

COOPCYCLE PLATFORM – INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BIKE DELIVERY COOPS

The *Platform Cooperatives*, new models of social economy combining the historical formula of cooperatives with the most modern digital platforms, 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 digital platform model, the Platform cooperatives combine the best features of these two models to create an innovative approach to protect worker's rights. Created in France in 2016 and governed democratically by coops, CoopCycle is an outstanding practice of Platform Cooperatives.

[CoopCycle](#) is an International Federation of bike delivery co-ops which brings together couriers from 12 European countries for better working conditions.

The aim of CoopCycle Federation is to foster solidarity among coops, to reduce their costs thanks to services pooling and to create a common force to advocate courier's rights. CoopCycle offers the following services to member cooperatives:

- The [platform software](#) that enables the members to manage their deliveries and offer an e-commerce solution to their clients.
- The smartphone application for easy bike delivery. Another application enables customer to order.
- Support in developing a business offer for key accounts common to each cooperative.

The pooled services of each cooperative are funded by cotisation and the funds gathered are managed by members, allowing them to get back the control over their professional activity and working tools. CoopCycle adopts a democratic governance management where couriers decide together about everyone's contribution level according to its juridical status (cooperative, association, institutional entity), the funds allocation and the pay scheme to provide services.

CoopCycle Federation is open to bike delivery actors respecting the values of social and fair economy. In particular it can support isolated couriers interested in joining a cooperative or in creating a new one; cooperatives interested in mutualizing services and enforcing their activity; shop and restaurant owners interested to benefiting from a responsible delivery service to improve their commercial offering.

The riders' cooperatives created in the cities of 12 European countries and associated with the CoopCycle Federation are creating alliances in the territory with restaurants, shops, enterprises, public services, local 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.

In all cases, these cooperatives are inspired by [the principles and values of cooperatives](#), by the social economy and ecological transition. Through their non-polluting transport service, they also contribute to cleaner and more welcoming cities. Some of these riders' cooperatives manage their own web or Facebook page to make their experience known to a wider audience, as for example the [Coopérative de coursiers à vélo Molenbike](#) in Bruxelles (Belgium), the [York Collective](#) in York (United Kingdom), [Les Coursiers Montpelliérains](#) in Montpellier (France), [les coursiers bordelais](#) in Bordeaux (France), the [Mensakas cooperative](#) in Barcelona (Spain).

The riders are not the only workers adopting the mechanisms of platform cooperatives to improve their working conditions. In fact, similar practices are ongoing 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. All these Platform co-ops are based on principles including: Broad-based ownership of the platform, in which workers control the technological features, production processes, algorithms, data, and job structures of the online platform; Democratic governance, in which all stakeholders who own the platform collectively govern the platform; Co-design of the platform, in which all stakeholders are included in the design and creation of the platform ensuring that software grows out of their needs, capacities, and aspirations.

These concrete experiences, which are 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. In 2016, [Trebor Scholz](#), Director of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at the New School in New York (United States), founded the [Platform Cooperativism Consortium](#) as a hub for the platform cooperativism movement. The Consortium is a global network of researchers, platform co-ops, independent software developers, artists, designers, lawyers and activists engaged in research, advocacy, education, and technology-based projects. The *Platform Cooperativism Consortium* has become an international reference point, supporting the growth of hundreds of platform cooperatives businesses around the world. On the Consortium website, information on ongoing initiatives and a wide range of [articles and documents on the topic of Cooperative Platforms](#) are available.

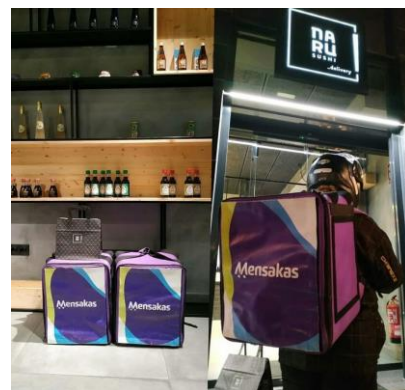
In the framework of the Initiative [The future of work](#), the International Labour Organization (ILO) promotes the platform cooperatives approach through its various sectors and operational tools. The [ILO' Cooperative Unit](#), for example, collaborates with the New School for the platform cooperative development, supporting projects in different countries.

In particular, [ILO highlights that](#)...*there are several forces transforming the world of work, from the onward march of technology and the impact of climate change to the changing character of demographics, production and employment. Cooperation, through cooperative enterprises and other forms of social and solidarity economy enterprises, is emerging with viable and sustainable responses to these changes from renewable energy and platform cooperatives to social care cooperatives and worker buy outs. It has a unique opportunity to make an impact, given the growing global quest for new forms of business and growth models.*

To know more

[Coopcycle website](#)

[CoopCycle in Facebook](#)



[CoopCycle Press Review](#)

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

[Platform Cooperativism Consortium website](#)

[Platform Cooperativism Consortium Cooperators](#)

[Platform Cooperativism by Trebor Scholtz in rosalux-nyc.org website](#)

[Platform.coop Conference-Berlin 2020](#)

[Blogs.newschool.edu](#)

[News in ILO website](#)

[ILO – The future of work](#)

[ILO webinar to organize workers in the platform economy](#)

[ILO's message for the Platform Cooperativism Symposium in Tokyo 2019, in youtube.com](#)

[ILO publications and tools on Cooperatives](#)

[Platform cooperatives in Wikipedia](#)

