

# COOPCYCLE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BIKE DELIVERY PLATFORM COOPS

Created in 2017 in France, the [CoopCycle International Federation](#) of bike delivery co-operatives which brings together couriers for better working conditions, continues to see significant growth in its associates.

CoopCycle promotes a new type of co-operatives enabled by digital platforms and with business models based on the cooperative ownership structure. In 2022 the CoopCycle Federation has 85 member cooperatives (compared to 30 in 2019), with around 500 workers concerned. It is developing in cities of France, Germany, Spain, Belgium, United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, United States, Australia and Mexico.

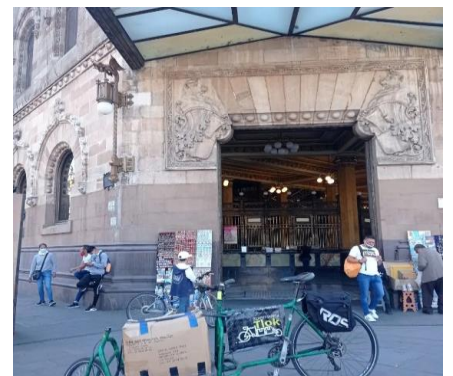
CoopCycle mainly associates bike delivery co-operatives already active and rooted in cities of these countries. In other cases, bike delivery operators are invited to organize themselves into a cooperative in order to use the supports and tools offered by CoopCycle. In any case the Federation brings its support to interested actors for the whole process necessary to organize the new cooperative platform scheme, also in alliance with various public institutions and private sector organizations.

[In Mexico](#) for example, to improve the living and working conditions of bicycle couriers, the Ministry of Social and Solidarity Economy (ESS) has encouraged a collaboration between CoopCycle and ITDP, an international NGO specialized in urban, sustainable and equitable mobility since 1985. The Ministry has launched a training program for courier companies and provides financial support for the transformation of these companies into cooperatives. The Ministry also facilitates and finances the acquisition of delivery equipment (cargo bikes in particular) and the creation of an application for Mexican couriers based on the CoopCycle software.

In the United Kingdom, to promote this innovative way of bike delivery that meets the needs of service quality and protection of courier's rights, the Guide [How to launch a food delivery co-operative](#) has been written and published by Autonomy Research Ltd., CoopCycle, Co-operatives UK and a number of cooperatives across the country.

The Guide underlines that riders classified as independent contractors are often forced onto precarious work contracts that have no guarantee of a minimum wage or other employment benefits. Co-operatives provide a potential solution to this problem and an ethical model for the food delivery industry. Riders own and democratically control the business. Assets and profits are shared between members which takes work arrangements out of the hands of unaccountable tech companies. Food delivery co-operatives are:

- good for riders - offering control over work, pay and how the business is run;
- good for restaurants - restaurants can get a greater cut of what they



- sell and build a solid relationship with a local food delivery business;
- good for customers - customers can support fair work and the local economy;
- good for society - co-operative food delivery services support independent businesses and the local community;
- good for the environment - delivering by bicycle takes carbon out of the atmosphere and is more environmentally sustainable.

The collaboration between Autonomy Research Ltd, CoopCycle and Co-operatives UK has also led to the production of an accompanying policy paper, [Delivering Rights: Alternatives in the Online Food Economy](#). The Guide and these materials can be useful tools for implementing new bike delivery co-operatives in United Kingdom and other countries.

The CoopCycle International Federation, democratically governed by coops is an outstanding practice of *Platform Cooperatives*, new models of social economy that are spreading to many countries around the world. *Platform cooperatives* are online businesses jointly-owned and managed by their members using a protocol, website or mobile application to sell goods and services. They rely on shared ownership of the platform by workers and users. Building on the almost 200-year-old history of cooperatives, and the most modern digital platforms, the *Platform cooperatives* combine the best features of these two models to create an innovative approach to protect worker's rights. These practices are ongoing in some countries and associate other workers selling goods and services, as for example workers performing home services (repairs, cleaning, etc.), tourism operators, taxi drivers or freelance artists.

The aim of CooCycle Federation is to foster solidarity among bike delivery coops, to reduce their costs thanks to services pooling and to create a common force to advocate courier's rights. CoopCycle can support isolated couriers interested in joining a cooperative or in creating a new one, or cooperatives interested in mutualizing services and enforcing their activity. It offers services to member cooperatives, as well as the [platform software](#) enabling them to manage their deliveries and offer an e-commerce solution to their clients, the smartphone application for easy bike delivery and another application enabling customers to order. CoopCycle also offers support to members in developing a business offer for common key accounts, to pool other aspects such as communication, the purchase of equipment, the negotiation of partnerships with national chains or insurance contracts.

The cooperatives are mostly delivering food products, responding to the great demand existing in cities in this sector, but they are also organized for the transport of many other products. Bicycles are equipped so that they can transport goods of a different nature, in cities as well as in rural areas. The riders' cooperatives associated with CoopCycle are creating alliances in their territory with restaurants, shops, enterprises, public services, local institutions and administrations who can thus have an effective and ecological transport and delivery service. Their success depends on the quality of the service and the network of actors they manage to mobilize.

The CoopCycle Federation is inspired by [the principles and values of cooperatives](#). Through their non-polluting transport service, they also contribute to cleaner and more welcoming cities and territories. The CoopCycle website invites to access information on [member cooperatives in different countries](#), knowing directly their activities.

The concrete experiences of *Platform Cooperatives* as CoopCycle, which are being developed in different countries, are relatively young, but have managed to attract the attention of the ongoing international debate on the great transformations underway in the world of work. United Nations



agencies as ILO, initiatives such the UN Interagency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy, as well as other international organizations and academic institutes are disseminating studies and articles on these innovative forms of business and growth models contributing to the social economy and the ecological transition.

## To know more

[CoopCycle International Federation website](#)

[How to launch a food delivery co-operative](#)

[CoopCycle in different countries](#)

[CoopCycle Press Review](#)

[CoopCycle in Mexico](#)

[TIG Bicimensajeria Mexico](#)

[Article in fonda.asso.fr](#)

[Article in The Urban Activist](#)

[Article in lowimpact.org](#)

[Platform Cooperatives: The Social and Solidarity Economy and the Future of Work in unsse.org](#)

[Platform Cooperativism Consortium website](#)

[Articles and documents in Platform Cooperativism Consortium website](#)

[Literature Review of Platform Cooperatives in Semantic Scholar 2021](#)

[Platform Cooperatives in graduateinstitute.ch website](#)

[Platform cooperatives paper in graduateinstitute.ch website](#)

[ILO COOP 100 Symposium - Platform Cooperatives](#)

[ILO – The future of work](#)

[Cooperative values & principles in ICA website](#)

