

THE WORLD CO-OPERATIVE MONITOR PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

In October 2012, International Cooperative Alliance presented the [World Co-operative Monitor](#), a very interesting report on socio-economic impact of cooperatives at global level and in various Countries. The report has been realized in collaboration with [European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises](#) (EURICSE). The *World Co-operative Monitor Report* has been presented at the closing of the International Year of Cooperatives in Manchester and recalled during the official celebrations at the UN Palace in New York.

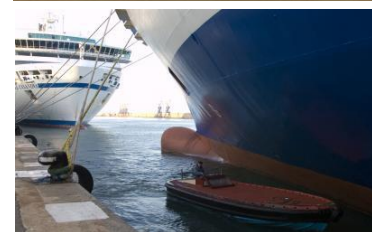
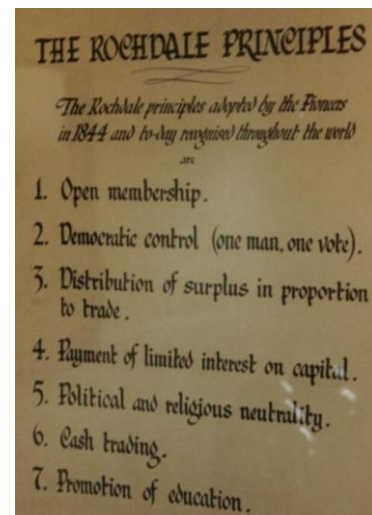
The goal of the International Cooperative Alliance, that has periodically published a report about the 300 largest co-operatives in the world, is to move beyond, partnering with other co-operative networks, sharing data and making it available to the co-operative community. This report, even if still exploratory in this way, is an overview of a significant part of the worldwide co-operative movement.

The history of co-operative movement starts in England, where in 1760 some farmers created a co-operative mill and in 1815 other workers founded a co-operative oven. In 1831 in France a first productive cooperative was born for publishing a newspaper and since 1848 in Germany the first Popular Banks and co-operative Rural Funds have been born, for letting artisans and farmers accessing credit through gathering their savings. The first statute of a cooperative was elaborated in 1844 in Rochdale, England, on the initiative of 28 textile workers, and nowadays it still represents a benchmark for millions of cooperatives around the world. Since that moment cooperatives have spread in all European Countries for responding to specific issues with a solidarity principle. Co-operative societies are indeed different from other companies exactly because they are not based on the distribution of profits among the associates, but on the aim of directly providing the associates with goods or services or job opportunities, with conditions that are more favorable than the ones the market offers.

Among other data, the *World Co-operative Monitor* presents the results of more than 2000 cooperatives from 61 Countries, managing a yearly turnover of more than 100 million dollars, and operating in sectors as insurances and mutuals, agriculture and food industries, consumer and retail, banking and financial services, industry and utilities, health and social care, housing. These data clearly 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

[World Cooperative Monitor](#)





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