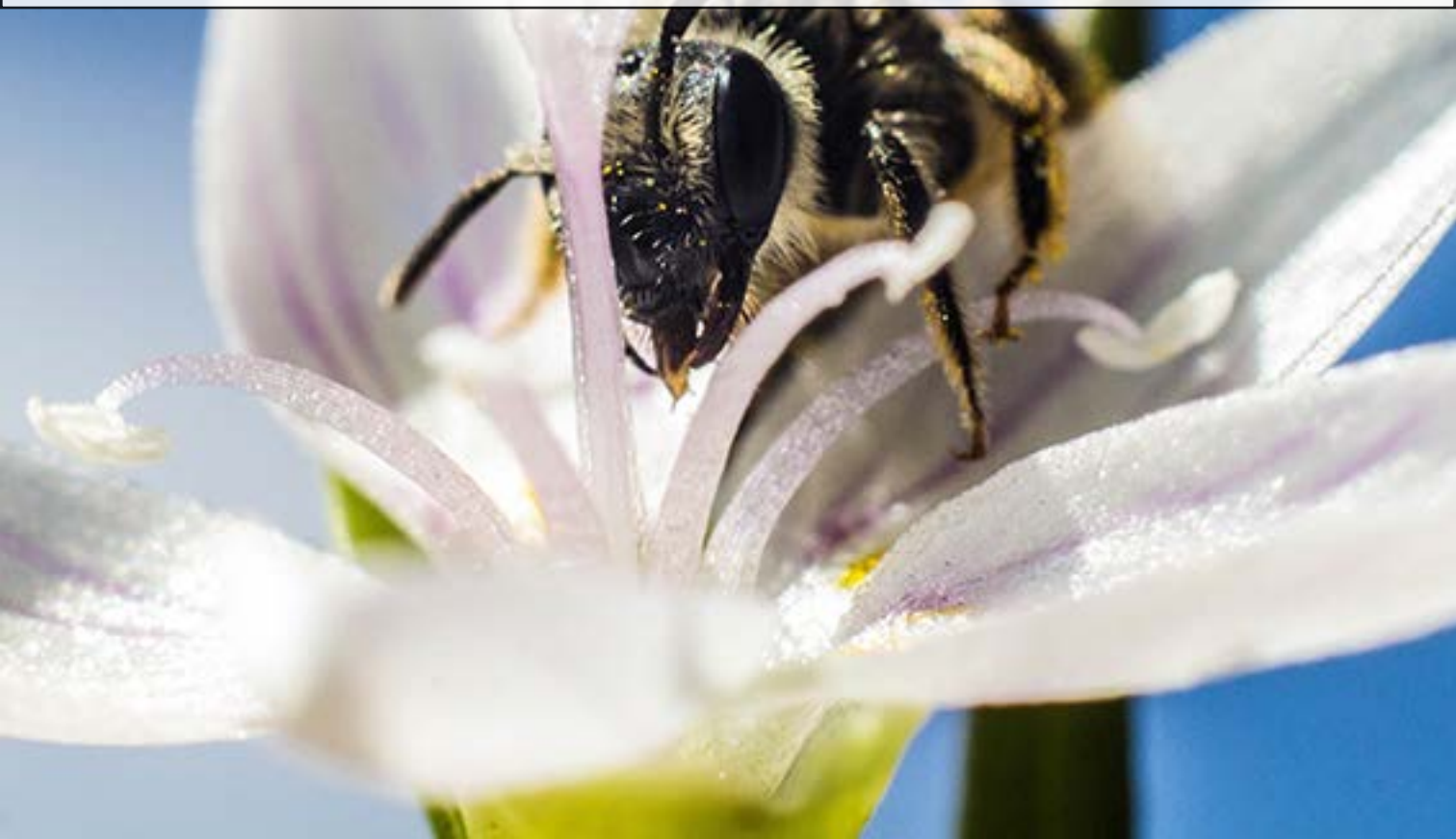


CECOP



CICOPA Europe

ACTIVITY REPORT 2018



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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



CECOP turns 40 this year. We have come a long way since our foundation in Manchester, but as we mentioned in our Elections Manifesto, we are ready for challenges, for transformation and for the future of work.

As always, workers are those who are most affected by changes.

Workers are constantly the focal point of our attention and we believe that cooperative life is able to provide them with the tools to be active protagonists in an economy which is increasingly conditioned by finance and digital transformation and is in great need of an ecological transition to-

wards a sustainable development model. 2018 has been a year of great and intense transformations for Europe, the European Union, CECOP and for cooperatives in our sector. We prepared for the European Elections that were held a few weeks ago, we took a stance on the issues that are dear to us and we voiced our concerns regarding the rise in anti-democratic sentiments throughout Europe. In the world of work, transformations, be it technical, societal or organizational, are on everyone's agenda.

Work, social protection, innovation, job creation and sustainability are the main topics CECOP has worked on in recent years and we intend to continue working on these issues since we are convinced that the cooperative model has many answers to these challenges.

It is important that we steer the transition to new economic models. Our cooperatives are engaged in these challenges and are working hard on innovation-related issues.

For this reason, at CECOP we are also busy looking at how to accompany digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain, always taking into account their application in the production system and the participation and involvement of members.

The transformation of work also has a significant influence on the care, education and health professions. The need to guarantee social cohesion and equity to an increasingly elderly European population highlights the role that social and mutual-based enterprises will be able to assume in the future.

As far as social issues are concerned, an important trend is the European Institutions' growing awareness of the need to address social problems and transformations in the labour market, giving deserved attention to social protection and the reduction of inequalities. As CECOP, we have insisted on highlighting that the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights would not only improve the social and labour market conditions of many European citizens, but also strengthen the economic potential of the European Union: in a nutshell: welfare is not a cost, but an investment. The European Pillar of Social Rights, though imperfect, represents an important change of direction. For this reason, it must be disseminated and must be the object of political confrontation to re-design a new phase of development of the European Union. Our ambition, as major actors within

the European social economy, is to demand that a "Common European Social Policy" becomes one of the pillars of the European Union.

CECOP is not an island; cooperation defines us both internally and externally: we carry out our work in alliance with other social economy organizations. In 2018, we became a member of Social Economy Europe. We collaborated closely with other institutions, such as the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Parliament and the Social Economy Intergroup, where we took the floor on several occasions to set out our vision and present our experiences. Furthermore, relations with the ETUC and the Social Platform have been boosted in the framework of the Alliance "Stand Up for the Social Pillar".

Many people acknowledge CECOP's work and cooperatives are today recognized and valued as an economic and work organization model capable of ensuring the real involvement of workers, civil society and local communities.

Cooperatives cannot be reduced to economic organizations and workers; they are real agents of change and social transformation. They drive the redistribution of resources so that they become more accessible and equitable for the workers and the communities. As the creators of concrete and valuable employment opportunities, without indulging in speculation, cooperatives are a great force for democratizing the economy.

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



2018 was an important year for the consolidation of our network. We signed a four-year-partnership agreement with the European Commission under the EaSI programme. The partnership will enhance our capacity to contribute to policy areas such as promotion of quality work, and to fight against poverty and social exclusion

Moreover, it will help CECOP's members to increase their knowledge about EU social policies. On top of providing us with financial stability and reinforcing our relationship with DG Employment, the partnership will also improve CECOP's visibility and strengthen our capacity building potential. By being appointed as a member of the GECES (European Commission's Expert group on social economy and social enterprises), CECOP has gained recognition and additional space to be heard by the European Commission.

The implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights was a high priority for us in 2018, and it went hand by hand with ever more strengthened partnerships, as the creation of the Alliance "Stand Up for the Pillar" can testify. In the perspective of joining forces for common fights, we enthusiastically became members of Social Economy Europe. A special attention was paid this year to the topic of youth: we organized a conference and produced promotional material (video) in order to give more visibility to young cooperators from our network.

On a more personal note, in 2018 I was honored to be appointed Secretary General of CECOP: the Board entrusted me with the management of a great, highly qualified team, strengthened by a new Policy Officer. It is with great pleasure that I will continue this work in 2019, in cooperation with members and partners.

2018 IN A GLANCE

FEBRUARY

- Board appoints a new Secretary General, Diana Dovgan, to replace Bruno Roelants, who left CECOP after 12 years of service

APRIL

- General Assembly in Brussels
- CECOP President speaks at the high-level conference on the Social Economy : “Economically sustainable and socially inclusive EU”, organized in Sofia (BG) in the framework of the Bulgarian presidency of the EU

MAY

- CECOP complies with the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

JUNE

- CECOP signs a four-year partnership (2018-2021) with the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, financed under the EaSI programme for Employment and Social Innovation
- Creation of an Alliance “Stand Up for the Social Pillar” with ETUC, Social Economy Europe, Social Platform and European Movement

JULY

- Secretary General speaks at the conference “Creating value together: Towards business partnerships between social economy and traditional enterprises”, organized by DG GROW



SEPTEMBER

- CECOP appointed as a member of the European Commission's expert group on social economy and social enterprises (GECES)
- Together with the members of the "Stand Up for the Social Pillar" Alliance, CECOP co-organizes the "Delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights: The role of the European Semester and the new MFF" event, which was held in the European Parliament
- Study visit to Slovenia
- The new policy officer, Mila Shamku, joins the team
- Preparation of the manifesto for the EU 2019 elections



OCTOBER

- CECOP President speaks at the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) in Bilbao (ES)



NOVEMBER

- CECOP organizes the conference, "What Future for Youth at Risk of Exclusion? How worker and social cooperatives contribute to social inclusion of young people", in Brussels
- Board meeting in Brussels
- CECOP becomes a member of Social Economy Europe
-



DECEMBER

- Together with its Spanish member COCETA, CECOP organizes a conference on the European Pillar of Social Rights in Madrid (ES)
- Publication of the first edition of the e-bulletin on EU social affairs (activity under the EaSI programme)

NETWORK

FIRST AND FOREMOST, **CECOP** BELONGS TO ITS MEMBERS. BEING PART OF **CECOP** MEANS BEING PART OF A NETWORK WHERE MEMBERS CAN EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES, BUILD PARTNERSHIPS AND DESIGN COMMON STRATEGIES. A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF OUR ENERGY IS INVESTED IN THE COORDINATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NETWORK



Statutory meetings

Statutory meetings are the space where democracy is put into practice inside our network. During the year, we organized two Board meetings, one General Assembly in Brussels, two online Executive Committees (meetings between the President and Vice-Presidents) and one in Brussels. At the Board meeting held on 22 February, Diana Dovgan was appointed the new Secretary General of CECOP to replace Bruno Roelants, who left CECOP after 12 years of service.



Study visit in Slovenia

The study visit was an opportunity to analyse the political and social context, as well as the development of organizations representing cooperatives in industry and services in Slovenia. We also visited some producers, craft and multi-stakeholders cooperatives, and discovered an increasing interest in the cooperative model among young people.



Management of the EU General Data Protection Regulation compliance

In accordance with the new European regulation aimed at strengthening data protection for people within the EU, or General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), CECOP has adopted its own data protection policy and put in place a series of internal measures for the protection of its members' and employees' data.



Participation in events organized by members:

- Secretary General spoke at the Smart Belgium General Assembly
- Secretary General spoke at the Cooperatives UK Congress



Internal Communication

Our internal newsletter, CECOP Link, keeps us close to our members. Four issues were published in 2018.

Part of a bigger coop family



CECOP is the sectoral organization of Cooperatives Europe, which brings together cooperatives from all sectors. CECOP's President is a Board member of Cooperatives Europe. We actively participate in statutory meetings, thematic working groups and coordination meetings on European policies, along with other European sectoral cooperative organizations.

CECOP is also the European regional organization of CICOPA, the world sectoral organization for industry and services. CECOP engages actively in CICOPA by hosting its secretariat.

ADVOCACY

CECOP REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS AND EXPRESSES THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF ITS MEMBERS TO THE EU INSTITUTIONS, OTHER EUROPEAN-LEVEL POLICY MAKERS, NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE WIDER COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT. WE PROMOTE WORKER OWNERSHIP, DEMOCRACY AT WORK, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH, QUALITY EMPLOYMENT, INCLUSION OF THE MOST DISADVANTAGED CITIZENS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

PARTICIPATION WITHIN EU INSTITUTIONS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

In 2018, CECOP was appointed a member of the European Commission's expert group on social economy and social enterprises (GECES), whose aim is to advise the EC on policy measures to strengthen the social economy and social enterprises ecosystem in the EU.

CECOP is taking an active part in two working sub-groups: the first on "Social investment and skills" and the second on "The role of clusters and similar forms of business cooperation in fostering the development of social economy".



DG GROW:

Participation in **SBA Follow Up** meetings: along with major EU networks representing SMEs, CECOP is regularly invited to take part in consultations on policies having an impact on small and medium enterprises

DG EMPL:

- Participation in **Stakeholder Dialogue** meetings: along with major EU networks, CECOP is regularly invited to take part in consultations and discussions on employment and social inclusion related policies
- Collaboration in the framework of the **EaSI partnership** agreement: the partnership provides us with a privileged space for exchanges and discussions about social inclusion-related policies with DG EMPL and other funded networks.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT & EESC

CECOP takes part in the European Parliament's Intergroup on Social Economy and the Intergroup on Public Goods and also maintains regular contact with some Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).

CECOP also collaborates with the European Economic and Social Committee.

EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

The European Pillar of Social Rights was proclaimed in November 2017 but the key issue in 2018 was its implementation.

Creation of the Alliance “Stand Up for the Social Pillar”

CECOP, together with the European Trade Unions Confederation, Social Platform, Social Economy Europe and the European Movement International, established a strategic alliance to call upon the European Institutions and member states to fully implement the 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

A conference was held in the European Parliament in September to launch this process, during which CECOP’s President took the floor in front of 120 participants.

WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILLAR IN MADRID (ES)*

Together with the Spanish members COCETA, CECOP organized a workshop to raise awareness about the European Pillar of Social Rights and discuss its impact on cooperatives and social economy enterprises.

Hosted by the Spanish Economic and Social Committee, the event saw the participation of several representatives of the Spanish cooperative movement, the social economy, third sector and public officials.

EVENT! Conference "What Future for Youth at Risk of Exclusion"*



In November, CECOP organized a conference in Brussels on the social inclusion of young people through cooperative work.

In the presence of a numerous and diversified audience (around 100 people) composed of cooperators from around Europe, students and researchers, national and EU public officials, six worker and social cooperative representatives from Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Italy and Spain had the opportunity to share insights into their daily work and to express their commitment to the social inclusion of young people.

Thanks to an enriching and prolific dialogue with partners and institutions such as the European Youth Forum, the European Anti-Poverty Network, the European Parliament and the European Commission, the cooperators were able to express specific demands to both national and EU decision makers.

These demands included: the promotion of a better ecosystem for cooperative work, recognition of cooperative work from the legal (in some countries there is no law regulating cooperatives), political and social point of view

VIDEO! “Better Jobs and Better Future: What cooperatives can do for young people?”*

CECOP has made three videos illustrating work and entrepreneurship opportunities provided to young people in Poland, France and Italy by cooperatives in industry and services with the support of its members, namely NAWUC (PL), CG Scop (FR) and Legacoop Produzione e Servizi (IT).

These videos show how cooperatives can enhance young people’s lives from several points of view: cooperatives provide them not only with work opportunities and inclusion, but also with a sense of belonging and a workplace for their voice to be heard. Watch the videos on our website!

European Commission’s initiative on access to social protection for non-standard workers

CECOP issued a position paper on this topic stressing the key role that cooperatives play in providing quality employment and security for non-standard workers

EC’s consultation on the socially responsible public procurement’s guide

The 2014 Directive on Public Procurements provides new opportunities to make better use of social clauses and considerations. This is particularly important since we know that public authorities, notably those at the local level, are reluctant to use these provisions due to the complexity of EU rules. CECOP has been advocating for a new EC guide on social clauses and considerations as part of its response to the EC’s consultation on the topic.



CECOP becomes member of Social Economy Europe

CECOP became an official member of Social Economy Europe (SEE) in November. The SEE was created in 2000 with the purpose of establishing a permanent dialogue between the social economy and the European Institutions.

Today, the SEE represents national and European organizations and networks of social economy enterprises, such as mutuals, foundations, associations, social enterprises and, since November, cooperatives in industry and services. CECOP is active in the Disability Working Group.

DG GROWTH conference “Creating value together”

CECOP was invited by DG GROWTH to contribute to its conference “Creating value together: Towards business partnerships between social economy and traditional enterprises”.

The conference aimed at bringing together representatives of social economy enterprises and “traditional enterprises”, policy makers, stakeholders and representatives of networks and umbrella organizations, in order to provide an opportunity to hold exchanges and open new paths for collaboration

The Global Social Economy Forum in Bilbao

This year's 4th edition of the forum was held in Bilbao (Spain) and saw the participation of the CECOP's President, who took the floor in the session on "Cooperatives' contribution to the collaborative economy".

EU elections 2019

We spent several months in 2018 to build a common message with our members to be included in CECOP's manifesto for the EU elections in 2019.



The European Day of Persons with Disabilities of the European Commission

In December 2018, CECOP took part in the European Day of Persons with Disabilities after closely following the European Disability Strategy and the European Accessibility Act. CECOP's delegation included the President of SCMVD, our Czech member

Partecipation on Members organized events

- Secretary General's intervention at the event "Social economy, governance, worker participation and new challenges for innovation from a European perspective", organized by Legacoop Sociali in Rome (IT)
- Secretary General's intervention at the Social Economy Conference co-organized by our Polish members NAUWC in Krakow (PL)

Communication

We invest a lot of energy to share our work and reach out to our audiences through our website and social media. We have published a large number of news items, articles, policy papers, videos and press releases.

A new biannual e-bulletin on EU social affairs addressed to members, partners and beyond was launched in 2018. The first edition was issued in December and it included updates and critical analysis on several EU social policy dossiers that could have an impact on cooperatives and social economy enterprises

Building partnerships

CECOP is a member of Social Economy Europe, REVES - European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy - and Social Platform, a wider umbrella organization representing tens of social NGOs.

Within this framework, we closely follow the Social Platform Working Groups (on Funding and on Social Standards). We continuously establish links and partnerships with other actors that pursue similar objectives (e.g. ETUC, etc.).

DEVELOPMENT

OUR NETWORK IS IN CONSTANT DEVELOPMENT. **CECOP** SUPPORTS THE CAPACITY OF INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE COOPERATIVES TO WORK WITH ONE ANOTHER THROUGH MUTUAL LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTS OF INTEREST.

4 YEARS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION UNDER THE EASI PROGRAMME

CECOP has signed a four-year-partnership agreement with DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, financed by the EaSI programme for Employment and Social Innovation supporting EU-level NGO networks active in the areas of social inclusion and poverty reduction.

The activities planned by CECOP for the 2018 to 2021 period are aimed at improving the capacity of the network to fight poverty and social exclusion, promoting decent work and social protection for non-standard workers.

They also aim at helping CECOP's members to implement EU social policies, provide feedback on, and contribute to, the latter, but also improve the network's visibility, extend its coverage in Europe and be fully recognized as a key actor in this field.

EASI ACTIVITIES IN 2018

- A research was conducted in order to collect information about non-standard form of employment and analyze how cooperatives could contribute to ensure quality employment and access to social protection.
- Two events were organized (conference on youth social inclusion in Brussels, and a workshop on the European Pillar of Social Rights in Madrid) and the preparation of the mutual learning session among CECOP members on cooperative contribution to social inclusion and fight against poverty
- Development of audiovisual products (videos illustrating employment opportunities that cooperative entrepreneurship can provide to young people across the EU) and an e-bulletin aimed mainly at disseminating EU social policies.
- Finally, the action allowed the consolidation of the network through the deepening of existing contacts with several organizations with whom CECOP has established stable partnerships in countries where CECOP has no members yet.



Participation in EU projects

#COOPLAB: educational tools about worker ownership

The project, which was coordinated by CECOP's French member CG Scop, produced a comprehensive set of educational resources aimed at students and their teachers to help them learn about cooperative entrepreneurship, with a specific focus on the participatory model of worker and social cooperatives.

All the pedagogical resources produced are available on the following website: www.cooplabor.eu

RIGHTSTOGROW: workers participation in social enterprises

In this project, which was led by DIESIS, a CECOP member, CECOP's contribution consists in the identification and collection of cooperative best practices which put forward a particularly innovative form of internal governance.

Moreover, the project provides for the political recommendations to be delivered in 2019. More information about the project: <http://r2g.diesis.coop>

EMEN project: migrants' entrepreneurship

CECOP is part of a consortium with 12 partners in the framework of the European Migrant Entrepreneurship Network (EMEN), supported by the EU's COSME programme. The project aims to strengthen support for migrants from third countries who wish to set up their own business.

For more information about the project: www.emen-project.eu/

EU EI4PHS project: personal and household services

The objective of the project, coordinated by Legacoop Sociali (IT), is to foster the awareness of employers and workers about workers' rights to information, consultation and participation in the personal care and household services sector and to boost business models and governance approaches that ensure the effective involvement of employees in management.

More information about the project: <http://www.cecop.coop/Workshop-on-personal-and-household-services>

Members survey for mutual learning

We consulted members to identify the topic, host organization and participants for a mutual learning session to be held in 2019.

On the basis of the results of the survey, the session will focus on the cooperative response to non-standard workers' needs and will be hosted by CECOP's Finnish member (Coop Finland).

During the session, the participants from five European countries (the United Kingdom, Portugal, Denmark, Italy and Belgium) will share their insights.

KNOWLEDGE

CARRYING OUT RESEARCH AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE COOPERATIVES IS VITAL TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT THE WORK OF CECOP AND ITS NETWORK.

Research: Quality employment for people in non-standard employment*

In 2018, CECOP launched new research on cooperatives' contribution to quality employment for people in non-standard employment, for which a publication is expected in 2019. We started desk research and the preparation of a survey aimed at understanding the main characteristics of the different cooperative types represented by CECOP members, notably with regards to the quality of work and employment. This research has a broader aim to help us better understand our identity as organizations, especially since we know that new emerging cooperative models (like cooperatives of self-employed people, freelancers, etc.) are growing in our network. .

EUROFOUND expert workshop on job creation and retention in cooperatives and social enterprises

CECOP took part in the expert workshop on “Job creation in cooperatives and social enterprises” organized by EUROFOUND, in the framework of a research project of the same name, which is expected to be published in 2019. The research aims at exploring cooperatives' and social enterprises' contribution to job creation and retention, the main characteristics of the jobs retained or created, as well as their working conditions and employment relations.

*Activity funded under the EaSI programme)

2018 IN FIGURES

2 BOARD MEETINGS



1 RESEARCH



4 EUROPEAN PROJECTS



1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY



2312 FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK



26 MEMBERS IN 15 EU COUNTRIES



3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES



4047 FOLLOWERS ON TWITTER



3 EVENTS



3 VIDEOS



+30 FOLLOWERS/MONTH ON TWITTER



OUR MEMBERS

FULL MEMBERS

AGCI PRODUZIONE E SERVIZI DI LAVORO (ITALY)

AGCI SOLIDARIETÀ (ITALY)

CGSCOP (FRANCE)

COCETA (SPAIN)

CONFCOOPERATIVE (ITALY)

COOP FINLAND (FINLAND)

CO-OPERATIVES UK (UNITED KINGDOM)

COOP PRODUCT SLOVAKIA (SLOVAKIA)

CONFECOOP (PORTUGAL)

KOOPERATIONEN DET KOOPERATIVE FÆLLESFORBUND (DENMARK)

KOOPERATTIVI MALTA (MALTA)

LEGACOOOP PRODUZIONE E SERVIZI (ITALY)

LEGACOOOP SOCIALI (ITALY)

NATIONAL AUDITING UNION OF WORKERS' COOPERATIVES (POLAND)

NATIONAL UNION OF WORKER PRODUCERS (BULGARIA)

UNION OF CZECH PRODUCTION COOPERATIVES (CZECH REPUBLIC)

NATIONAL UNION OF HANDICRAFT AND PRODUCTION CO-OPERATIVES (ROMANIA)

CONFESAL (SPAIN)

ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

COOPERAZIONE, FINANZA, IMPRESA (ITALY)

SWEDISH NETWORK OF COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (SWEDEN)

CREDIT COOPERATIF (France)

DIESIS (BELGIUM)

FÉDÉRATION SCOP BTP (FRANCE)

CONFCOOPERATIVE LAVORO E SERVIZI (ITALY)

FEDERSOLIDARIETÀ (ITALY)

SMARTbe (BELGIUM)

OUR TEAM



Diana Dovgan
Secretary General



Francesca Zaganelli
*Administration and
Membership Officer*



Mila Shamku
Policy Officer



Reza Opdebeeck
*Communication Of-
ficer*



Elisa Terrasi
*Development and
Study Officer*



Hyungsik Eum
Data Analyst

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2019

2019 will be a special year for us: CECOP turns 40!

On this occasion, we will organize events and activities to reflect on our main achievements and future challenges, but also to celebrate the cooperatives from our network that we proudly represent.

2019 is also the year of the European elections, an important moment to claim our members' demands and priorities for the 2019-2024 term.

Stay tuned...



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<https://www.youtube.com/user/CICOPAcoops>

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