

# Members Services Brochure



• Value of Membership: •

• Networking •

• Knowledge •

• Your Global Voice •



**International  
Co-operative  
Alliance**

**International Co-operative Alliance**

Avenue Milcamps 105  
1030 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 743 10 30  
Fax: +32 2 743 10 39  
[ica@ica.coop](mailto:ica@ica.coop)  
[www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop)

# The value of membership

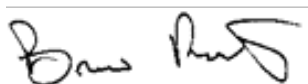
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We are delighted that you would like to learn more about membership in the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Founded in 1895, it is one of the oldest nongovernmental organisations and one of the largest ones measured by the amount of people represented: more than one billion cooperative members. Since its establishment, the ICA has developed a variety of internal entities aimed at ensuring that we remain responsive to serving members in the most efficient manner possible. This document explains the benefits of membership and the various ways to engage, e.g. through our regional bodies, our sectoral organizations and our thematic committees. These various options are available to members:

- **Global networking** - Meet and share ideas with the largest range of organisations and cooperatives in terms of sectors and size.
- **Global best practice** - improve the performance of your cooperative organization by learning and adopting the latest best practices globally in cooperative governance, funding, marketing, etc.
- **Global representation** - ensure issues important to your business sector and the cooperative movement are understood and acted on at a global level with representation at the United Nations, G20, etc.
- **Global decision-making** – ensure that you take part in the global decision-making process regarding the strategy of the international cooperative movement.

After reviewing this brochure, I hope that you will free to contact me ([roelants@ica.coop](mailto:roelants@ica.coop)) or our Membership Director Gretchen Hacquard ([hacquard@ica.coop](mailto:hacquard@ica.coop)) if you have any unanswered questions. As the global voice for the cooperative movement, the ICA is committed to representing your interests and those of cooperative organisations worldwide. We look forward to your joining us.



Bruno Roelants  
Director-General

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## Member Service: Global Networking

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The ICA is the network of the global cooperative movement:

- Develop business relationships and partnerships with members
- Access to the ICA'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 coop network to find your answers.

## Upcoming Events

Attend our events to network, learn and share! The list of upcoming events is provided in the addendum.

### Global Conference & General Assembly

The ICA's global conferences each time bring together cooperative thought leaders and businesses for learning, debating and networking. The global conferences happen every two years.

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

In November 2017 the International Co-operative Alliance's Global Conference and General Assembly in Malaysia brought together 1,500 people from more than 80 countries and featured 62 sessions with over 60 speakers to discuss about the role of cooperatives in putting people at the centre of development.

## Connection to the global development network

As a member, you can take advantage of the training programmes, events, and publications developed in partnership with cooperative development agencies.

### Cooperatives 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, facilitated a Framework Partnership Agreement between the ICA and the European Commission in March 2016, with a 4 year and a half programme aimed at reinforcing the ICA's Global Office and Regions in responding to the development needs of the cooperative movement.

Since then, the so-called ICA-EU Partnership Programme launched in Quebec 2016, called the International Cooperative Development Platform (ICDP), brings together cooperative organisations active in international development to facilitate coordination, joint activities and projects.

The Programme has been instrumental in building or reinforcing relations within the cooperative movement with International Institutions and other civil society organisations, such as the International Trade Union Confederation, the Fair-Trade movement, development NGO confederations, focusing to a large extent on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through the Programme, the ICA made several achievements towards a stronger recognition of cooperatives as development actors.

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.

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: Global Best Practice

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The ICA convenes cooperative knowledge, information, and guidance:

- Gain access to the ICA as a resource for cooperative expertise, in particular cooperative statistics, information and intelligence
- Participate in capacity building and training programmes
- Exchange information and technical resources
- Receive and access information on cooperatives including regular publications
- Access exclusive information: member-only resources including member contacts, information releases, and global cooperative statistics

### Publications

We live in an information age, with too much information! The ICA helps you by analyzing and sharing the most relevant information. Please find a list of major publications in the addendum.

### Our Current Strategy Unites, Promotes, Develops

The **Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade** is a strategic document for the global cooperative movement that was approved in 2012 in the wake of the UN International Year of Cooperatives (2012) for the ongoing decade (therefore until next year).

In the four years following its adoption, the ICA 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 cooperative entrepreneurship that are shared across region and sector: Participation (Engagement), Sustainability, Identity, Legal Frameworks, and Capital.

From 2012 to 2016, the ICA successfully engaged with its members to maximise the Blueprint and develop research, measurement guides, and thought leadership.

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

While the cooperative decade is closing to a close, the newly elected ICA board is beginning to work on a new strategy for the incoming decade, based on a multi-faceted consultation in which most ICA members participated, and consultations with members on this incoming strategy will take place over the next few months.

## World Cooperative Monitor

The World Cooperative Monitor, published by the International Cooperative ICA, in conjunction with the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse), has become the premier source of annual data on the size of the cooperative economy. It has become a crucial resource for raising the cooperative 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 cooperatives and cooperative groups in the world, as measured by turnover. In addition, the Monitor presents an analysis on capital in cooperative enterprises as well as sectorial rankings and in-depth looks at particular sectors or regions.

The benefits of the yearly World Cooperative Monitor include the opportunities to:

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

For more information, visit [www.monitor.coop](http://www.monitor.coop).

## Stories.coop

Stories.coop is the world's first global, digital campaign to spread the benefits of cooperation through the tradition of story-telling. Developed by Euricse and the ICA, the aim of Stories.coop is to present stories of cooperation from around the world by exploring a wide variety of sectors, sizes and countries.

With almost 500 stories available and more added each year, Stories.coop offers a rich database of cooperative experiences. Cooperatives are invited to upload their stories directly to the website ([www.stories.coop](http://www.stories.coop)) and to continue to update existing stories. Cooperative promoters and academics are invited to use the stories to highlight the worldwide cooperative experience.

# Member Service: Global Representation

## The ICA is the voice of the global movement:

- It represents the cooperative movement in multilateral organisations including the United Nations, ILO, FAO, IFAD, the International Accounting Standards Board and the B20 among others.
- The global cooperative Marque and a .coop domain name are the symbols of the global cooperative movement and of our collective identity

- It explains and promotes the cooperative specificity towards media and policy-makers
- it defends the cooperative movement towards national governments at the request of members
- Members participate in the governance of the ICA

## Advocacy & Policy Work

The ICA represents its members and the wider cooperative movement towards international organisations, advocating for their concerns and interests in global policy. The ICA was one of the first organisations recognised as having consultative status with the United Nations in 1946 and also has long-standing agreements of partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in the latter case since 1920. In addition, the ICA has established relationships with the B20, World Bank, and others.

Advocacy and representation are also done at regional and sectoral level by the ICA's regional offices and sectoral organisations. These ICA bodies directly influence regional institutions such as the European Union, Mercosur, African Union, ASEAN, and international organizations like the World Health Organization.

Members benefit from this activity because it creates awareness and political interest by policy-makers about cooperatives, which often leads to the creation of better legal, administrative and business environments for cooperatives at national level. This activity is particularly important for national cooperative 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 international cooperative movement that the ILO approved in 2002, its Recommendation 193 on the promotion of cooperatives. More recently, the ICA secured the recognition of cooperatives as partners for the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

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 ICA partners. This participation enables them to provide opinions and recommendations on issues that affect their cooperatives and to have access to knowledge, contacts and expertise.

### Advocating for a cooperative friendly legal and regulatory environment

The ICA participates in several high-level platforms to increase the cooperative movement's influence in policy processes: the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNSSE, [www.unsse.org](http://www.unsse.org)), and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC, [www.copac.coop](http://www.copac.coop)).

### Mobilising cooperative engagement in the Sustainable Development Goals

The ICA launched in 2016 *Coops for 2030* ([www.coopsfor2030.coop](http://www.coopsfor2030.coop)), an exclusive platform for cooperatives to learn about and register their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Available in English, French, and Spanish.



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

*Coops for 2030* brochures are also available for members to help spread the word to their members.

## Cooperative 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 cooperative values to stand out online.

The four letters after the dot are reserved for cooperatives and cooperative organizations. It's our namespace. Our cooperative real estate online.

A .coop web or email address says 'we're a coop'. The brand of 750,000 cooperatives around the world that consumers, workers and members recognise instantly. The brand the ICA has made even more valuable pairing it with the global coop marque, the logo for cooperatives worldwide.

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

**.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 coops 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 cooperatives online. In the last decade, as more cooperatives 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, cooperatives 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 [www.coop](http://www.coop)

## Joint Visibility Strategy

The cooperative movement still has a long way to go to efficiently communicate on its existence, its objectives and values to the rest of the world. The ICA has started in 2017 to develop a global communication strategy in 2017 to maximize its reach and let people know what role cooperatives play in the international scene.

The priorities for the communication strategy were to increase synergies between the ICA and its regional and sectoral bodies in order to make the ICA a more cohesive and stronger voice, with clearly defined goals and objectives as a global cooperative community.

The visibility strategy for the ICA-EU Partnership, elaborated by all offices to enhance the ICA's overall communication efforts, has been implemented to raise recognition of the cooperative 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 ICA.

### Our communication tools:

**Website** – ICA new website will be launched in October 2018 with a fresh image and to be used to provide information about the cooperative movement, the organization and its regional offices, as well as to share events, news and press releases on relevant cooperative topics. [www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop)

**Cooperative Insider** – The ICA publishes a global newsletter, in English, Spanish, and French, reaching all members and subscribers with a special dossier topic by issue linked to the policy agenda, the latest cooperative international news, interviews, etc.. Subscribe at <https://www.ica.coop/en/subscribe-to-our-newsletter>

**Facebook** – ICA's page has close to 13,000 likes and uses the platform to engage the community on cooperative topics and events from all regions. <https://www.facebook.com/internationalcooperativealliance/>

**Twitter** – ICA's profile has over 12,500 followers and shares news and comments on current events and issues from all regions, centralizing the information. <https://twitter.com/icacoop>.

**LinkedIn** – ICA has close to 1,500 followers and uses the platform for job postings and ICA announcements. [www.linkedin.com/company-beta/1859523/](http://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/1859523/)

**Youtube** – it is the ICA video channel. On the 2018 International Day of Cooperatives, the official video messages received 3,000 views on Youtube on 2018, an increase by 4 times compared to the 2017 edition (700 views). [www.youtube.com/channel/UCcPSQvN3ZR0POuFe0MvspyA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcPSQvN3ZR0POuFe0MvspyA)

## Global Reach

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### Who is the ICA?

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

The ICA's members are international and national cooperative organisations from all sectors of the economy, namely agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and industry & services. The ICA has members from over 100 countries, representing over one billion memberships worldwide. 280 million people have employment or organise their livelihoods through a cooperative.

The ICA is the guardian of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity, which includes a definition, 10 values and 7 operational principles: it is the minimum common denominator for all cooperatives in all sectors and all regions.

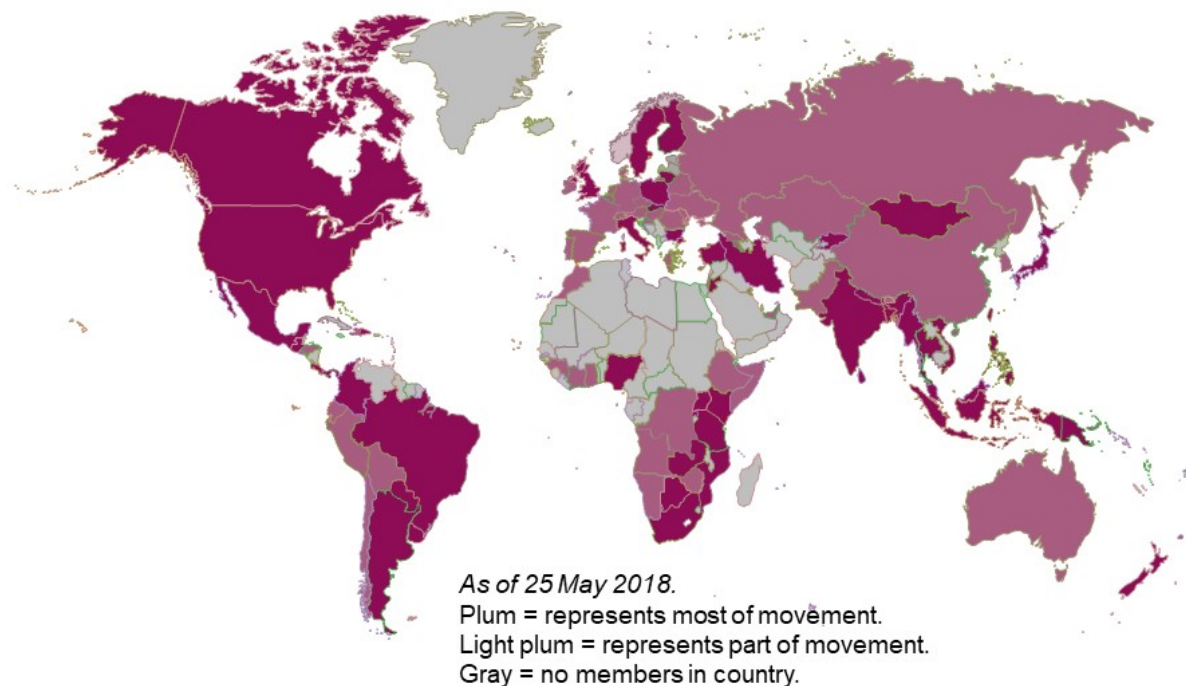
To implement its activities, the ICA is organised with a Global Office based in Brussels, four Regional Offices (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe), eight Global Sectoral Organisations (agriculture, banking, retail, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and industry & services), and five Committees and Networks (gender, research, law, youth, and development). Your one subscription fee entitles you to participate in all the structures that are relevant for your cooperative or cooperative organization.

The staff of the ICA and of its regional and sectoral bodies (<http://ica.coop/en/ICA-staff>) are based in various locations around the globe and are committed to helping members and the cooperative movement. No matter your questions, we are here to help you find the answers and to serve you in the best way we can.

### ICA member organisations are based in 108 countries

Members are based in the following countries (as of 1 August 2018). ICA members are located in more than half of the countries globally.

## ICA Member Countries

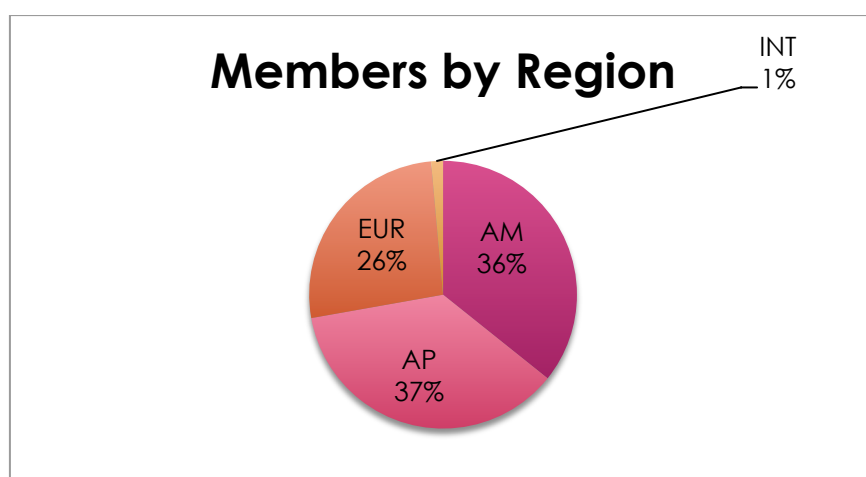


## Membership Statistics<sup>1</sup>



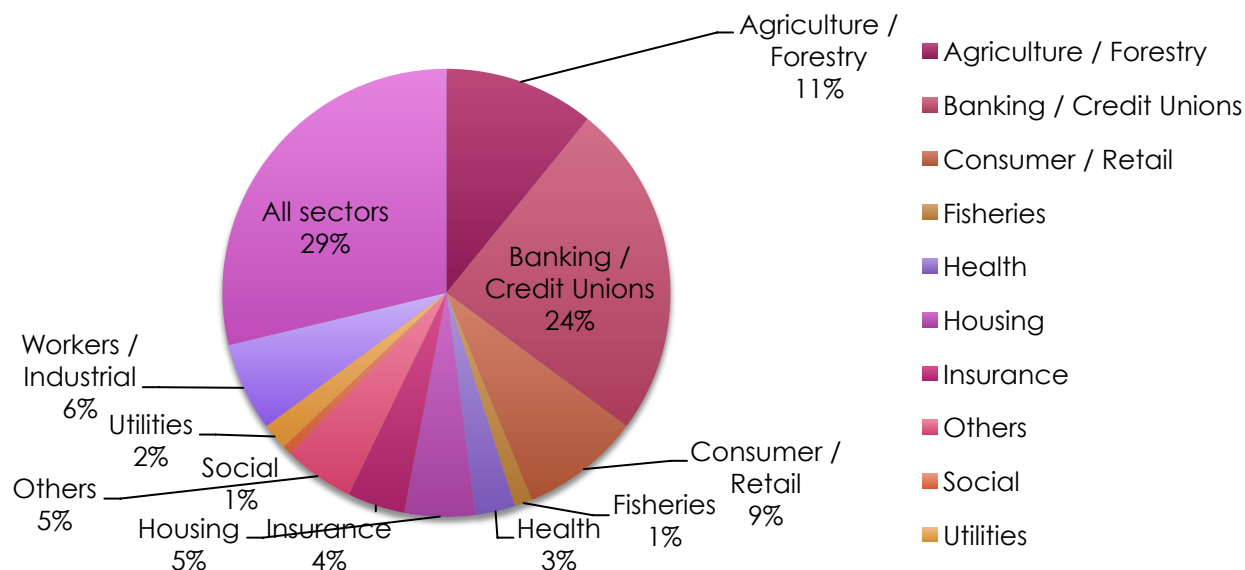
### Members by type

Type of membership	Count
Full Members (with voting rights)	268
<i>of which are supranational</i>	4
Association Members	45
<i>of which are government entities</i>	7



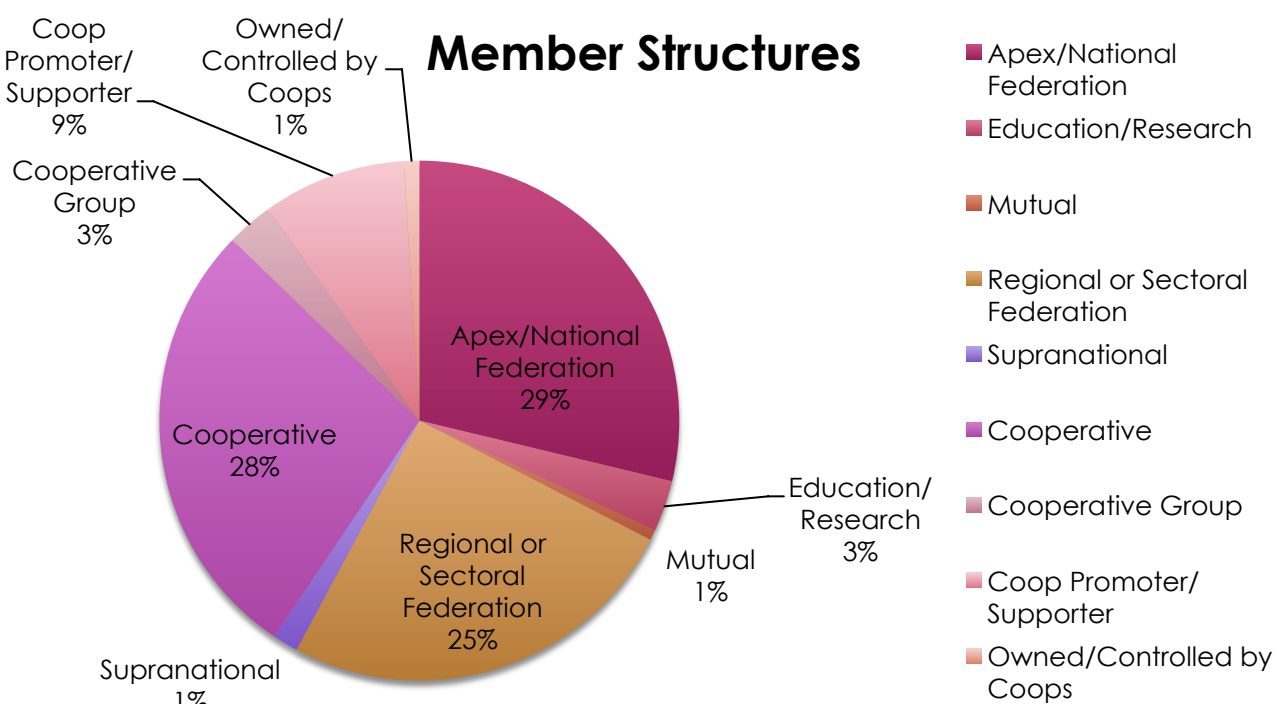
<sup>1</sup> As of May 2017

## Member Primary Sectors



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## Member Structures



<sup>2</sup> ICA 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 representing many sectors, in which case they are coded as "all sectors".

The ICA represents more than 670 million individual members globally, through its members (not including members that are supranational organisations).

## ICA Regions

The ICA has four Regions, each one with a Regional Assembly, a Regional Board and a Regional Office. Members of the ICA automatically become members of their Region.



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

Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254 20 2323489  
E-mail: [ica@icaafrica.coop](mailto:ica@icaafrica.coop)  
[www.icaafrica.coop](http://www.icaafrica.coop)

International Co-operative Alliance – Africa (The Alliance Africa) is one of the four regional offices of the Alliance founded in 1968. It serves, unites and represents Alliance member organizations in Africa and promotes and strengthens autonomous and viable co-operatives through-out the region by;

- Serving as a forum for exchange of experience and a source of information on co-operative development, research, and statistics;
- Providing technical assistance for Co-operative development; and
- Collaborating with national governments, United Nations organizations, and African regional organizations.

The Alliance-Africa strives to promote and strengthen the Co-operative Movement in the region and provide services to co-operatives with the following objectives:

- Promote the Co-operative Movement in Africa.
- Promote and protect Co-operative Values and Principles;
- Facilitate the development of economic and other mutually beneficial relations between its member organizations;
- Promote sustainable human development and to further the economic and social progress of people, thereby contributing to peace and security in Africa;
- Promote equality between men and women in all decision-making and activities within the Co-operative Movement;
- Lobby for an enabling environment for co-operative development in Africa

Its vision is to be the African leader in promoting a dynamic and democratic Co-operative movement; leading the process of social transformation and sustained economic growth.

Currently the Alliance Africa has a total membership of 37 organizations across 22 countries, addressing human development needs of existing and potential co-operatives in the region with special focus on engagement, sustainability, identity, legal framework and co-operative capital as reflected in the Co-operative Blueprint 2020.



San José, Costa Rica

Tel: +506 2296 0981

E-mail: [member@aciamericas.coop](mailto:member@aciamericas.coop)[www.aciamericas.coop](http://www.aciamericas.coop)

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

It represents, supports and links around one hundred entities, including confederations, federations and primary cooperatives in the north, central, south and Caribbean region of the Americas. It promotes an American cooperative 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.

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.

The actions include generating spaces to spread and debate ideas about the cooperative movement and the challenges it confronts in the region and world.

Cooperatives of the Americas provides the following services:

- Cooperative Social Balance Certification
- Cooperative Green Office Certification
- Good Cooperative Government Certification
- Cooperative Education workshops/seminars
- Public Policy Influencing workshops/seminars
- ILO Recommendation 193 workshops/seminars
- Cooperative Identity workshops/seminars
- Training in Cooperative Management and Doctrine
- Training in Gender Equality
- Training in Cooperative Sustainability

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

On diverse occasions, Cooperatives of the Americas has provided institutional support in activities and advocacy through the presence of top officers or high-profile actions.

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

- CICOPA Americas
- COFIA Americas
- Agricultural Network



- Gender Equity Committee
- Youth Committee



New Delhi, India  
Tel: +91 11 2688 8250  
E-mail: [info@icaap.coop](mailto:info@icaap.coop)  
[www.ica-ap.coop](http://www.ica-ap.coop)

International Cooperative Alliance-Asia and Pacific [ICA-AP] currently serves 96 ICA members who are national and supranational cooperative organizations from 30 countries across all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, industry, services, banking, retail, fisheries, health, housing and insurance.

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

ICA-AP organizes its biennial regional assembly – which is its highest decision-making authority, and helps members elect a regional board that comprises 11 members from distinct nationalities and 2 coopted 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 Cooperative Ministers' Conference, Cooperative Registrars' Conference, Cooperative Forum and Regional Consultations.

All ICA members in the Region can nominate their representatives to specialized regional committees to share and learn on cooperative 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 cooperatives every year; the women's conference brings together women cooperative leaders to chalk the course of action for gender equality in cooperatives, and the youth summit provides a cooperative platform to young persons involved with ethical and value-based enterprises to share experiences and learn new trends. ICA-AP houses 10 committees on the following: agriculture, credit and banking, forestry, retail/consumers, Cooperative Research, Gender, Youth, University/Campus Cooperatives Human Resource Development, and Cooperative Trade.

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

The ICA-AP also works with the ICA Malaysia Business Office situated in Kuala Lumpur that looks after the trade and business needs of cooperatives in a structured way.





Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 743 10 33  
E-mail: [info@coopseurope.coop](mailto:info@coopseurope.coop)  
[www.coopseurope.coop](http://www.coopseurope.coop)

**Cooperatives Europe** is the voice of cooperative enterprises in Europe. It promotes the cooperative business model in Europe. It advocates for a level playing field between cooperatives and other forms of enterprise.

It works 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. It is focusing more specifically on the following topics:

- SDG's
- Entrepreneurship
- Colaborative economy
- Social Economy
- Youth
- Gender issue
- Legal framework impacting coops
- International development

7 sectoral organizations are also members of Cooperatives Europe: CECOP-CICOPA Europe (Industry – Services) COGECA (Agri), Eurocoop (Consumer coop), EACB (Banking), Housing Europe (Housing), Rescoop.eu (Energy) and UEPS (Pharmacies).

## Sectoral Organisations

Your one subscription fee to the ICA gives you the right to participate in the relevant sectoral organisation(s). You can also designate one of your members to participate, on your behalf, in a sectoral organisation.



Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Tel: +82 2 2080 6120  
E-mail: [nacfico@naver.com](mailto:nacfico@naver.com) and  
[icaocommunication@gmail.com](mailto:icaocommunication@gmail.com)  
[www.icao.coop](http://www.icao.coop)

**The International Cooperative Agricultural Organization (ICAO)** is proud to support 37 member organizations from 29 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 regular online posts 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://icao.coop/sub5/sub1.php?mode=detail&no=101>.



Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 285 0070  
E-mail: [tivanov@eurocoop.coop](mailto:tivanov@eurocoop.coop);  
[info@ccw.coop](mailto:info@ccw.coop)  
[www.ccw.coop](http://www.ccw.coop)

**Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide** (CCW) unites 26 national consumer cooperative organisations worldwide, which represent 72 million individual members and combine for a total of 500 billion EUR in annual turnover. CCW promotes the interests of consumer cooperatives and their consumer-members within the work of the International Cooperative ICA and towards external stakeholders. CCW members enjoy the following benefits:

- **Representation** in global forums of consumer cooperatives;
- **Expansion** of cooperation and exchange of best practices amongst members;
- **Participation** in initiatives to promote the cooperative business model;
- **Access to** leading national organizations of consumer cooperatives;
- **Establishing** business partnerships with consumer cooperatives of ICA Regions;
- **Participation** in the governance bodies of Consumer Cooperatives Worldwide.



Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 93 495 44 90  
E-mail: [jperez@fundacionespriu.coop](mailto:jperez@fundacionespriu.coop)  
[www.ihco.coop](http://www.ihco.coop)

**International Health Cooperative Organisation (IHCO)**, is an association of consumer, provider and multi-stakeholder health cooperatives 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 inter-cooperate to improve citizen's access to healthcare services and doctor's professional conditions.

In January 2018 IHCO launched "The Cooperative Health Report" a research which makes 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](http://www.ihco.coop)

twitter: @IHCO\_coophealth

facebook: [www.facebook.com/IHCO.Health.Coops](http://www.facebook.com/IHCO.Health.Coops)

linkedin : [www.linkedin.com/company/ihco/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/ihco/)



The International Cooperative Banking Association (ICBA) **is presently not operational**. Efforts are in progress to make it operational again as soon as possible.

ICBA seeks to facilitate the promotion at the international and regional levels of the distinctive cooperative values of cooperative banks and of the advantages of using them over other banks; to facilitate and encourage the exchange of information amongst members on key cooperative banking issues and foster inter-cooperation in the finding of solutions; to support regional committees and their members, individually or collectively with specific challenge and to encourage inter-cooperation with other types of cooperatives and various bodies of the ICA.



Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Tel: + 82 (2) 2240-0409  
E-mail: [iktus@korea.com](mailto:iktus@korea.com) &  
[newyork1@suhyup.co.kr](mailto:newyork1@suhyup.co.kr)  
[www.ifco.coop](http://www.ifco.coop)

**The international Cooperative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO)** 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.

Some of the Benefits to members offered by the ICFO are:

- 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.



Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
Tel: +1 613 230 2201  
E-mail: [jlalpalmed@chfcanada.coop](mailto:jlalpalmed@chfcanada.coop)  
[www.housinginternational.coop](http://www.housinginternational.coop)

**Cooperative Housing International (CHI)** promote, encourage and help in the establishment of housing cooperatives in transitional economies and in developing and developed countries. It strengthens and encourages good governance principles and fosters an inclusive cooperative culture.

CHI holds education and training events for the sharing of best practices in cooperative housing and encourages partnership initiatives among its members and with other cooperatives to access financial capital so they can invest in the sustainable development, regeneration and expansion of their housing cooperatives.

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 cooperative and mutual housing solutions.

By using the capacity of the ICA, together CHI can increase the influence of housing cooperatives at the global, regional and sectoral levels. Housing cooperatives are more important now than ever and it is by thinking and acting collectively that we can demonstrate the power of the cooperative movement.



Cheshire, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 161 929 5090  
E-mail: [icmif@icmif.org](mailto:icmif@icmif.org)  
[www.icmif.org](http://www.icmif.org)

### International Cooperative & Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF).

While ICMIF is formally a sectoral organisation of the ICA, 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

Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 543 1033  
E-mail:  
[cicopa@cicopa.coop](mailto:cicopa@cicopa.coop)  
[www.cicopa.coop](http://www.cicopa.coop)

**The International organisation of industrial and service cooperatives (CICOPA)** currently has a total of 48 members in 32 countries which in turn affiliate 68,000 enterprises employing 4 million persons. Being a member of CICOPA means to contribute and benefit from common knowledge and highly-qualified expertise and increase the visibility of your organisation within the cooperative movement and the international organisations by playing an active role and making your voice heard.

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.

CICOPA has two regional organisations: CECOP - CICOPA Europe and CICOPA Americas

Why become a member of CICOPA? Find out more on their website.

## Thematic Committees & Networks



Email : [luengo@ica.coop](mailto:luengo@ica.coop)  
Website : <http://ica.coop/gender-equality-committee>

As drivers of equality, cooperators can serve as thought leaders for advancing gender equity and women's empowerment. To this end, the ICA coordinates a global-level Gender Equality Committee, which serves as a catalyst for change to make gender equality a reality in all cooperatives 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 ICA members to share their expertise on advancing gender issues and serve as thought leaders on gender equality. Through the Committee, the ICA also coordinates a delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, which takes place every March, to advocate for cooperative interests – an important visibility opportunity for all Committee members.

Committee members can also influence ICA policy gender issues and provide feedback on gender-related work. Since the November 2017 the chair of the Gender equality Committee is a member of the board of the ICA.



Website: <http://ccr.ica.coop/en>  
Email: [eum@ica.coop](mailto:eum@ica.coop)  
Young Scholars programme:  
<http://ccr.ica.coop/en/young-scholars/ccr-young-scholars-program>  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/7039257/profile](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/7039257/profile)

The **Committee on Cooperative Research** (CCR) is a Thematic Committee of the ICA. It serves to provide a bridge between academic research and the cooperative world.

The CCR aims to strengthen research activities and increase the visibility of cooperative research and researchers. It is particularly interested in ensuring that cooperative directors, managers, and employees have access to the latest research so that the results can be applied to current cooperative practice. For example, questions concerning social audit, Cooperative principles and identity, globalisation and the local dimensions of cooperatives, promoting the cooperative advantage, and the emergence of new typologies of cooperatives have all been studied from both a practical and theoretical stance.

As ICA members, organisations can receive information from the CCR, announcing opportunities for cooperative research, expertise, and thought leadership, as well as attend its global and regional conferences by subscribing to its *ad hoc* emails (to subscribe, please contact [eum@ica.coop](mailto:eum@ica.coop)).

In 2014, the CCR inaugurated its **Young Scholars Programme** (YSP). The objective of this Programme is to encourage and foster the (professional) development of young and emerging scholars of cooperative studies ranging across regions, economic industries / sectors, and

academic disciplines. This Young & Emerging Scholars Programme is situated within the CCR global conferences, and the CCR-endorsed regional conferences.

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 cooperatives' economic and social concerns. The CCR today functions as a network open to all those interested in sharing research on the cooperative model of enterprise.



Website: <http://ica.coop/cooperative-law-committee>  
Email: [roelants@ica.coop](mailto:roelants@ica.coop)

The ICA's Cooperative Law Committee gives independent advice to the ICA on cooperative law, broadly defined to include all legal rules that shape the cooperative institution and regulate its operations.



Website:  
Email: [noel@ica.coop](mailto:noel@ica.coop)

The objective of the International Cooperative Development Platform (ICDP) is to promote and support the initiation and furtherance of international cooperative development activities within and among co-operative development organisations, so as to enhance their collaboration as well as social and economic effectiveness.

The Platform serves as a forum for the discussion and exchange of experiences and knowledge on issues related to international cooperative development, the promotion of the cooperative model towards development actors and international institutions, as well as the cooperation within development programs and partnerships.

Recognising the historical engagement of the cooperative community in progressive action, the scope of the Platform is defined to include cooperative response to natural disasters and to refugee displacement.



Website: [www.globalyouth.coop](http://www.globalyouth.coop)  
Email: [hacquard@ica.coop](mailto:hacquard@ica.coop)

The ICA's **Youth Network** is an advisory, assistance and representation body for the cooperative youth movement with the purpose of organizing to address its singularity and complexity; promoting education and cooperative principles, encouraging the participation and development of youth from all nationalities within the cooperative movement; and undertaking actions to build more just and equitable societies.

The aims of the ICA Youth Network are to provide consultation to the ICA on matters and issues of the cooperative youth movement, support the ICA in defense of the movement and coordination with international and government agencies advocating for policies and programs for youth,

promote opportunities for reflection, discussion, exchange, research and training to facilitate the participation and integration of youth in cooperatives, promote the dissemination of information on issues involving cooperative youth, facilitate interaction between regional youth committees, and encourage the work of youth in cooperatives and related associations.



## Publications

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

### Regional Publications

Structure & Link	About
<a href="#">Alliance Africa</a>	All publications from the Africa region.
<a href="#">Newsletters by the Regional Office for Asia-Pacific</a>	Monthly newsletters
<a href="#">Gender is not a statistic - 2016</a>	Status of Women in the Cooperatives of the Asia Pacific Region Ten Year Gender Disaggregated Database
<a href="#">Resource Guide</a>	For advanced training of co-operatives on entrepreneurship development of women and gender equality. Published by ICA-AP.
<a href="#">Study on By laws of Primary co-operatives</a>	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. Published by ICA-AP.
<a href="#">Co-operatives of the Americas publications</a>	Publication library. There are a number of tools that can be ordered directly from the office, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Office Handbook</li> <li>• Sustainability Handbook</li> <li>• Good Governance Handbook</li> <li>• Guide on Formulating Policy Influencing Plans</li> <li>• Handbook on Training for Trainers</li> </ul> Mobile app on cooperative governance
<a href="#">Digital Bulletin</a>	News from the Americas.

### Sectoral Publications

Structure & Link	About
<a href="#">Industrial &amp; Service Co-operatives (CICOPA)</a>	All publications published by CICOPA.
<a href="#">Cooperatives and Employment: A Global Report</a>	Published by CICOPA in 2014 and 2018.
<a href="#">CHI Blueprint</a>	The Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade and its Special Application to the Housing Sector
<a href="#">The Co-operative Housing International Good Governance Test</a>	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.



Structure & Link	About
<a href="#">Resources for Housing Co-operatives</a>	CHI provides a number of resources to help housing co-operatives.
<a href="#">Resources for Agriculture Co-operatives</a>	ICAO provides a number of resources to help agriculture co-operatives.
<a href="#">Fisheries publications</a>	<p>Contact ICFO for the following publications or visit their website <a href="http://www.icfo.coop">www.icfo.coop</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Fisheries Cooperative Movement Around the World</li> <li>• ICFO Newsletter, etc.</li> </ul>

## Thematic Committee & Network Publications

Structure & Link	About
<a href="#">ICA Committee on Co-operative Research</a>	Publications by co-operative researchers, including the <a href="#">Review of International Co-operation</a> , published by the ICA. The review 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 industries in which co-operatives operate.
<a href="#">Gender equality and women's empowerment in co-operatives: A literature review</a>	A review of literature on how co-operatives achieve women's empowerment and gender equity.
<a href="#">ICA Youth Network</a>	Newsletters and other publications from the ICA Youth Network.
Feasibility Study for a Co-operative Social Media Platform	The ICA Youth Network commissioned a study on building a social media platform specifically for use by the co-operative movement. CDS Consulting Co-op, April 2016

## Global Publications

Publication & Link	About	Author & Date
World Co-operative Monitor <a href="http://www.monitor.coop">www.monitor.coop</a>	Annual data on the size of the co-operative economy. See section below for more information.	Euricse & ICA, all years
<a href="#">Global Policy &amp; Advocacy Guide</a>	The guide is meant to assist members in creating, developing and executing efficient advocacy strategies. The policy guide draws together case studies of good practice and suggests methodology and communications protocols that can help to grow a consistent global approach to this work.	ICA & Mutuo, 2018
<a href="#">Good practices in international cooperative development</a>	Aiming to foster a better understanding of the methods and approaches used by the Cooperatives	Cooperatives Europe, 2017

Publication & Link	About	Author & Date
	Europe Development Platform (CEDP) organisations in their international cooperative development work, the document maps the CEDP activities in diverse geographic and thematic areas, showcasing good practices and tools used by members.	
<a href="#">Co-ops for 2030: A movement achieving sustainable development for all</a>	Cooperative initiatives and pledges to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals under the “Coops for 2030” online platform. Annual Report.	ICA; July 2017
<a href="#">The Capital Conundrum for Co-operatives</a>	The BRC convened provocative questions about how co-operatives navigate capital.	ICA Blue Ribbon Commission, 2016
<a href="#">Sustainability Reporting for Co-operatives: A Guidebook</a>	Analyses existing sustainability measurement frameworks from a co-operative perspective and suggests good practice for co-operative businesses seeking to capture the difference they make.	Sustainability Solutions Group and Sustainability Advisory Group, March 2016
<a href="#">Guidance Notes on the Co-operative Principles</a>	These Guidance Notes give detailed guidance and advice on the practical application of the Principles to co-operative enterprise.	ICA Principles Committee, 2015
<a href="#">Doing Co-operative Business</a>	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
<a href="#">Survey of Co-operative Capital</a>	<p>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.</p> <p>The second edition of the Survey (2016) is now an integral part of the World Co-operative Monitor, explained in a separate section below.</p>	Filene Research Institute, 2015
<a href="#">Co-operative Governance: Fit to Build Resilience in the Face of Complexity</a>	Provides insight on innovative governance as the complexity of large, multi-stakeholder, and hybrid co-operative typologies increases.	Saint Mary's University, 2015
Feasibility Study on a Co-operative Trade Platform	Examined current levels of C2C trade and identified some potential initiatives the ICA could pursue to facilitate global C2C trade.	Dalberg, 2015

Publication & Link	About	Author & Date
<a href="#">Sustainability Scan</a>	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
<a href="#">Co-operative Growth for the 21st Century</a>	Articulates a co-operative notion of growth and recommends that co-operatives do more to measure their contributions to equitable economy.	CICOPA, 2013
<a href="#">Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade</a>	See section below about the Blueprint, the strategy for the co-operative movement.	ICA, 2012



**International  
Co-operative  
Alliance**

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Avenue Milcamps 105  
1030 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 743 10 30  
Fax: +32 2 743 10 39  
[ica@ica.coop](mailto:ica@ica.coop)  
[www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop)