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# The International Cooperative Alliance



*unites,  
represents  
and serves  
cooperatives  
worldwide*

Founded in **1895**, it is one of the oldest nongovernmental organisations and one of the largest ones measured by the amount of people represented: **more than one billion cooperative members on the planet.**

It is the apex body for the **3 million cooperatives worldwide** providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about cooperatives.

Our advocacy work helps create a more supportive political, legal and regulatory environment in which cooperatives can thrive.



## What is a cooperative?

Cooperatives are **people-centred enterprises** jointly owned and democratically **controlled by and for their members** to realise their common socio-economic needs and aspirations. As enterprises based on values and principles, they put **democracy, fairness and equality first** allowing people to create sustainable enterprises that generate long-term jobs and prosperity.

**OWNED AND RUN BY  
AND FOR OUR MEMBERS  
BASED ON ETHICS, VALUES  
AND PRINCIPLES  
AT LEAST 12% OF HUMANITY  
AND PROVIDE JOBS  
TO 10% OF THE  
EMPLOYED POPULATION**

**WE ARE  
COOPERATIVES**

## Cooperatives are “World Intangible Heritage”

— UNESCO —



## Cooperatives



More than 12%  
of humanity are  
cooperators



3 million  
cooperatives  
in the world!

10%

of the employed  
population

Cooperatives  
provide jobs  
to 280 million  
people

2,035 BILLION USD  
turnover of the Top 300  
cooperatives and mutuals



## The global cooperative network

The International  
Cooperative Alliance  
has members in over

100  
countries  
in all sectors of activity



## A rooted structure

1 GLOBAL OFFICE  
(BXL — BELGIQUE)

4 REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS



8 GLOBAL SECTORAL  
ORGANISATIONS

HOUSING HEALTH  
BANKING CONSUMER  
FISHERIES AGRICULTURE  
INSURANCE  
INDUSTRY & SERVICES

5 THEMATIC COMMITTEES  
& NETWORKS



## Cooperative identity

We are the guardian  
of the Statement on  
the Cooperative Identity



The Internet domain  
.coop and the  
Cooperative Marque  
are symbols of the  
global cooperative  
movement.

Visit  
[www.coop](http://www.coop)  
to know more!

## Our work

The International  
Cooperative Alliance  
advocates the interests  
and success of cooperatives.

## Unite

We boost inter-cooperation,  
bringing together  
cooperative members,  
providing support instruments  
and disseminating know-how.

## Promote

We are the custodians  
of the cooperative identity  
and we endeavour to  
create an environment that  
allow cooperatives to be  
established and grow.

## Develop

Cooperatives provide  
individuals and communities  
with an instrument of  
self-help and influence  
over their development.

## A committed team

The staff of the ICA  
and of its regional and  
sectoral bodies are based  
in various locations around  
the globe and are committed  
to helping members and the  
cooperative movement.

