



COOPERAZIONE TRENTINA

TRAINING SESSION - PRACTICAL EXERCISE
“COOPERATIVE IDENTITY AND ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP”

Cyprus, 25/26th January 2018

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

Definition of a co-operative

Autonomous	Association of persons united voluntarily	Common economic, social and cultural needs	Jointly owned	Democratically controlled enterprise



Co-operative Values

Co-operatives are based on the values

- I. Self-help
- II. Self-responsibility
- III. Democracy
- IV. Equality
- V. Equity
- VI. Solidarity

In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Values	Definition	Examples
Self-help	In co-operatives people help each other whilst helping themselves by working together for mutual benefit	
Self-responsibility	Individuals within cooperatives act responsibly and play a full part in the organization	
Democracy	A co-operative is structured so that members have control over their organization	
Equality	Each member will have equal rights and benefits (according to their contribution)	
Equity	Members will be treated fairly and justify	
Solidarity	Members will support each other and other co-operatives	

The co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.

- I. Voluntary and Open Membership
- II. Democratic member Control
- III. Member Economic Participation
- IV. Autonomy and Independence
- V. Education, Training and Information
- VI. Co-operation among Co-operatives
- VII. Concern for Community

Co-operative Principles

Principles	Definition	Examples
Voluntary and open membership	Co-operatives are voluntary organizations open to everyone willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without discrimination	
Democratic member control	All members have an equal voice and a right to participate in decisions and policy making. Officials and elected representatives are accountable to the membership.	
Member economic participation	The capital of a co-operative is controlled democratically by its members and for their benefit. The basis of allocation of surpluses is approved by the members.	
Autonomy and independence	Co-operatives should always be controlled by their members, even when they enter into agreements with the government and other organizations.	
Education, training and information	Co-operatives are committed to the development of their members, representatives and staff in order to make the co-operative effective. they inform the public and young people of the benefits of co-operation.	
Co-operation among co-operatives	Co-operatives work together at local, regional, national and international levels to achieve their aims.	
Concern for the Community	Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.	

Why do co-operatives need members?

In your group, list the reasons why your / a co-operative needs members.

How many types of coop members do you know?

Member duties and rights

In your group, discuss what do you think the members' duties and rights are in your / a co-operative.

Advantages of being members

In your group, discuss the benefits people receive on becoming a member in a / your co-operative.

Illustrate the benefits with a picture.

Thank You !



Elena Badeanschi

Coordinator of international relationships and projects Office

FEDERAZIONE TRENTINA DELLA COOPERAZIONE

Via Segantini, 10 - 38122 Trento - Italy

elena.badeanschi@ftcoop.it

www.cooperazionetrentina.it