

WORLD CO-OPERATIVE MONITOR 2021

PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

The [2021 edition of the World Co-operative Monitor](#), the report on socio-economic impact of cooperatives at global level, was disseminated by [the International Cooperative Alliance ICA](#). The 2021 issue and the previous editions are available in the [online library](#) of the ICA website.

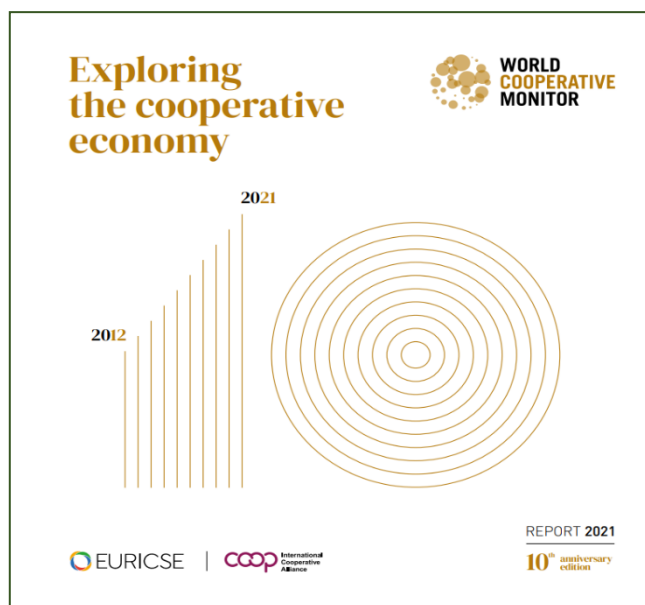
The *World Cooperative Monitor* is published annually by ICA and produced with the scientific and technical support of EURICSE and the collaboration of all organizational partners. The Monitor is a source of data reporting on the socio-economic value and impact of cooperatives within a global scenario, focusing on the world's top 300 cooperatives operating in different sectors and countries. With the 2021 issue the World Cooperative Monitor has reached the 10th edition.

[The 2021 report](#) explores the impact on the world's 300 largest cooperatives and mutuals, including rankings and sectoral analysis, based on 2019 financial data. The Top 300 cooperatives and mutuals report a total turnover of over two trillion USD (2,180 billion USD). These organizations operate in various economic sectors, with Insurance (102 enterprises) and Agriculture (98 enterprises) leading the list. Wholesale and retail trade represents the third biggest economic sector (55 enterprises) in the ranking.

The report shows that the large cooperative groups are holding their own and turnover is growing slightly at the global level. In the Top 300 ranking based on turnover the largest cooperatives are performing well, with only slight variations in the top positions across the sectors. On the podium are the two French financial institutions *Groupe Crédit Agricole* (with 142,675 employees) and *Groupe BPCE* (105,019 employees) and the German *REWE Group* (241,691 employees). Most of the Top 300 enterprises are from the most industrialized countries such as the USA (75 enterprises), France (35 enterprises), Germany (31 enterprises) and Japan (26 enterprises).

In the Top 300 ranking based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, which relates the turnover of the enterprise to the wealth of the country, two Indian producer cooperatives reach the first and third positions: *IFFCO* and *Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited*. Between them, and in second place is the *French Group Crédit Agricole*.

Leading the sector rankings based on turnover are: the Japanese *Zen-Noh* in Agriculture and Food Industries; at the top of Industry and Utilities is *Corporación Mondragón* (Spain); in Wholesale and Retail Trade the German *REWE Group* tops the list; in the Insurance sector *Nippon Life* (Japan) leads the ranking; *Groupe Crédit Agricole* (France) leads the Financial services sector; *Sistema*



Unimed (Brazil) ranks top in the Education, Health and Social work sector; and finally in Other services the Japanese *Nihon Delica Foods Association* is in the top position.

The 2021 edition also includes two chapters exploring how cooperatives can build back better from the pandemic and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Cooperatives were also severely impacted by COVID-19, but nevertheless took actions to address the challenges posed by the pandemic, confirming the resilience in large part due to their structural characteristics. The Report highlights that with the virus still traveling in the world, many cooperatives operating in the areas most affected by the pandemic are still grappling with the day-to-day management of their activities in the emergency phase. However, actions promoted during the pandemic show some preliminary indications of the potential of cooperatives to face the recovery phase, spreading a more sustainable and inclusive economic model. Participation and attention to members and a community focus are key points that have guided cooperatives' actions. These actions could be the pillars for disseminating a business model that embraces the goals promoted by the 2030 Agenda in terms of human rights, fair labor, environmental sustainability and sustainable growth. The large cooperatives interviewed declared that in the coming years their focus should be growing the organizations while keeping cooperative principles and values in mind, investing in local suppliers, supporting communities, and working to reduce social inequalities exposed by the pandemic.

The [International Co-operative Alliance \(ICA\)](#) is a non-profit international association established in 1895 to advance the cooperative social enterprise model. The ICA works with global and regional governments and organizations to create the legislative environments that allow cooperatives to form and grow. Operating from a global office in Brussels, Belgium, it is organized with four Regional Offices (Europe, Africa, Americas, and Asia-Pacific), and eight Sectoral Organizations (Banking, Agriculture, Fisheries, Insurance, Health, Housing, Consumer Cooperatives, and Service and Industry cooperatives).

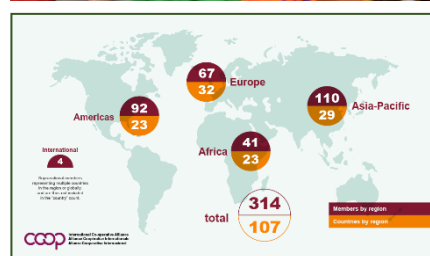
The International Cooperative Alliance is the voice for cooperatives worldwide, representing more than 315 cooperative federations and organizations across 110 countries. [At least 12% of people on earth is a cooperator](#) of any of the 3 million cooperatives in the world. Cooperatives provide jobs or work opportunities to 10% of the employed population across the globe. Through self-help and empowerment, reinvesting in their communities and concern for the well-being of people and the world, cooperatives nurture a long-term vision for sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental responsibility.

Data from the ICA publications and the persisting growth of the movement in the world show that cooperatives, born to respond to poverty conditions of workers, today can represent a typology of enterprise able to successfully compete on the new economic and social environment, for generating wealth and services while keeping its basic principles of solidarity and democratic participation.

To know more

[2021 edition of the World Co-operative Monitor](#)

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[World Cooperative Monitor 2021 press-kit](#)

[Executive Summary WCM 2021](#)

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[Cooperatives and Sustainable Development Goals in ILO website](#)

