**PRESS RELEASE**

COOPERATIVES EUROPE LAUNCHES **COOPEDIA** –
open source knowledge base: **coopedia.starter.coop**

**On the 8th of September, Cooperatives Europe, as an activity under the ICA-EU partnership (coops4dev), released the Coopedia Knowledge Base – a collaborative search engine listing resources (guides, articles, videos, books and more) on cooperative entrepreneurship. Developed with cooperators in mind, Coopedia aims to gather the cooperative movement behind its collaborative aspect, giving cooperative experts the opportunity to reference their own resources and build a 'one-stop shop' for cooperative knowledge that may typically be scattered around different websites.**

Coopedia will be particularly relevant to **young entrepreneurs** setting up new cooperative businesses worldwide, as well as students and researchers wanting to know more about the cooperative business model and its added value. Resources may be found on many topics related to cooperative entrepreneurship and the quality and relevance of the content are guaranteed through peer-review among cooperative experts. The resources may be filtered by topic, type and language.

The innovative software is based on Startin'blox technology – a freely available, modular and easy-to-use tool to build decentralised applications. As an **open-source software,** its code can be used and modified by anyone, following the fifth cooperative principle (education, training and information).

Cooperatives and cooperative umbrella organisations are particularly encouraged to implement their version of the Knowledge Base on their respective websites, where all referenced resources will be available alongside user's own generated modules, for example restricted areas or chat boxes. Cooperatives Europe will be covering the costs of installation of the Coopedia iteration of the Knowledge Base for two of its members (see the Expression of Interest).

The Knowledge Base is developed by Cooperatives Europe under the ICA-EU Partnership (#coops4dev). The idea emerged via the CoopStarter 2.0 project led by Cooperatives Europe and was implemented and upscaled via the Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs (GCE) programme, an activity of #coops4dev.

Agnes Mathis, Director at Cooperatives Europe commented: "Coopedia Knowledge Base will serve as a catalyst for new cooperative start-ups, knowledge exchange and new partnerships across the world. We are proud to have developed a software that will not only bring added value to our members, but to the cooperative movement worldwide – a direct impact of the ICA-EU partnership and the Erasmus+ project. Moreover, the current pandemic underlined even more the importance of digital innovation and knowledge sharing as key factors to ensure inclusive economic growth. Coopedia is a great example of it and a way of being a part of the process."

Discover the information leaflet

Discover the developer guide

Full press kit & logos

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**Cooperatives Europe** – the European region of the International Cooperative Alliance, is the European cross-sectoral organisation representing cooperative enterprises. On behalf of its 90 member organisations from 34 European countries across all business sectors it promotes the cooperative business model in Europe. Its members represent 140 million individual member cooperators owning 176,000 cooperative enterprises and providing jobs to 4,7 million European citizens.

A **cooperative enterprise** is a group of people acting together to meet the common needs and aspirations of its members, sharing ownership and making decisions democratically.

**ICA-EU Partnership / #coops4dev** – In March 2016, the International Cooperative Alliance entered into a partnership with the European Commission, ushering in a new phase of collaboration on strengthening the cooperative movement as key actor in international development. Acting as partners, the Regional and Global offices of the ICA are driving the actions, in collaboration with members, sectors, civil society organisations, international institutions and the EU, aiming at strengthening the cooperative voice in international development programs and policies.

## THE COOPEDIA KNOWLEDGE BASE

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