

The co-operative Movement in Italy

Italian Legal Framework

Art. 45 of the Italian Constitution

The Republic recognizes the social function of co-operatives which act in a non-profit and mutuality approach.

The law must promote and favor the granting of authority to co-operatives with proper tools which can assure their mission and objective.

A recent reform (DL n.6/2003) recognises several fiscal advantages for co-operatives with “mutualità prevalente”.

Different co-operative types

According to the kind of relationship between the co-operative and its shareholders, we can identify three different co-operative types according to current regulations:

- **Consumer co-operatives** – They carry on their activity towards shareholders, users or consumers of goods and services.
- **Worker co-operatives** – To carry out their activities, they employ the professional services of their shareholders (the role of “worker shareholder”).
- **Support co-operatives** – To carry out their activities, they take advantage of the supply of goods and services from their shareholders.

The co-operative Movement in Italy

- Co-operatives in Italy are represented by three main organisations recognized by the law:



- 43.000 co-operatives are members of these associations.
- The production value of the co-operatives members of these associations is 140 billion euros, around 8% of the Italian GDP.
- 1.2 million employees.
- 12 million members.
- 52,8% women employed.
- 11.5% of the enterprises with more than 1.000 employees are co-operatives.

Italian Co-operative Alliance



- On the 27th of January 2011, Agci, Confcooperative and Legacoop, the three main representatives of the Italian co-operation movement, officially joined together to establish the Italian Cooperative Alliance.
- Co-operatives members of these institutions represent:

13,4 % of bank branches;

34% of the consumers and retailers sector

35 billion Made in Italy agri-food production

90% of social co-operatives

Legacoop

A union of co-operatives belonging to the Italian Co-operative Alliance.

- **Represents member co-operatives**, particularly with public institutions and the other major economic and social stakeholders;
- **Offers services to its members**, ranging from tax assistance to labour law and financial support;
- **Promotes new co-operatives** in various sectors;
- Promotes and develops **innovation and internationalisation**;
- **Promotes co-operative values and identity**;
- **Develops financial integration** between co-operatives and the local area and between individual co-operatives;
- **Supervises member co-operatives** on behalf of the Ministry of Labour.

Articulation of Legacoop

Legacoop is articulated in the following way:

■ Geographical territory

- National
- Regional
- Province/Department



■ Sectors

- [Ancc – Associazione nazionale cooperative consumatori](#)
- [Legacoop Agroalimentare](#)
- [Legacoop Abitanti](#)
- [Ancd – Associazione nazionale cooperative dettaglianti](#)
- [Ancpl – Associazione nazionale cooperative produzione e lavoro](#)
- [Legacoop Servizi](#)
- [Legapesca](#)
- [Mediacoop](#)
- [Legacoopsociali](#)
- [Legacoopturismo](#)

Legacoop in Emilia-Romagna

Emilia-Romagna Region



- Total area: 22.445,54 kmq (7,4% of the national total area)
- Population: 4.432.418 (7,3% of national population)
- GDP: 138.382 milion Euro (8,8% of national GDP)
- Unemployment rate: 5% (national: 8,2%)
- Value added: 2,2% agriculture; 30,1% manufacturing; 67,7% service sector
- Export: 47.388 milion Euro.

Unioncamere ER. Data refer to 2011

Italian Co-operative Alliance in Emilia-Romagna



3.600 co-operatives

3.160.000 members

250.000 employees

45 billions euros production value

Legacoop Emilia-Romagna (ER)

- Emilia Romagna is one of the European Regions with the highest density of co-operatives. It's the territory with the highest number of co-operatives in Italy.
- In Emilia Romagna, 1 inhabitant out of 2 is member of a co-operative
- Legacoop ER is the most important economical association of Emilia-Romagna. It represents enterprises working in different sectors (industrial, agrofood, services, social, transportation, consumer...).

The sectors

Sector	Co-operatives	Production Value (mln €)	Net worth (mln €)	Members	Employees
Housing	60	253	1.575	128.522	245
Agrifood	195	5.327	1.674	46.566	12.280
Consumers	140	7.651	2.488	2.521.968	21.339
Cultural	36	21	5	3.032	381
Retailers	16	3.541	892	1.271	1.056
Mediacoop	21	30	6	930	134
Fishing	38	96	19	3.530	288
Worker and Production	181	8.510	3.960	11.778	20.700
Services	309	5.314	1.571	82.108	67.603
Social	214	968	179	46.776	24.192
Turism	42	72	24	1.064	523
Others	32	270	4.685	2.830	957
Tot Legacoop Emilia Romagna	1.284	32.054	17.077	2.850.375	149.698

Departments

Department	Co-operatives	Production Value (mln €)	Net worth (mln €)	Members	Employees
Bologna	197	9.882	7.858	1.327.066	46.852
Imola	49	2.001	1.608	15.447	6.336
Ferrara	102	587	239	11.014	6.580
Forlì – Cesena	178	2.506	1.061	37.475	10.258
Modena	132	7.874	1.980	699.540	16.948
Parma	110	568	122	16.533	10.170
Piacenza	50	182	96	25.508	926
Ravenna	166	2.904	1.560	36.000	13.549
Reggio Emilia	192	5.261	2.413	666.883	36.047
Rimini	108	284	137	14.882	2.032
Tot Legacoop Emilia Romagna	1.284	32.054	17.077	2.850.375	149.698

Main co-operatives per sectors

Cooperative	Sector	Production Value (mln euro)	Members	Employees
CONAD	Retailers	937	9	179
COOP	Consumers	4.295	586.411	4.122
CONSORZIO GRANTERRE	Agrifood	100	135	5
GRANDI SALUMIFICI ITALIANI	Agrifood	613		1.756
GRANAROLO	Agrifood	795		1.179
APOFRUIT	Agrifood	185	3.589	2.005
C.C.C.	Worker and Production	1.521	298	222
C.M.C.	Worker and Production	735	392	4.480
UNIECO	Worker and Production	495	407	628
COOPSETTE	Worker and Production	438	551	855
C.M.B.	Worker and Production	548	572	805
SACMI	Worker and Production	848	356	1.068
CADIAI	Social	37	783	1.246
MANUTENCOOP	Services	765		14.465

Co-operative promotion and projects

Active promotion

- Farecooperativa.it is particularly focused on young people looking to start up an enterprise, and who are convinced or are evaluating the idea of setting up their business as a co-operative.
- These may include **university researchers** with a new, brilliant idea to put onto the market, or even **recent graduates** who have decided to jointly face the world of employment by forming new co-operatives of knowledge.



Talented

Our region and its excellent universities are an oasis of talents, and new co-operative enterprises can be created from the best ideas. Legacoop is a reference for providing information and support to any worthwhile, praiseworthy start-up project.

1 2 3

Rete Regionale Bellacoopia

rete regionale
Bellacoopia

- The regional network “Bellacoopia” is a Legacoop Emilia Romagna strategic project which aims to promote the co-operative culture among the students of Emilia Romagna high schools.
- The high schools of the Emilia Romagna region have shown a strong interest towards this project, and an increasing number of them have joined it throughout the years.
- “Bellacoopia” is supported by the Emilia Romagna Regional Authority and Coopfond (the company managing the mutual funds for the co-operative promotion).

Over the years, Rete Regionale Bellacoopia has involved some 15,000 students and every year 50 schools from all around the region.



- Innovacoop is the latest addition to the Regional Co-operative Movement and promotes innovation and internationalisation within co-operatives.
- It provides consultancy services and assistance and is qualified to carry out research in the public and private sectors, both in Italy and abroad.
- In 2012 Innovacoop took the form of a company which is headed by Legacoop Emilia Romagna.

Social co-operatives

Social co-op production

- Social co-ops produce relational goods:

They attempt to improve people's life, especially the life of people who experience permanent or temporary difficulties.

- The production of relational goods is dependant on some social values / ideologies:
 - Every human being has the right to get quality care from the State (reciprocity, no philanthropy);
 - The integration into society of disadvantaged people improve the everybody's quality of life;
 - Racism, segregation, exclusion are negative.

Social co-op areas of activity

- Elderly
- Disabled
- Babies
- Children
- Mental health
- Drug and alcohol dependency
- Prisons
- Health (rehabilitation, patient transport, etc.)

Regularly employed member-workers

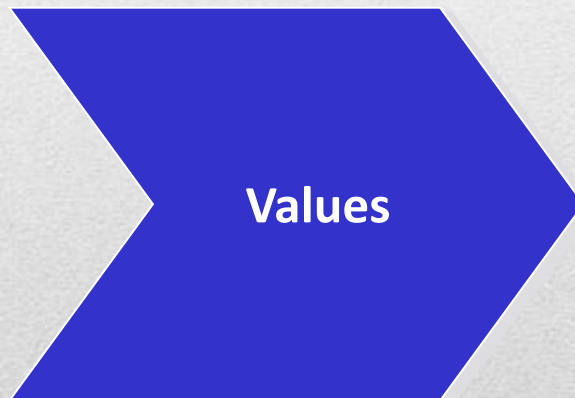
- In «A» type: Educators, helpers, nurses, etc.
- In «B» type: Disadvantaged manual workers, manual workers without difficulties, specialised technicians etc.

The International co-operative Alliance.

Values

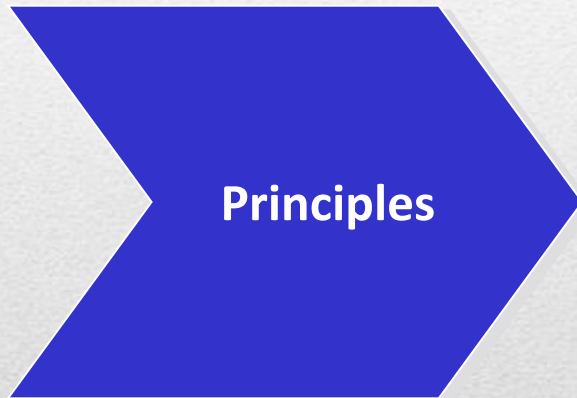
Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

ICA (Manchester 1995)



- mutuality
- self-responsibility
- democracy
- equality
- fairness and solidarity
- honesty
- social transparency
- caring for others

People are the center



1. **Voluntary and Open membership (open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities)**
2. **Democratic member control (one head-one vote in primary co-ops)**
3. **Economical participation (members equally participate in the capital and decisions)**
4. **Autonomy and Independence (Co-ops are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members)**
5. **Education, Training and Information**
6. **Co-operation among co-operatives**
7. **Concern for community (local sustainable development)**

Main characteristics

- One person, one vote
- Open door
- Economic contribution of members
- Non-distribution of profits
- Indivisibility of reserves
- Intergenerational equity
- Real companies
- With budgetary, tax and employment obligations
- Governed by a Statute and Regulations
- Controlled by consistent principles and values

Co-operatives worldwide

ICA – International Co-operative Alliance

- 269 member organizations
- 94 countries
- 1 billion members represented



ICA Asia-Pacific [ICA A-P]

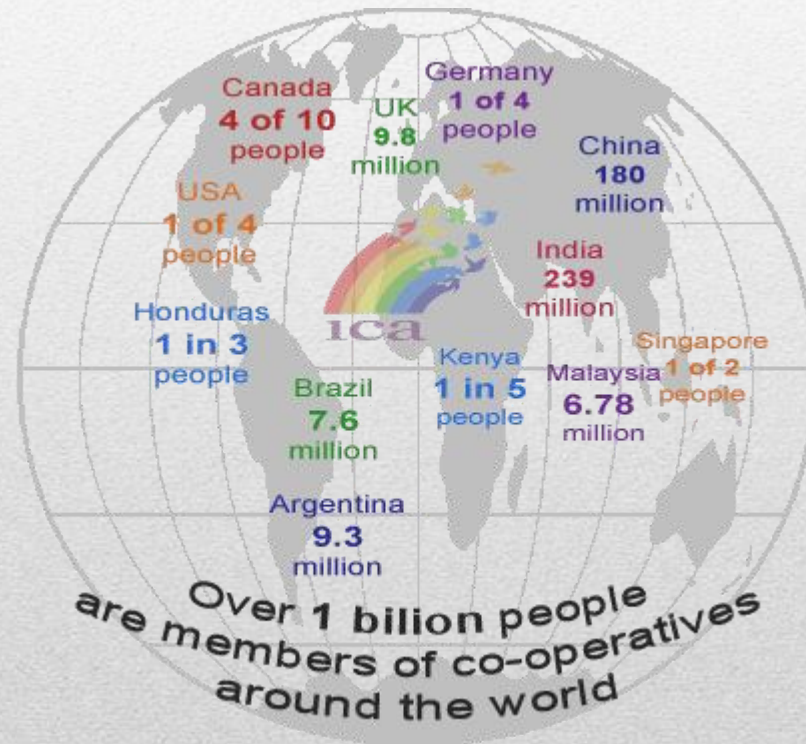
- Based in Delhi, founded by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in 1960
- 24 countries

Cooperatives Europe

- 91 member organizations
- 160.000 co-operatives
- 123 million members represented



Co-operatives worldwide





- Giovanni Monti
- Viale Aldo Moro 16 – 40127 Bologna
- Tel. 051/509.-983/705 – fax 051/509.905
- e-mail: trovarelli@emilia-romagna.legacoop.it
- Web: www.legacoopemiliaromagna.coop