

Cooperative Legal Framework Analysis (LFA) Unpacked

Launch of the Second Phase of the Legal Framework Analysis for Cooperatives, *an activity co-funded by the ICA–EU Financial Framework Partnership Agreement and implemented collaboratively by ICA Regional Offices and the Global Office*

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The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), as the custodian of cooperative values and principles, has formally recognized since 1897 that law is not peripheral to cooperation. Rather, it is one of the decisive conditions that enables cooperatives to form, operate, scale, federate, and endure. Across jurisdictions, the quality and coherence of cooperative legislation determine whether cooperatives can function as authentic, member-owned enterprises or whether they are constrained within legal frameworks that dilute their identity and limit their potential.

Within this context, the ICA through its Regions – Cooperatives Europe, Cooperativas de las Americas, ICA Africa, ICA Asia and Pacific – and Global Office, is launching the second phase of the Legal Framework Analysis (LFA) for Cooperatives, an activity under the ICA–EU Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (#Coops4Dev ), which will run through the end of 2028. This harmonized research and analysis initiative builds upon the foundation established during the first phase (2016–2021), which produced 79 national reports and 4 regional reports. These reports are available at www.coops4dev.coop.

This 90-minute webinar will provide participants with:

- A methodological overview of the LFA, with attention to the new elements introduced in this second phase and the strategies that ICA Regions will adopt to ensure effective and context-sensitive implementation.
- An opportunity to reflect over a fundamental question: *what is the relationship between cooperative law and the ICA's mandate to safeguard and promote cooperative identity?*
- Perspectives by regional legal experts on both common and comparative elements of the diverse legal approaches across the ICA regions, through a moderated dialogue among ICA Regional Officers responsible for implementing the LFA.

Overall, the webinar will shed light on the main defining characteristics of effective cooperative legislation and how cooperative legal frameworks operate at local, national, and international levels.

The LFA aims to develop a dynamic and evolving global body of knowledge and experts on cooperative legal frameworks. Therefore, as part of the launch of the second phase of the LFA, the webinar will issue a call for collaboration. Legal scholars, practitioners, academic institutions, policymakers, and cooperative organizations will be invited to contribute to and strengthen this collective effort.