showcase their co-op identity by purchasing co-op pins, flags, t-shirts, etc. at <http://www.icashop.coop/>.

Joint Visibility Strategy

Within the co-operative movement, it is often said that co-operatives are the world's best kept secret. Keeping that in mind, the ICA has developed a global communication strategy in 2017 to maximize its reach and let people know what role co-operatives play in the international scene.

The priorities for the communication strategy were to increase synergies between the ICA and its regional and sector offices and promote their ownership in order to make the ICA a more cohesive and stronger voice, with clearly defined goals and objectives as a global co-operative community.

The visibility strategy for the ICA-EU partnership, elaborated by all offices to enhance the Alliance's overall communication efforts, has been implemented to raise recognition of the co-operative model in international development. The programme has adopted the hashtag #coops4dev on social media, which is being used by communications staff and members to raise awareness for cooperatives in development and demonstrate the increasing collaboration in the Alliance.

Our platforms:

e-Digest – The ICA issues a global newsletter on a monthly basis, in English, Spanish, and French, reaching all members and subscribers with international news, reports, and announcements from the President. Subscribe to the eDigest at <http://ica.coop/en/media/news>.

Facebook – ICA's page has over 10.000 likes and uses the platform to engage the community on co-operative topics and events from all regions. <https://www.facebook.com/internationalcooperativealliance?fref=ts>

Twitter – ICA's profile has over 10.000 followers and shares news and comment on current events and issues from all regions, centralizing the information. <https://twitter.com/icacoop>.

Website – ICA's new website was launched in 2017 with a fresh image and is used to provide information about the co-operative movement, the organization and its regional offices, as well as to share events, news and press releases on relevant co-operative topics. www.ica.coop

Linked In – ICA has over 1000 followers and uses the platform for job postings and ICA announcements. <https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/1859523/>

You Tube – <https://www.youtube.com/user/icacooperative>

Global Co-operative Marketing Campaign

The Co-operative Roundtable has brought dynamic energy with the most recent Blueprint initiative to animate a Global Co-operative Marketing Campaign (<https://cooperativesforabetterworld.coop/>) to raise awareness about the co-operative model around the world. The marketing campaign has grown through a partnership with Cooperatives for a Better World ('CBW'), a US-based non-profit organisation established by co-operative leaders in the US to promote the co-operative model.

The famous "What If" videos were produced by this campaign and can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMtCRyUD0Ij3rSTeAHFh_A.



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