

Europe Region of the International
Co-operative Alliance

Co-operatives House Europe
Avenue Milcamps 105
BE – 1030 Brussels

Tel. +32 2 743 10 33
Web. www.coopseurope.coop

Increasing development opportunities for cooperatives

The EU Commission's new Multi-annual Development Programme 2014-2020 and how it affects cooperative enterprises and organisations

Important changes are expected in the EU's new development and cooperation budget as the European Union is preparing its next Multiannual Program 2014-2020. In particular, a new thematic line dedicated to 'Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities in Development' will replace the current 'Non State Actors' program. This leaflet intends to outline the major changes, and how they affect cooperative enterprises and cooperative organisations.



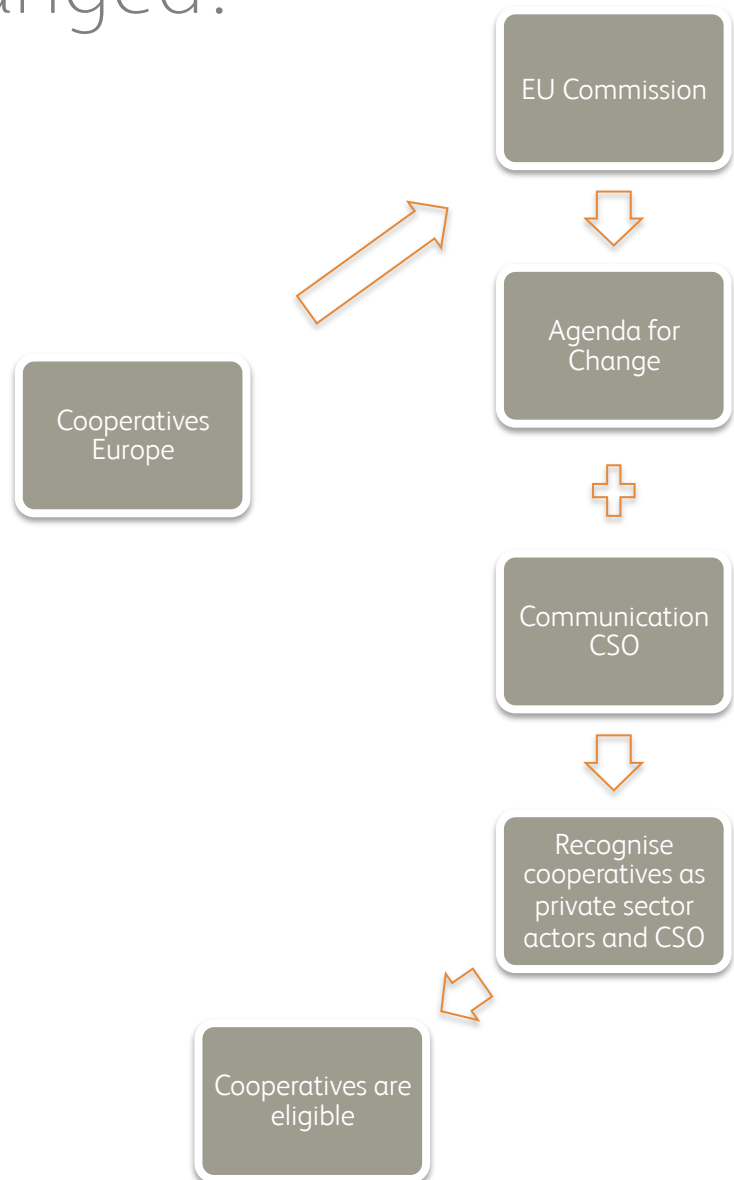
2007-2013
NSA
programme



2014-2020
CSO
programme

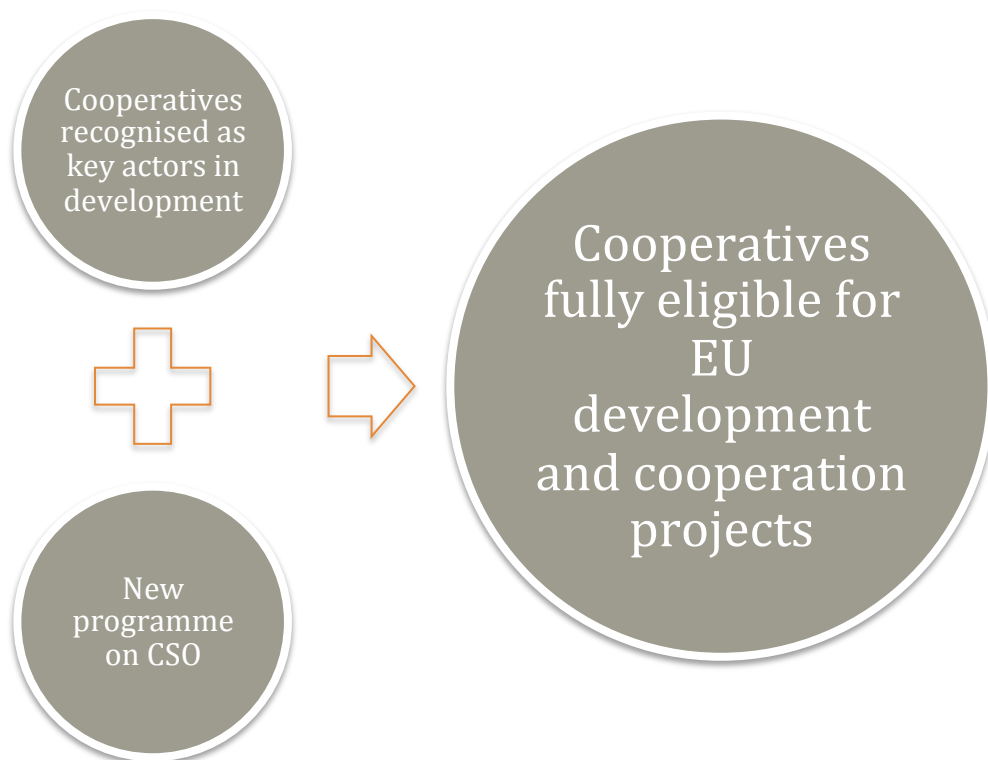
What has changed?

This shift follows the political guidelines laid down in the 'Agenda for Change' and the communication on 'Europe's Engagement with Civil Society in External Relations'. Cooperatives Europe advocated in both cases for a clear recognition of cooperatives with positive results: both documents underline cooperative enterprises as key actors in economic and social development. While the 'Agenda for Change' highlights the importance of cooperatives in the local private sector, the Communication on Civil Society recognizes the particularities of cooperatives as private sector actors that also have embedded critical features of civil society organisations, such as member ownership.



Why is this change so important?

Under the previous Non State Actors programme, cooperative organisations experienced obstacles in participating in EU projects, as eligibility criteria mostly excluded them. The new thematic programme focuses on Civil Society Organisations: this means that cooperatives, to which the previously mentioned political documents refer as private actors within civil society, are now fully eligible to participate in this new EU thematic program. This has opened a door for new cooperative development opportunities in the South.



What to do concretely?

Roughly 70-80 % of this budget line is dedicated to country-level interventions and accordingly will be dispersed via the EU Delegations. Therefore, it is important that cooperative organisations establish and strengthen contact with their respective EU Delegation to learn more about opportunities for 2014-2020.

On this website you will be able to find a list of delegations of the European Union:
http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/index_en.htm.

Contact

If you wish to know more about Cooperatives Europe activities in international development and cooperation, please, visit our website (www.coopseurope.coop) or contact:

Marc Noel
Cooperative Development Manager
m.noel@coopseurope.coop