

CECOP ●●●●
CICOPA Europe

THE EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION
OF INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE COOPERATIVES

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FOR THE 2024
EUROPEAN ELECTIONS





CECOP is the European Confederation of cooperatives active in the industry and services. We give the voice to 40.000 worker cooperatives, social cooperatives and cooperatives of autonomous workers across Europe, employing in turn 1.3 million persons. Our cooperatives are democratically governed enterprises, strongly embedded in their communities that reinvest most of their profits to ensure the sustainability of their activity.

- **Worker cooperatives:** characterized by worker-ownership, a very specific relation where workers are the co-owners of their enterprise and therefore have an impact and decide jointly about the main enterprises' orientations
- **Social cooperatives:** provide services of general interest to the community, fulfil people's daily needs, ensure a dignified life to all, with a special attention for underrepresented groups and provide work integration to the most vulnerable citizens
- **Cooperatives of autonomous workers:** peers mutualise risks and costs through the cooperative, which in turns allows them to benefit from flexibility, security and other services



Coop Tales

Discover stories of industrial and service cooperatives across Europe here





CURRENT CONTEXT

Over the last years, European citizens have been facing the consequences of a succession of crisis affecting the continent. Strong action from the European Union has been crucial to hinder these effects. However, to overcome these challenges, as well as the upcoming ones, our enterprises need to be resilient and innovative, while championing quality jobs, a skilled workforce and ability to answer to people's needs. This requires joint efforts, support measures and investment coming from both European and national level.

The unique work relationship that is found in our cooperatives, called "worker-ownership", is still often unrecognised or discriminated across Europe. In many countries, worker cooperatives cannot be established in sectors such as care or platform economy. Barriers exist also for new typologies of cooperatives to grow, such as multistakeholder cooperatives or cooperatives among autonomous workers.

Far too many profitable enterprises close down or relocate outside the EU while they could be bought out by their employees, and in this way saving jobs, know-how and income.

Regrettably, investments in social policies and services are still considered as a cost. The logic of purchasing these services by public authorities based on the cheapest price must come to an end.

At the same time, new ways of working, technology, societal and environmental concerns lead Europeans to experiment new forms of democracy, mutualisation and solidarity through cooperatives. They are the kind of partner social and green European Union need.

OUR VISION

Our priorities for the 2024-2029 term: quality jobs, sustainable and resilient re-industrialisation and innovation for the benefit of all

- **Ensure quality jobs**

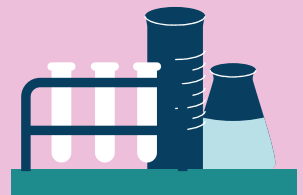
Our enterprise model is people-oriented and aims at long-term effectiveness rather than short-term efficiency. Our cooperatives subordinate the private interest to the collective well-being, provide space for workers fulfilment and realization. They guarantee equal opportunities to everyone to achieve decision-making power, in other words, they bring equity and democracy at the workplace. Worker ownership is agile to adapt to the transformation of the world of work and provide solutions to workers seeking for solidarity and security.

- **Toward sustainable and resilient re-industrialisation**

The innovative and resilient features of industrial and service cooperatives are bringing a great contribution to many sectors, from the most traditional to the most advanced. Their governance model guarantees adaptability when facing hardship. The fact that they reinvest the profits allows them to focus on a scale that conventional enterprises cannot afford to: the long-term. Our enterprises need a long-term re-industrialisation strategy to ensure a strategic independence, with a special focus on traditional industries that require specific support to cope with the digital and green transitions, and to become more resilient to shocks.

- **Innovation for the benefit of all**

New cooperative models are emerging and expanding, responding to evolving economic, social and labour challenges. They combine social and technological innovation, have the potential to democratize the internet and promote more transparent and ethical technology for the benefit of all. Community owned, they are perfectly suited to fight social exclusion, reduce social inequalities, and cover unmet societal needs. In order to ensure access to quality services and social rights to European citizens, states should engage in long-term planning partnership models with community-based providers, such as cooperatives. Cooperatives have been the backbone of these services across Europe, vital to people's well-being.



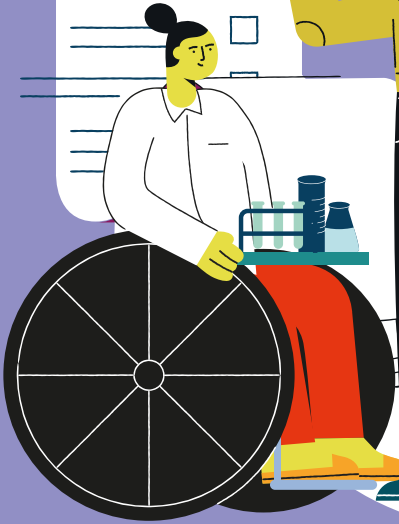
OUR DEMANDS

FOR THE 2024 – 2029 TERM

1. Recognise and promote the worker-ownership model as an employment relationship characterized by quality working conditions
2. Support cooperative entrepreneurship, as a model of collective entrepreneurship that generates quality employment
3. Encourage Member States to adopt legislation allowing cooperatives to operate in all sectors, including the services of general interest, and to adopt legislation allowing new cooperative typologies, such as multi-stakeholder cooperatives, cooperative platforms or cooperatives among autonomous workers
4. Ensure framework conditions for workers buyouts, including legislative and financial support
5. EU Competition Policy, more specifically State Aid regulations, should recognize the social function of cooperatives especially when it comes to highly labour-intensive sectors (such as the service sector)
6. Provide specific support to traditional and energy intensive industries in the green and digital transition
7. Encourage Member States to significantly increase investment in social infrastructure and in the care sector
8. Reform the EU Public Procurement rules so bids would not be evaluated only on the price but include social and environmental considerations
9. Encourage Member States to a shift from public procurements towards a more integrated partnership model, based on a joint analysis of community needs and long-term planning of services of general interest
10. Support workers training in digital and green skills
11. Provide EU leveraging effect for national cooperative financial instruments prioritising scale-up and major investment
12. Apply a “Cooperative Test”, similar to the “the SME Test”, analysing the possible effects of EU legislative proposals on cooperatives
13. Ensure continuity of the social economy intergroup in the European Parliament, an essential space for dialogue among European institutions and stakeholders



**CECOP'S DEMANDS
FOR THE 2024 - 2029 TERM**



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