

THE NETWORK OF SELF-MANAGED SUPERMARKETS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN FRANCE

France is the country in Europe where the idea to build up cooperative and participative supermarkets had a big success within the world of cooperatives and consumers. A network of 31 participative supermarkets are already operating in different cities of the country.

[An national map](#) is available to know their distribution and to accede the web page of each participative supermarket, to be informed on its implementation and experience. The web page [Cooperative supermarkets](#) is the information tool of this interesting movement.



The success of the national diffusion of this innovative way of managing the distribution of food and products of common use for families, lies in the strong development of the cooperative movement in France. It is also the result of the consumers' growing demand to have access to common goods of high quality, ecologically produced and reinforcing the local economies.

The point of reference is the [Cooperative La Louve](#) that officially opened in November 2017 the first participative and no-profit supermarket in the 18th *Arrondissement* of Paris, after a pilot phase of one-year. The initiatives undertaken since 2010 to implement this first supermarket have in fact involved actors from the entire country.

As an example, the film *Food Coop* produced by Tom Boothe, an American gourmet living in Paris and co-founder of La Louve, presenting the results attained by the Park Slope Food Coop supermarket in New York (40 years of functioning and 17.000 members), has been used to encourage a wide range of actors in Paris and France to implement this innovative way of commercial distribution of products.

The 97 minutes [Food Coop video](#) is constantly being projected in meetings and seminars to call up the public opinion around this experience.

Today La Louve cooperative supermarket is established in a three floor building for a space of 1,450 square meters. The supermarket is only open to members of the cooperative, offering at a lower price all those products usually available in a *normal* supermarket. The inscription fee to the Cooperative, of 100 Euros, allows the widest participation.

With its 6.000 members in 2018, La Louve supermarket adopts the same operational criteria of the [Park Slope Food Coop](#) which have been tailored to the local situation during



the pilot phase. The members of the cooperative contribute with their work for three consecutive hours per month to ensure, depending on their capabilities, the functions that enable a smooth running of the supermarket: cash desk and purchases management, storage of products, administration, cleaning. The work provided by the members permits to limit the hire of paid personnel, allowing the Cooperative to sell its products at prices of 15-40% lower than other supermarkets.

The Cooperative selects the products in a democratic way, taking into account six main criteria: the impact on the environment, proximity, fair production, quality, price, food culture of the neighborhood. The Cooperative La Louve with its supermarket represents a point of reference for the neighborhood, by organizing a big choice of [cultural and social events](#), too.

La Louve actively participates to promote [new experiences of participative supermarkets](#) in other cities of France, by offering support to their implementation. In its web page a [press review](#) presents multiple articles about the different aspects of the Cooperative experience, which are useful to sensitize new actors in building their own supermarket. The [dissemination program of the Film Food Coop](#) continues to be a great instrument of social mobilization.

The idea of implementing participative and cooperative supermarkets is also raising interest in Martinique, Noumea (New Caledonia), Reunion and Papeete (Tahiti). In other European countries preliminary activities are being carried out to adopt this solution in Switzerland, Spain, Italy. In Belgium the [Bees Coop](#) is already functioning in Brussels and two more participative supermarkets are being promoted in Charleroi and in Liege.

To know more

[Map of participative supermarkets in France](#)

[Supermarches Cooperatifs website](#)

[Cooperative La Louve website](#)

[Cooperative La louve in Facebook](#)

[Press Review](#)

[Article in rtes.org-territoires solidaires](#)

[Article in Le Monde](#)

[Article in Le Figaro](#)

[Article in up-magazine.info](#)

[Article in wave-innovation.com](#)

[Park Slope Food website](#)

