



What We Know about Our Cooperative Identity

RESULTS OF 2022 SURVEY

JUNE 2023

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

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June 2023

International Cooperative Alliance



The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) is an independent, non-governmental organisation established in 1895 to unite, represent and serve cooperatives worldwide. It provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action for and about cooperatives.

The ICA's members are international and national cooperative organisations from all sectors of the economy, namely agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and industry & services. The ICA has members from over 100 countries, representing over one billion memberships worldwide.

The ICA is the custodian of [the Statement on the Cooperative Identity](#), which includes a definition, 10 values and 7 operational principles: it is the minimum common denominator for all cooperatives in all sectors and all regions.

What We Know about Our Cooperative Identity – Results of 2022 Survey on the Cooperative Identity

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Executive summary

Introduction

A quarter century on since the adoption of the *Statement on the Cooperative Identity* (SCI) in 1995, the ICA has embarked upon an extensive reflection intended to deepen our shared understanding of the cooperative identity and to explore how well the Identity Statement has stood the test of time. One of the first steps was a global survey conducted among cooperative leaders, members, researchers and regulators around the world. This first survey was intended to test the state of awareness of the *Statement on the Cooperative identity* and to elicit respondents' top-of-mind thoughts on how well the statement has served individual cooperatives and the wider cooperative movement.

Survey overview

The Cooperative Identity Survey was conducted online via SurveyMonkey between April and 31 October 2022. The survey received 2,290 completed responses from 136 countries. Although it was not designed as a sample survey using systematic sampling, it does represent geographically, linguistically, and culturally diverse, well-distributed voices of ICA members, individual cooperatives and cooperators, along with cooperative experts worldwide.

Analysis of results

The survey mainly questioned what people think of the Cooperative Identity and founding documents. The results show that in general, respondents positively understand the current Statement on the Cooperative Identity, particularly its impact on their cooperatives and businesses. Except for the respondent type and country factor, respondents' demographical and organisational backgrounds did not make significant differences.

Familiarity with the founding documents on cooperative identity

There is strong but not universal familiarity with the foundational cooperative identity documents. Respondents are **more familiar with the seven Cooperative Principles** than the *Statement on the Cooperative Identity* as a whole. Far fewer people are familiar with the *ICA Guidance Notes on Cooperative Principles*.

Importance of a specific principle to distinguish cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises

Although the importance of all principles is quite well and evenly recognised, respondents **most strongly agreed on the “Democratic member control” principle**.

What do people think about the Cooperative Identity and founding documents?

All respondent types except Expert respondents strongly agreed that **the SCI has an impact on cooperatives in terms of entrepreneurship and competitiveness**. They think that their cooperatives function in accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles, of which they are proud. The Cooperative Identity makes a meaningful difference to how they run their businesses and leads to business success. Therefore, they try to market this cooperative difference as a competitive advantage.

To a lesser extent than the impact of the SCI on cooperatives, all respondent types except Expert respondents agreed that, having stood the test of time, **the SCI is still relevant in expressing the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative model, as well as capturing cooperatives' responsibility towards society at large and future generations**. The SCI is also considered to accommodate the diversity of cooperative types seen today.

There was a strong emphasis on **the responsibility of sectoral and apex organisations to make their members aware of the SCI**.

As external observers, **Expert respondents seem to have a more idealised understanding of the SCI and a more critical view of its implementation**. Whilst they agreed more strongly that the SCI is still relevant as an ideal, they believe cooperatives do not respect it. This gap between the ideal and the reality leads them to consider the risk of cooperatives losing ground to other social actors in future challenges. However, this critical view is not fully shared with other respondent types.

In general, all respondent types consider that **the Statement of the Cooperative Identity is not actively promoted**; particularly in terms of government actors' awareness and education on SCI. Organisation respondents and Individual Cooperator respondents tend to think that their cooperatives are taking sufficient steps to inform members and employees of the Cooperative Values and Principles, while Expert respondents do not agree.

Furthermore, all respondent types expressed that the **laws and regulations governing cooperatives in their countries are not in so much conflict with the SCI**.

Country analysis

The countries analysis, focusing on the questions related to the concept of "*Negative diagnostics on the current situation - Are cooperatives losing ground to other actors?*" shows very contrasting trends between countries.

- Respondents from some countries, such as Nigeria, the Philippines, Korea, Argentina and Finland do not agree that cooperatives are losing ground to other actors.
- Those from other countries, such as Brazil, Spain, India, Kenya and France (Greece and Colombia to some extent) had a medium level of agreement (similar to the average of TOTAL).
- Some countries in particular were more strongly concerned about situations in which cooperatives are losing ground, such as the USA, Canada, Australia, Mexico, Italy, the UK and Japan.

Analysis of comments - Four different positions concerning the current SCI

The comments directly expressed by respondents provide valuable information concerning what people think about the Cooperative Identity and the SCI. After qualitatively analysing the

comments using grounded theory, a conceptual structure emerged with four different positions surrounding the Cooperative Identity and related founding documents. These positions are:

- The current SCI is good enough (A);
- The current SCI needs to be updated (B);
- A more balanced approach is needed to fulfil the original mission of cooperatives (C);
- The SCI is hypocritical (D).

As the objective of the analysis was not to measure the weight of each position in quantitative terms but to identify different positions and their related arguments, these positions should be understood as a key to guide further discussions on the Cooperative Identity, rather than a definitive result representing the distribution of different opinions.

The current SCI is good enough (A)

This position recognises that the current SCI as an ideal is still relevant. It considers that the SCI works well as an ideal as regards the following:

- It expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative model;
- It accommodates the diversity of cooperative types;
- It enables a distinction between genuine cooperatives and false cooperatives;
- It captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large and to future generations.

However, this position contains two different sub-positions.

The current SCI also works well in reality (A-1).

- This sub-position reflects a very normative approach which considers the current SCI as the supreme and sacred statement. According to this sub-position, the current SCI works well in reality (or at least it should work).
- This normative aspect is strengthened by the fact that the contents of the SCI are formally integrated into some national legislations.
- The logical conclusion of this position is not to change the current SCI. However, this conclusion seems to be significantly related to the concerns raised by position C, which emphasises the balance between the member-oriented approach and social issue-oriented approach, as represented by the current SCI. As the current SCI is based on a historical compromise between two approaches (with the inclusion of Principle 7), position C seems concerned that new demands for updating the SCI – mainly supported by the social issue-oriented approach – might upset the balance, resulting in cooperatives losing sight of their original mission (members' interests and economic democracy) in favour of a more socially oriented mission.

The current SCI works well as an ideal, but not so much in reality (A-2).

- According to this sub-position, there is a gap between the ideal of the SCI and the reality on the ground. It is not an issue with the SCI itself; rather, it is a problem for any cooperatives that do not respect it and even try to hide their cooperative identity.
- The logical conclusion of this sub-position is to strengthen the concrete implementation of the SCI.

The current SCI needs to be updated (B)

This position does not propose significant changes to the SCI, but at least a review of it and, if possible, a revision:

- Mainly because of the need to keep up with the changing world;
- but also, because of the current style of the SCI
 - which is too abstract, ideological, general and ambiguous. Therefore, it needs to be more specific and practical;
 - (*contrary to the above opinion*) which is too concrete and prescriptive. Therefore, it needs to be more flexible according to contexts;
 - which needs to be written in plainer and more modern language.
- because of certain philosophical aspects, including:
 - it has a Eurocentric perspective, and it needs to account for anticolonialism and anti-oppression
 - it diverges from the original Rochdale Principles

Respondents shared their ideas and opinions on the definition, values and principles of the current SCI. They also provided their opinions on additional topics to be considered and, if possible, added to the SCI.

- Environment and sustainability
- Responsibility to the future generation
- Work and employment in cooperatives
- Diversity, equity and inclusion
- Gender equality
- Against increasing inequality
- Peace
- Governance
- Economic aspects
- Non-profit purpose
- Technology

Most of the ideas proposing an update of the SCI seem to be motivated by the social issue-oriented approach, emphasising the social dimension of cooperatives and their role in dealing with social issues. This is why most proposals to be added to the current SCI are centred on the 7th Principle.

A more balanced approach is needed to fulfil the original mission of cooperatives (C)

This position stresses that cooperatives should focus more on their members and economic equity/equality and justice: their original mission. Whilst it does not neglect the social dimension of cooperatives, priority is given to the original mission, or at least the balance between members' interests and that of the community at large.

The logical conclusion of this position does not necessarily lead to the question of whether the SCI needs to be kept as is or updated. On the one hand (as explained above), this position might lead to proposing the current SCI remains as it is. On the other hand, it might be related to critical opinions of the SCI, Principle 7 in particular.

Furthermore, this position considers the social issue-oriented approach as being influenced by Western neoliberalism, which tries to move the responsibility for social issues from the government to private actors including cooperatives. Some respondents even suspected that this survey was motivated by this approach, aiming to modify the SCI towards a more social orientation, which could in turn weaken the original mission of economic equity/equality through member-based economic activities.

The SCI is hypocritical (D)

This position represents various opinions that criticise the normative nature of the SCI and its proponents. According to this position, the proponents of the SCI – who are usually cooperative elites (leaders or active members) – try to dictate other members' thoughts and acts, but they do not always put the SCI into practice. This perception seems to create respondents' cynical attitudes vis-à-vis the SCI as a norm and its proponents, such as people (cooperative elites) and authorities (cooperatives and the cooperative movement) which they consider hypocritical.

This position does not stem from simple and naïve complaints but tries to find their legitimacy in the real world. It represents a contrast between the normative nature of the SCI and its proponents, on one hand, and people in the real world who are not interested in the Cooperative Identity, on the other. Whereas the real world could not always be clearly defined nor strictly measured by a specific normative viewpoint, business success may be a more important and measurable criteria in the real world.

Respondents from this position are neither 'for' nor 'against' the review or update of the current SCI but are negative about the whole discussion on the Cooperative Identity because, for them, it looks like a waste of time and an inward-looking position.

Foreword

Adopted in Manchester in 1995, the *Statement on the Cooperative Identity* set out for the first time the cooperative and ethical values that lie behind the principles drawn up by the Rochdale Pioneers and later adopted by the international movement; provided a clear definition of the cooperative business model; and updated the cooperative principles to reflect the contemporary features of the movement. A quarter century on, the ICA has embarked upon an extensive reflection intended to deepen our shared understanding of the cooperative identity and to explore how well the Identity Statement has stood the test of time. Through a global reflection spanning all sectors of the global cooperative movement, the ICA seeks to

- engage our movement's current and future leaders in examining the cooperative identity;
- enhance cooperatives' understanding of the cooperative identity and increase its strategic value in their eyes;
- stimulate cooperatives to take actions consistent with our common cooperative identity to address the problems facing our world today;
- determine whether the *Statement on the Cooperative Identity* remains fit for purpose; and
- identify actions the ICA and its members can take to refresh, deepen and protect the cooperative identity.

Launched at the 33rd World Cooperative Congress in 2021, the multi-year consultation comprises educational webinars, surveys, an online discussion forum and self-guided consultation events, both in-person and virtual, held at the sectoral, national and regional level. An advisory group established by the board of the ICA and tasked with planning and overseeing the consultation will reflect on the views expressed by participants throughout the consultation, study existing materials on the cooperative identity, deliberate on the key consultation questions, and table a set of recommendations to the ICA Identity Committee and Board. The Board will review those recommendations and report its findings to the 2024 General Assembly. Should any changes to the Identity Statement be contemplated, these will be considered at a world cooperative congress and the 2025 ICA General Assembly.

One of the first steps in the consultation process was a global survey conducted among cooperative leaders, members, researchers and regulators around the world between April and October 2022. This first survey was intended to test the state of awareness of the *Statement on the Cooperative identity* and to elicit respondents' top-of-mind thoughts on how well the statement has served individual cooperatives and the wider cooperative movement. Preliminary survey results were presented at a public webinar in December 2022. A recording of that event may be viewed [here](#). The following report sets out comprehensive results from the survey, with key findings summarized in the main report and more detailed information provided in the annexes.

The survey was open to anyone interested in the subject and, as such, was not designed based on a systematic sampling method. The results must not be taken therefore as representative of the views of either the worldwide cooperative movement or the ICA

membership. Nonetheless, attracting 2 290 complete responses in 11 languages from 136 countries, the survey served to highlight the rich diversity of opinions on the cooperative identity across the globe and to identify topics meriting deeper exploration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexandra Wilson". The script is cursive and fluid.

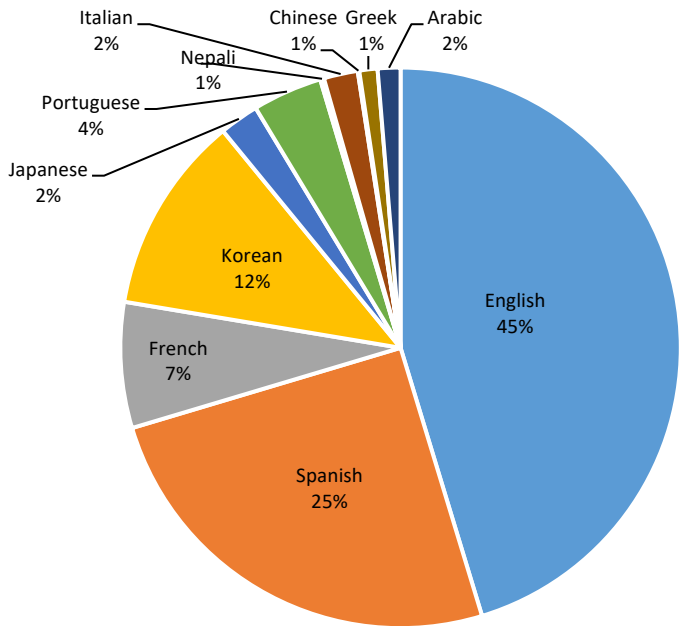
Alexandra Wilson
Chair, Cooperative identity Advisory Group
June 2023

Overview

The Cooperative Identity Survey was conducted online via SurveyMonkey between April and 31 October 2022. The survey received 2,290 completed responses from 136 countries¹. Although it was not designed as a sample survey using systematic sampling, it does represent geographically, linguistically, and culturally diverse, well-distributed voices of ICA members, individual cooperatives and cooperators, along with cooperative experts worldwide.

Language

Besides the three ICA working languages (English, Spanish and French), the survey was translated into 8 languages thanks to collaborations with the ICA members². Responses in English represent almost half of all responses (45.33%), followed by Spanish (25.07%), Korean (11.44%), French (7.25%) and Portuguese (4.02%) among others.



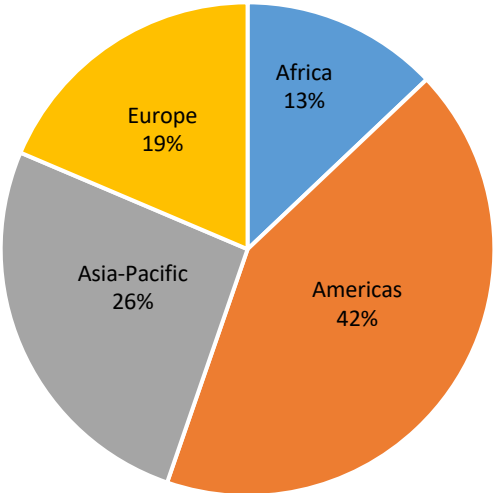
¹ The number of total responses was 4,380. Out of all responses, 2,290 responses were completed (52.28%). Some uncompleted responses were duplications of completed responses as respondents started answering the survey several times before completing it. Other uncompleted responses represented those which simply stopped answering.

² See Annex 3 for a list of collaborators who contributed to the translation.

Language	N° of completed responses
English	1038 (45.33%)
Spanish	574 (25.07%)
French	166 (7.25%)
Korean	262 (11.44%)
Portuguese	92 (4.02%)
Japanese	52 (2.27%)
Italian	45 (1.97%)
Arabic	30 (1.31%)
Greek	24 (1.05%)
Nepali	5 (0.22%)
Chinese	2 (0.09%)
TOTAL	2290 (100.00%)

Region³

The responses came from 136 countries. The Americas region represents the largest percentage of responses (42.4%), followed by Asia-Pacific (26.1%), Europe (18.6%) and Africa (12.9%). The survey covered 97 of the total 107 countries in which the ICA has members⁴.



³ In this report, regions are defined according to the ICA regional structures: Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe. For this reason, Europe includes Turkey and Israel.

⁴ Missing countries among those with ICA members are Barbados, Bhutan, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Mauritius, Moldova, Mozambique and Vanuatu.

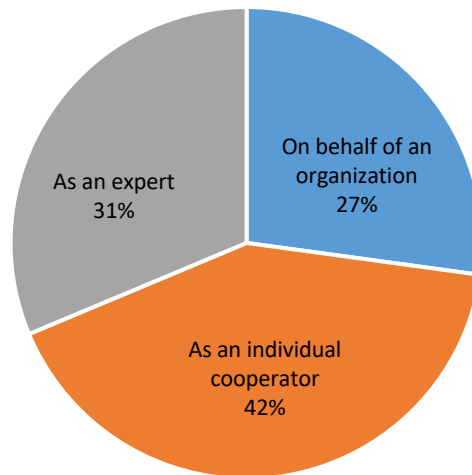
Region (number of countries)	N° of completed responses
Africa (39)	296 (12.9%)
Americas (29)	970 (42.4%)
Asia-Pacific (33)	598 (26.1%)
Europe (35)	426 (18.6%)
TOTAL (136)	2290 (100%)

In terms of countries, those with the largest numbers of responses (more than 100) are from the Americas, except the Republic of Korea, with the largest single number of responses (269 responses, 11.75%). 12 countries received more than 50 responses. See Annex 1 for the full list of responses by country and by language.

Country	English	Spanish	French	Other	TOTAL
Republic of Korea	7		1	261 (KR)	269 (11.75%)
Canada	137		45		182 (7.95%)
Colombia	5	158			163 (7.12%)
Argentina	6	135	1		142 (6.20%)
United States of America	136	2			138 (6.03%)
Brazil	12	16		86 (PT)	114 (4.98%)
Spain	9	68		1 (IT)	78 (3.41%)
India	68				68 (2.97%)
Japan	13			52 (JP)	65 (2.84%)
United Kingdom	61				62 (2.71%)
Nigeria	60				60 (2.62%)
Italy	15		1	44 (IT)	60 (2.62%)
Other 124 countries	509	195	119	68	889 (38.82%)
TOTAL	1038	574	166	512	2290 (100%)

Respondent type

The survey was designed to listen to different types of respondents by using three different questionnaires. Although there was no specific control, responses were distributed evenly among three respondent types.



Respondent type	N° of completed responses
On behalf of an organisation	622 (27.2%)
As an individual cooperator	951 (41.5%)
As an expert	717 (31.3%)
TOTAL	2290 (100%)

Most questions in these three questionnaires aimed to get the same information, but questions were expressed differently, taking the different positions of respondents into account. Some questions also specifically addressed certain respondent types.

However, the questions related to information on respondents were different as the information required for further analysis differs from one type to another.

Organisation	Individual cooperator	Expert
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Region - ICA membership status - Organisation type - Age of organisation - Number of members - Number of employees - Turnover in USD - Total assets in USD - Cooperative type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Region - Gender - Age - Years of involvement in the cooperative movement - Number of cooperatives in which you currently hold a membership - Form of cooperative involvement - Formal training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Region - Gender - Age - Organisational type - Years of involvement in the cooperative movement - Number of cooperatives in which you currently hold a membership

For the purpose of the analysis, in addition to the three different questionnaires, the aggregated responses to common questions were considered as a separate dataset in the analysis.

The questionnaire for respondents “on behalf of an organisation” includes 141 responses from ICA direct members (including 23 double answers from the same member and one region). In this way, 118⁵ out of the 314 ICA members (as of November 2022) participated in the survey (37.58%).

Methodological consideration

Conceptual framework for grouping questions

To facilitate the analysis, through a factor analysis which statistically supports the interrelatedness of certain groups of questions⁶, questions were grouped under four broader concepts (except three questions for which the interrelatedness with any other groups was not statistically supported).

- *Relevance of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity*
 - This concept relates to whether the Statement on the Cooperative Identity (the SCI) works well as criteria for distinguishing cooperatives from other entities and effectively guides cooperatives to answer today’s challenges. It focuses more on the nature of the SCI itself.
- *Impact of the SCI on cooperatives in entrepreneurship and competitiveness terms*
 - This concept relates to whether cooperatives operate in accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles which, in turn, have an effective impact on cooperatives’ businesses and competitiveness.
- *Active promotion of the SCI*
 - This concept relates to whether cooperatives and stakeholders are properly aware of the Cooperative Identity enshrined in the SCI and promote it to raise awareness among various groups of people.
- *Negative diagnostics on the current situation - Are cooperatives losing ground to other actors?*
 - This concept attempts to understand whether cooperatives are falling behind other social actors in the realm of certain social issues such as inclusion, inequality and sustainable development.

In addition to the broader concepts, two groups of questions were specially designed: **Familiarity with important documents** and **Importance of each principle in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of enterprises**. The list of questions according to this conceptual framework can be found in Annex 5.

Analysis methods

All data were treated with SPSS software in the following order⁷:

⁵ See Annex 2 for the list of ICA direct members that answered the survey.

⁶ Factor analysis attempts to identify underlying variables, or **factors**, that explain the pattern of correlations within a set of observed variables. Factor analysis is often used in data reduction to identify a small number of factors that explain most of the variance observed in a much larger number of manifest variables. For more technical explanation, see [HERE](#).

⁷ The statistical analysis was conducted with help of Kwangjin HUH, a researcher from Sungkonghoe University, Korea.

-
- Description of data to check the frequency and percentage of variables⁸, as well as mean and standard deviation for questions⁹.
 - One-way ANOVA test to check sub-groups in which variables make significant differences to which questions.
 - Scheffe test to compare sub-groups in a variable (with a significant difference) for their order and degree of difference.

All comments were analysed using the grounded theory method to identify different arguments related to the SCI and also to structure a conceptual framework that could be used for further discussion on the Cooperative Identity.

⁸ See Annex 4 for a full description of all variables in different respondent types.

⁹ See Annex 6 for a full description of the means and standard deviation for all questions.

Analysis of results

The survey mainly questioned what people think of the Cooperative Identity and founding documents. The result shows that in general, respondents positively understand the current SCI, particularly its impact on their cooperatives and businesses. Except for the respondent type and country factor, respondents' demographic and organisational backgrounds did not make significant differences.

Familiarity with the founding documents on cooperative identity

There is strong but not universal familiarity with the foundational cooperative identity documents. Respondents are more familiar with the seven *Cooperative Principles* than the *Statement on the Cooperative Identity* as a whole. Far fewer people are familiar with the *ICA Guidance Notes on Cooperative Principles*.

Some respondents credit the Guidance Notes with providing helpful interpretation. Others find them too long and too detailed. Another group disagrees with certain aspects of the notes.

	All responses			Organisations			Individual cooperators			Experts		
	N	Mean	S. D.	N	Mean	S. D.	N	Mean	S. D.	N	Mean	S. D.
the seven Cooperative Principles	2290	4,29	1,173	622	4,36	1,083	951	3,96	1,368	717	4,67	0,782
the Statement on the Cooperative Identity	2290	3,91	1,282	622	3,87	1,253	951	3,55	1,391	717	4,43	0,942
the Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles	2290	3,45	1,39	622	3,49	1,364	951	3,12	1,446	717	3,84	1,219

* N – Number / S.D. – Standard Deviation

Importance of a specific principle to distinguish cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises

It is important to recognise that the difference between the means of each principle's rated agreement was very small. Therefore, we can say that the importance of all principles is quite well and evenly recognised.

However, if we consider the order of means, respondents **agreed strongest on the “Democratic member control” Principle**. This demonstrates that democratic member control is the most important characteristic of cooperatives in distinguishing them from other forms of enterprises.

In turn, “Education, training and information” and “Cooperation among cooperatives” obtained the lowest levels of agreement. This shows that these principles are seen as less vital elements in terms of defining cooperatives (not necessarily that these principles are shared with other types of enterprises).

Four other principles yielded different levels of agreement according to different respondent types.

	All responses Mean (order)	Organisation Mean (order)	Individual cooperator Mean (order)	Expert Mean (order)
Democratic member control	4,41 (1)	4,5 (1)	4,3 (1)	4,48 (1)
Voluntary and open membership	4,36 (2)	4,5 (1)	4,3 (1)	4,31 (3)
Member economic participation	4,32 (3)	4,39 (5)	4,23 (3)	4,38 (2)
Concern for community	4,27 (4)	4,42 (3)	4,2 (5)	4,24 (4)
Autonomy and independence	4,27 (5)	4,4 (4)	4,21 (4)	4,22 (5)
Education, training and information	4,2 (6)	4,28 (6)	4,17 (6)	4,18 (6)
Cooperation among cooperatives	4,13 (7)	4,24 (7)	4,07 (7)	4,13 (7)

What do people think of the Cooperative Identity and founding documents?

All types of respondents except Expert respondents strongly agreed that **the SCI has an impact on cooperatives in terms of entrepreneurship and competitiveness** (coloured in dark orange). They think that their cooperatives function in accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles, of which they are proud. The Cooperative Identity makes a meaningful difference to how they run their business and leads to business success. Therefore, they try to market this cooperative difference as a competitive advantage.

To a lesser extent than the impact of the SCI on cooperatives, all respondent types except Expert respondents agreed that, having stood the test of time, **the SCI is still relevant in expressing the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative model, as well as capturing cooperatives' responsibility towards society at large and future generations** (coloured in green). The SCI is also considered to accommodate the diversity of cooperative types seen today.

There was a strong emphasis on **the responsibility of sectoral and apex organisations to make their members aware of the SCI**.

As external observers, **Expert respondents seem to have a more idealised understanding of the SCI and a more critical view of its implementation**. Whilst they agreed more strongly that the SCI is still relevant as an ideal, they believe cooperatives do not respect it. This gap between the ideal and the reality leads them to consider the risk of cooperatives losing ground to other social actors in the fields of future challenges (coloured in yellow). However, this critical view is fully not shared with other respondent types.

In general, all respondent types consider that **the Statement of the Cooperative Identity is not actively promoted** (coloured in blue); particularly in terms of government actors' awareness and education on SCI. Organisation respondents and Individual Cooperator respondents tend to think that their cooperatives take sufficient steps to inform members and employees of the Cooperative Values and Principles, while Expert respondents do not agree.

Furthermore, all respondent types expressed that **the laws and regulations governing cooperatives in their countries are in so much conflict with the SCI**.

All responses	Organisation	Individual cooperator	Expert
g. Our cooperative identity makes a meaningful difference to how we run our business (or to how our members run their business).	x. We are proud of our cooperative identity.	s. The cooperatives I belong to are proud of their cooperative identity.	a. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity (i.e., definition of a cooperative, Values and Principles) fully expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative enterprise model.
h. The cooperative identity, including the Values and Principles, contributes to the business success of our cooperative (or to the business success of the cooperatives we represent).	g. Our cooperative identity makes a meaningful difference to how we run our business (or to how our members run their business).	g. The cooperative identity, including the Values and Principles, contributes to the business success of cooperatives.	g. The cooperative identity, including the Values and Principles, contributes to the business success of cooperatives.
v. Sectoral and apex cooperative bodies have a responsibility to make their members aware of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	h. The cooperative identity, including the Values and Principles, contributes to the business success of our cooperative (or to the business success of the cooperatives we represent).	f. The cooperatives I belong to operate in full accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles.	v. Sectoral and apex cooperative bodies have a responsibility to make their members aware of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.
a. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity (i.e., definition of a cooperative, Values and Principles) fully expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative enterprise model.	a. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity (i.e., definition of a cooperative, Values and Principles) fully expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative enterprise model.	a. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity (i.e., definition of a cooperative, Values and Principles) fully expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative enterprise model.	j. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large.
x. We are proud of our cooperative identity.	f. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent operate in full accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles.	h. The cooperatives I belong to market their cooperative difference.	c. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity accommodates the diversity of types of cooperatives seen today.
i. Our cooperative identity gives us or the cooperatives we represent a competitive advantage in the marketplace.	v. Sectoral and apex cooperative bodies have a responsibility to make their members aware of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	q. The cooperatives I belong to take sufficient steps to tell members about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	y. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity has stood the test of time.
w. The ICA effectively defends and promotes the cooperative identity.	j. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent market the cooperative difference.	j. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large.	w. The ICA effectively defends and promotes the cooperative identity.
f. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent operate in full accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles.	y. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity has stood the test of time.	c. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity accommodates the diversity of types of cooperatives seen today.	x. Cooperatives in my country are generally proud of their cooperative identity.
l. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large.	i. Our cooperative identity gives us or the cooperatives we represent a competitive advantage in the marketplace.	r. The cooperatives I belong to take sufficient steps to tell employees about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	b. The Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles are useful in applying the Principles to the day-to-day governance and operation of cooperatives.
c. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity accommodates the diversity of types of cooperatives seen today.	s. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent take sufficient steps to tell members about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	t. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity has stood the test of time.	d. The Identity Statement is helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.
y. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity has stood the test of time.	l. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large.	l. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to future generations.	m. Cooperatives in my country are at risk of losing ground to forward-looking investor-owned corporations in the realm of sustainable development.
j. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent market the cooperative difference.	c. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity accommodates the diversity	b. The Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles are useful in applying the Principles to the day-to-day	l. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives'

	of types of cooperatives seen today.	governance and operation of cooperatives.	responsibility to future generations.
d. The Identity Statement is helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	t. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent take sufficient steps to tell employees about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	d. The Identity Statement is helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	k. Cooperatives in my country are at risk of losing ground to other forms of social and solidarity enterprise in the realm of redressing social inequities.
b. The Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles are useful in applying the Principles to the day-to-day governance and operation of cooperatives.	d. The Identity Statement is helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	p. The cooperatives I belong to report their performance against the Cooperative Values and Principles.	e. The Guidance Notes are helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.
n. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to future generations.	w. The ICA effectively defends and promotes the cooperative identity.	i. I worry that cooperatives may be falling behind private, public or charitable enterprises in ensuring the equitable treatment and full inclusion of women, youth, minorities and disadvantaged persons.	i. Cooperatives in my country are at risk of falling behind private, public or charitable enterprises in ensuring the equitable treatment and full inclusion of women, youth, minorities and disadvantaged persons.
s. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent take sufficient steps to tell members about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	b. The Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles are useful in applying the Principles to the day-to-day governance and operation of cooperatives.	e. The Guidance Notes are helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	h. Cooperatives in my country market their cooperative difference.
o. Cooperatives are at risk of losing ground to forward-looking investor-owned corporations in the realm of sustainable development.	n. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to future generations.	k. I perceive cooperatives as losing ground to other forms of social and solidarity enterprise in the realm of redressing social inequities.	f. I perceive most cooperatives in my country as operating in full accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles.
t. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent take sufficient steps to tell employees about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	o. Cooperatives are at risk of losing ground to forward-looking investor-owned corporations in the realm of sustainable development.	m. I perceive cooperatives as losing ground to forward-looking investor-owned corporations in the realm of sustainable development.	o. Some laws or regulations governing cooperatives where I live are in conflict with aspects of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.
e. The Guidance Notes are helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	r. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent measure their performance against the Cooperative Values and Principles.	n. Government actors where I live understand what distinguishes the cooperative form of enterprise from other business models.	r. Generally speaking, cooperatives in my country take sufficient steps to tell their employees about the Cooperative Values and Principles.
m. Cooperatives are at risk of losing ground to other forms of social and solidarity enterprise in the realm of redressing social inequities.	e. The Guidance Notes are helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	o. Some laws or regulations governing cooperatives where I live are in conflict with aspects of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	q. Generally speaking, cooperatives in my country take sufficient steps to tell their members about the Cooperative Values and Principles.
k. Cooperatives may be falling behind private, public or charitable enterprises in ensuring the equitable treatment and full inclusion of women, youth, minorities and disadvantaged persons.	m. Cooperatives are at risk of losing ground to other forms of social and solidarity enterprise in the realm of redressing social inequities.		p. Generally speaking, cooperatives in my country measure their performance against the Cooperative Values and Principles.
r. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent measure their performance against the Cooperative Values and Principles.	k. Cooperatives may be falling behind private, public or charitable enterprises in ensuring the equitable treatment and full inclusion of women, youth, minorities and disadvantaged persons.		t. Cooperatives in my country are generally aware of the Statement on the cooperative Identity.
t. Cooperatives in my country are generally aware of the Statement on the cooperative Identity.	p. Government actors in the jurisdictions where we or the cooperatives we represent operate understand what distinguishes the cooperative form of enterprise from other business models.		u. The Identity Statement is well understood by cooperators in my country.

u. The Identity Statement is well understood by cooperators in my country.	u. Education on the cooperative identity is widely available and is promoted within our country.		n. Government actors in my country understand what distinguishes the cooperative form of enterprise from other business models.
q. Some laws or regulations governing our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent are in conflict with aspects of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	q. Some laws or regulations governing our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent are in conflict with aspects of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.		s. Education on the cooperative identity is widely available and is promoted within my country.
p. Government actors in the jurisdictions where we or the cooperatives we represent operate understand what distinguishes the cooperative form of enterprise from other business models.			
u. Education on the cooperative identity is widely available and is promoted within our country.			

Are there any factors which may impact different opinions?

A one-way ANOVA test and Scheffe test were carried out to check whether any demographic or organisational variables made significant differences in respondents' opinions, and if yes, to what extent.

However, some variables with significant differences did not explain the content itself, because specific sub-groups always responded more strongly than other sub-groups even in cases of conflicting statements. For such cases, we can suppose that specific sub-groups always have a tendency to express their opinion more strongly than other sub-groups. This is true of male respondents in the gender variable and also, to some extent, of Individual Cooperator respondents with more years of involvement in cooperatives, membership in different cooperatives, positions (as elected leaders or employees) in federations, and the experience of formal training in their cooperatives.

Country analysis

19 countries with more than 30 responses (mix of all respondent types) were analysed to see differences among these countries.

Region	Country	Number of responses
Africa	Kenya	33
	Nigeria	60
Americas	Argentina	142
	Brazil	114
	Canada	182
	Colombia	163
	Mexico	42
	USA	138
Asia-Pacific	Australia	34
	India	68
	Japan	65

	Philippines	35
	Korea	269
Europe	Finland	36
	France	38
	Greece	31
	Italy	60
	Spain	78
	UK	62
Other		639
TOTAL		2,290

Countries were regrouped with a focus on the questions related to the concept “*Negative diagnostics on the current situation - Are cooperatives losing ground to other actors?*” (coloured in yellow). This shows very contrasting trends among countries.

- Respondents from some countries, such as Nigeria, the Philippines, Korea, Argentina and Finland do not agree that cooperatives are losing ground to other actors.
- Those from other countries, such as Brazil, Spain, India, Kenya and France (Greece and Colombia to some extent) had a medium level of agreement (similar to the average of TOTAL).
- Some countries in particular were more strongly concerned about situations in which cooperatives are losing ground, such as the USA, Canada, Australia, Mexico, Italy, the UK and Japan.

Nigeria	Philippines	Korea	Argentina	Finland	Total	Brazil	Other	Spain	India	Kenya	Greece	Colombia	France	USA	Canada	Australia	Mexico	Italy	UK	Japan
A 4 4.38	A 26 4.56	A 25 4.30	A 4 3.97	A 10 3.78	A 10 3.77	A 10 4.22	A 4 3.87	A 10 3.89	A 4 4.04	A 25 3.95	A 10 3.83	A 11 4.00	A 27 4.21	A 27 4.01	A 10 3.79	A 28 4.23	A 29 3.59	A 27 3.75	A 11 4.05	A 25 3.87
A 11 4.20	A 10 4.44	A 12 4.00	A 10 3.78	A 9 3.64	A 11 3.66	A 11 4.08	A 11 3.88	A 27 3.64	A 11 4.00	A 7 3.78	A 26 3.81	A 25 3.99	A 10 4.17	A 10 3.89	A 11 3.71	A 11 4.17	A 25 3.58	A 25 3.58	A 27 3.81	A 4 3.55
A 15 4.13	A 12 4.44	A 10 3.75	A 15 3.75	A 27 3.64	A 25 3.64	A 10 3.97	A 10 3.87	A 25 3.60	A 5 3.99	A 11 3.70	A 4 3.74	A 4 3.96	A 13 3.97	A 11 3.80	A 27 3.70	A 27 4.03	A 27 3.57	A 11 3.53	A 10 3.67	A 9 3.51
A 5 4.12	A 17 4.31	A 26 3.52	A 11 3.71	A 4 3.61	A 4 3.62	A 27 3.64	A 26 3.59	A 13 3.58	A 15 3.96	A 4 3.64	A 4 3.58	A 10 3.93	A 26 3.70	A 25 3.73	A 25 3.58	A 10 4.00	A 11 3.57	A 10 3.43	A 4 3.47	A 15 3.42
A 25 4.07	A 15 4.31	A 27 3.15	A 26 3.55	A 22 3.56	A 27 3.62	A 4 3.81	A 15 3.59	A 28 3.54	A 6 3.94	A 10 3.60	A 7 3.58	A 27 3.82	A 25 3.60	A 9 3.84	A 9 3.52	A 9 3.80	A 3 3.55	A 4 3.40	A 9 3.39	A 27 3.40
A 10 4.06	A 28 4.20	A 24 2.93	A 25 3.54	A 28 3.56	A 12 3.45	A 10 3.75	A 7 3.58	A 12 3.47	A 25 3.82	A 12 3.60	A 15 3.39	A 15 3.78	A 9 3.55	A 13 3.60	A 4 3.51	A 4 3.77	A 15 3.52	A 4 3.32	A 16 3.32	A 4 3.31
A 28 4.02	A 4 4.17	A 22 2.88	A 5 3.54	A 11 3.39	A 26 3.44	A 19 3.75	A 12 3.56	A 9 3.44	A 10 3.90	A 5 3.58	A 12 3.33	A 18 3.77	A 4 3.50	A 12 3.53	A 13 3.12	A 12 3.64	A 13 3.48	A 13 3.30	A 28 3.31	A 13 3.26
A 27 4.02	A 22 4.14	A 11 2.88	A 13 3.54	A 25 3.29	A 9 3.37	A 29 3.69	A 27 3.56	A 4 3.41	A 17 3.78	A 15 3.52	A 8 3.23	A 6 3.77	A 28 3.34	A 4 3.35	A 6 3.16	A 13 3.57	A 4 3.43	A 15 3.30	A 29 3.30	A 11 3.26
A 12 4.00	A 7 4.11	A 9 2.83	A 27 3.49	A 6 3.14	A 15 3.37	A 6 3.69	A 6 3.56	A 13 3.28	A 24 3.74	A 27 3.45	A 18 3.19	A 28 3.72	A 11 3.28	A 29 3.17	A 26 3.14	A 16 3.49	A 18 3.31	A 6 3.28	A 5 3.16	A 6 3.22
A 8 3.90	A 11 4.09	A 13 2.82	A 17 3.47	A 13 3.08	A 6 3.34	A 9 3.61	A 25 3.52	A 23 3.17	A 26 3.80	A 28 3.39	A 25 3.19	A 9 3.72	A 15 3.24	A 6 3.15	A 16 3.10	A 16 3.43	A 9 3.21	A 15 3.22	A 6 3.16	A 28 3.22
A 9 3.90	A 25 4.06	A 21 2.77	A 12 3.45	A 17 3.08	A 29 3.32	A 5 3.60	A 5 3.51	A 29 3.17	A 7 3.56	A 6 3.38	A 5 3.16	A 5 3.69	A 22 3.18	A 15 2.99	A 18 3.07	A 7 3.37	A 7 3.19	A 28 3.22	A 13 3.16	A 17 3.14
A 17 3.90	A 6 4.03	A 23 2.74	A 26 3.44	A 15 3.00	A 13 3.30	A 17 3.58	A 28 3.50	A 22 3.14	A 27 3.56	A 17 3.27	A 13 3.10	A 26 3.66	A 8 3.18	A 23 2.96	A 5 3.05	A 6 3.37	A 8 3.17	A 16 3.22	A 15 3.06	A 21 3.11
A 2 3.90	A 9 4.00	A 19 2.67	A 7 3.39	A 22 2.98	A 7 3.24	A 7 3.55	A 17 3.49	A 19 3.09	A 8 3.43	A 8 3.27	A 17 3.06	A 13 3.62	A 18 3.13	A 19 2.94	A 12 3.04	A 12 3.14	A 6 3.17	A 22 3.20	A 12 3.00	A 16 3.02
A 7 3.88	A 9 4.00	A 5 2.64	A 6 3.39	A 5 2.83	A 5 3.23	A 22 3.52	A 8 3.42	A 18 3.05	A 16 3.40	A 15 3.21	A 6 3.00	A 22 3.62	A 23 3.11	A 14 2.93	A 15 3.03	A 28 3.11	A 15 3.17	A 9 3.18	A 16 3.00	A 7 3.00
A 6 3.85	A 5 3.97	A 4 2.61	A 22 3.37	A 7 2.83	A 17 3.21	A 23 3.52	A 18 3.34	A 7 3.04	A 20 3.88	A 19 3.15	A 27 2.90	A 17 3.60	A 16 3.08	A 22 2.83	A 28 2.91	A 8 3.03	A 29 3.07	A 5 3.10	A 7 2.97	A 22 2.91
A 29 3.83	A 13 3.97	A 8 2.58	A 9 3.37	A 24 2.64	A 22 3.15	A 13 3.50	A 9 3.30	A 6 2.96	A 22 3.32	A 28 3.14	A 9 2.84	A 27 3.59	A 17 2.97	A 28 2.78	A 29 2.86	A 22 3.03	A 14 3.05	A 17 3.10	A 14 2.94	A 18 2.89
A 26 3.80	A 27 3.87	A 6 2.54	A 23 3.32	A 28 2.69	A 18 3.12	A 8 3.49	A 13 3.21	A 15 2.88	A 9 3.31	A 24 3.10	A 22 2.74	A 7 3.58	A 21 2.87	A 21 2.75	A 7 2.85	A 26 2.95	A 17 2.98	A 23 3.03	A 22 2.94	A 23 2.95
A 13 3.70	A 25 3.88	A 7 2.53	A 8 3.28	A 14 2.58	A 23 3.10	A 28 3.48	A 16 3.20	A 17 2.82	A 12 3.29	A 14 2.97	A 29 2.88	A 14 3.56	A 7 2.66	A 15 2.73	A 22 2.82	A 17 2.94	A 23 2.83	A 8 2.93	A 26 2.89	A 28 2.70
A 24 3.61	A 3 3.93	A 17 2.53	A 21 3.23	A 19 2.50	A 8 3.03	A 4 3.38	A 15 3.15	A 15 2.78	A 3 3.26	A 9 2.91	A 20 2.85	A 6 3.55	A 19 2.61	A 7 2.85	A 17 2.79	A 15 2.89	A 10 2.80	A 14 2.87	A 22 2.85	A 20 2.83
A 19 3.53	A 19 3.71	A 28 2.52	A 18 3.20	A 18 2.47	A 16 3.00	A 21 3.36	A 22 3.14	A 24 2.72	A 19 3.25	A 13 2.85	A 16 2.85	A 21 3.50	A 12 2.50	A 17 2.55	A 14 2.79	A 20 2.86	A 13 2.64	A 7 2.83	A 23 2.79	A 19 2.43
A 14 3.52	A 14 3.31	A 14 2.27	A 14 3.19	A 6 2.44	A 14 2.99	A 25 3.33	A 23 3.10	A 21 2.67	A 9 3.25	A 22 2.82	A 23 2.52	A 15 3.45	A 25 2.25	A 5 2.43	A 21 2.64	A 21 2.86	A 21 2.62	A 12 2.82	A 17 2.79	A 10 2.43
A 21 3.37	A 24 3.28	A 19 2.17	A 16 2.85	A 21 2.42	A 26 2.97	A 15 3.25	A 20 3.00	A 14 2.56	A 16 3.21	A 23 2.82	A 14 2.19	A 12 3.33	A 14 2.24	A 20 2.14	A 8 2.62	A 5 2.80	A 20 2.48	A 28 2.74	A 8 2.76	A 5 2.40
A 20 3.33	A 18 3.14	A 18 2.08	A 34 2.72	A 24 2.04	A 20 2.64	A 24 3.02	A 21 2.98	A 5 2.54	A 23 3.12	A 18 2.79	A 21 2.06	A 20 3.24	A 6 1.89	A 24 1.98	A 19 2.43	A 14 2.74	A 24 2.23	A 19 2.73	A 20 2.24	A 8 2.02
A 18 3.28	A 15 3.09	A 16 2.07	A 10 2.59	A 19 2.03	A 19 2.83	A 19 2.96	A 19 2.82	A 23 2.40	A 21 3.10	A 23 2.70	A 19 1.81	A 24 3.09	A 20 1.87	A 19 1.97	A 24 2.26	A 24 2.45	A 19 2.21	A 20 2.43	A 19 2.10	A 12 2.00
A 16 2.99	A 20 3.09	A 20 1.98	A 19 2.49	A 20 1.89	A 24 2.82	A 20 2.63	A 24 2.63	A 8 2.35	A 24 2.74	A 21 2.61	A 24 1.60	A 19 2.85	A 8 1.64	A 8 1.97	A 20 2.22	A 19 2.11	A 12 1.70	A 24 2.39	A 24 1.85	A 24 1.98

Analysis of comments

– Four different positions concerning the current SCI

In the survey, each question had a comment space in which respondents could express freely what they want to say in relation to the question. A total of 7,100 comments from 764 respondents (33.36% of the total respondents) were collected. They provide valuable information concerning what people think about the Cooperative Identity and the SCI.

After qualitatively analysing the comments using grounded theory, a conceptual structure emerged with four different positions surrounding the Cooperative Identity and related founding documents. These positions are:

- **The current SCI is good enough (A);**
- **The current SCI needs to be updated (B);**
- **A more balanced approach is needed to fulfil the original mission of cooperatives (C);**
- **The SCI is hypocritical (D).**

The four positions represent idealised concepts inferred from the comments. The objective of the analysis was not to measure the weight of each position in quantitative terms but to identify different positions and their related arguments. Therefore, these positions should be understood as a key to guide further discussions on the Cooperative Identity, rather than a definitive result representing the distribution of different opinions. Similarly, the amount of information on each position below should be understood as illustrating the variety of opinions in each position, rather than representing any quantitative meaning.

The current SCI is good enough (A)

This position recognises that the current SCI as an ideal is still relevant. It considers that the SCI works well as an ideal as regards the following:

- It expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative model;
- It accommodates the diversity of cooperative types;
- It enables a distinction between genuine cooperatives and false cooperatives;
- It captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large and to future generations.

"I am fully convinced that the cooperative identity statement is the framework of our essence and also honours the legacy of the pioneers of this cooperative movement."

"They constitute the "compass" and the "map" so that we move forward without losing sight of the best route for the future."

"To make human civilisation humanitarian and save the earth as safe for life, the 'statement on cooperative identity' is the best guideline of social development processes."

"They cut across in enhancing compliance, self-regulating, and in promoting good governance both within coops and communities at large."

“The identity statement is broad enough to include the diversity of member-owned organisational forms and structures as it contains the main tenets. If too specific, it then starts to have all kinds of caveats.”

“The statement is a guide to cooperatives today, if they want to remain a unique type of enterprise and not degenerate into a hybrid form.”

“If we appropriate these documents and orientate the entities with these guidelines, we strengthen ourselves.”

However, this position contains two different sub-positions.

The current SCI also works well in reality (A-1).

This sub-position reflects a very normative approach which considers the current SCI as the supreme and sacred statement. According to this sub-position, the current SCI works well in reality (or at least it should work).

This normative aspect is strengthened by the fact that the contents of the SCI are formally integrated into some national legislations.

“Spain is an example of cooperative harmonisation. Despite having autonomous legislation, the principles defined by the ICA are respected in all cases.”

“In my cooperative it is about measuring their performance against the principles and values that the law requires of them, otherwise there is the threat of fines.”

The logical conclusion of this position is **not to change the current SCI**. However, this conclusion seems to be significantly related to the concerns raised by position C, which emphasises the balance between the member-oriented approach and the social issue-oriented approach, as represented by the current SCI. As the current SCI is based on a historical compromise between two approaches (with the inclusion of Principle 7), position C seems concerned that new demands for updating the SCI – mainly supported by the social issue-oriented approach – might upset the balance, resulting in cooperatives losing sight of their original mission (members’ interests and economic democracy) in favour of a more socially oriented mission.

“I think it's important to stick to the basic, foundational values and principles and would be a mistake to use our Statement to keep adding current issues, no matter how important. The current statement is aspirational, as it should be.”

“The cooperative identity statement must be sustained. If you are asking for an amendment or supplement, the reason should be clear. If cooperatives are not competitive compared to general enterprises or the social economy, and they propose to amend the declaration, it is only a conspiracy to destroy cooperatives. The weakening of the competitiveness of cooperatives is the result of not properly maintaining refinement. Don't blame your identity but criticise the mistake of not keeping your identity.”

“The only concern that I have noted over the last few decades is that some people would like to include care and respect of the environment in the principles. I am not opposed to this but I don't think it is core to what makes a co-op a co-op. It can also be included under Principle Seven.”

The current SCI works well as an ideal, but not so much in reality (A-2).

According to this sub-position, there is a gap between the ideal of the SCI and the reality on the ground. It is not an issue with the SCI itself; rather, it is an issue for any cooperatives that do not respect it and even try to hide their cooperative identity.

This is:

- because people (cooperators and other stakeholders) are not aware of the Cooperative Identity, mainly due to a lack of education and training;
- because of cooperative leaders or managers who are not real cooperators but only pursue their personal power and interest, neglecting the SCI;
- because of regulations and policies that do not recognise the SCI and are even in conflict with the Cooperative Identity;
- because of too much focus on business and economic values, forgetting the Cooperative Identity;
- because of misuse or abuse of cooperative status by false cooperatives or other business organisations;
- because of the size of cooperatives (too big to retain members' engagement/too small to organise training and promotion of the Cooperative Identity);
- because the SCI is not binding nor measurable.

“As an institution, yes, but there are always actions of human beings inside, which do not correspond to those of cooperative institutions.”

The logical conclusion of this sub-position is **to strengthen the concrete implementation of the SCI:**

- by strengthening education and training on the Cooperative Identity, not only in cooperatives but also at different school levels;
- by disseminating and promoting the SCI more actively;
- by developing tools for measuring cooperatives' performance against the Cooperative Identity¹⁰;
- by producing quality products and services as per one of the Rochdale Pioneers' Principles;
- by having an appropriate management structure;
- by developing more research evidence and theoretical backup;
- by deepening the Cooperative Identity;

¹⁰ Concrete examples are Mutual Value Measurement (Australia), Key Performance Indicator (UK), Coop Index (Canada, Korea), Cooperative Social Balance sheet (Argentina, Italy), cooperative audit (Germany, Poland, Austria) and cooperative review (France, Italy), annual report, certification, conduct tribunal, monitoring authorities etc.

- by reinforcing the conviction lived by people;
- by being practised by cooperators in everyday life.

The current SCI needs to be updated (B)

This position does not propose significant changes to the SCI, but at least a review of it and, if possible, a revision:

- Mainly because of the need to keep up with the changing world;

"I am memorizing the work and report of 1966 ICA committee reviewing the cooperative principles. Perhaps it is time to so a similar review again. Since 1995 the world has changed very much too. The core principles will of course remain the same, but we need clever studies about many aspects of the practice how to implement the coop philosophy in today's world."

"In their current wording, they contain what is necessary but could be updated to make their commitment to current challenges more explicit."

"It doesn't fully express all nature of cooperatives since there are varieties of cooperatives nowadays."

"While the Statement does an excellent job of expressing the distinction, the context in which co-ops find themselves is much different. Other "value based" businesses are much more prominent; the way that the world approaches the environment and equity is vastly different. It is time to re-examine the statement and ensure it is relevant to today's emerging cooperators."

"I do not see the Declaration of Identity as being exhausted in a forward-looking way. As principles are formulated and reformulated, it should be a regular task to affirm and reaffirm identity with new approaches."

- but also, because of the current style of the SCI;
 - which is too abstract, ideological, general and ambiguous. Therefore, it needs to be more specific and practical;
 - (*contrary to the above opinion*) which is too concrete and prescriptive. Therefore, it needs to be more flexible according to contexts;
 - which needs to be written in plainer and more modern language.
- because of certain philosophical aspects, including:
 - it has a Eurocentric perspective, and needs to account for anticolonialism and anti-oppression
 - it diverges from the original Rochdale Principles

Respondents share their ideas and opinions on the Definition, Values and Principles of the current SCI.

Some respondents proposed ideas concerning the **Definition** in the SCI.

"I think that the definition of what a cooperative is in the identity statement is not so clear. While I think it needs to be broad and general, it also needs to convey an explanation of what distinguishes co-ops from other enterprises."

"The definitions can be limiting rather than accommodating innovation."

"The dual nature of enterprise and community should be added. The possibility for persons and/or organisations to be members should be added."

"Consideration should be given as to whether "economic, social and cultural" is inclusive enough."

"With the focus on meeting members' aspirations, the statement possibly does not highlight how cooperatives influence and impact their community and society at large, or the importance of this to them."

Concerning the **Values**, some respondents proposed some additional values, such as community, cooperation, freedom, fairness, partnership, tolerance, altruism, social and environmental responsibility etc. Some others also proposed:

- Defining the values for better clarification
- Specifying them in the hierarchy of universal values
- Shortening them
- Improved connection between the Principles and Values
- Rewording self-help and self-responsibility, which sound like conservative values.

Respondents shared a number of observations about each **Principle** and proposed some ideas for updating them. The comments cited below do not represent all comments exhaustively but illustrate some exemplary opinions.

- Principle 1 – Voluntary and open membership

"I think Principle 1 should be examined closely in terms of how to affirmatively encourage diversity, and deal with the question of how co-ops that form to fight discrimination might or might not be legitimate in restricting themselves to serving a disadvantaged or discriminated group."

"Voluntary membership and open membership are two very different features. Voluntary membership should always be upheld, but (fully) open membership may not be in the interest of the organisation."

"Not that I know of. In practical life we have a restriction on open voluntary membership since every new member must have the economic strength to manage its obligation, but do not consider that a violation against the principle."

- Principle 2 – Democratic member control

"On this question, I would like to highlight the reliance on the AGM as the sole (for me only the minimum) democratic requirement. This is a weak standard for democracy and leads to many of the problems with follow-through on the other cooperative values and principles."

“Democratic control by the member is difficult, and membership increase is to be limited. Otherwise, it is lethargic.”

“Principle of equality of rights among the members, in which each cooperative member has the right to one vote (principle of the singularity of the vote) (different from democratic management).”

- Principle 3 – Member economic participation

“The principles are good. However, the one concerning the distribution of surpluses or profits should be expanded and clearly state that it is an OBLIGATION to distribute the surpluses every year, at least 30% of the profits, otherwise only the directors enjoy the profits, it is one of the companies that does not distribute anything to its owners.”

“The old principles were much clearer in defining the cooperative identity. The old principles 3 (distribution of surplus earnings) and 4 (limitation of interest) provided clear guidelines for financial governance, whereas the "new" principle 3 (economic participation) created a vagueness that opened the door to all sorts of potential manipulations. That said, the question of the non-shareability of the reserve was finally opened up...which had been debated even before the foundation of the ICA in 1895!”

“Member economic participation is perhaps the most difficult principle to understand what it really means in practice. (In consumer coops - the area most familiar to myself - it means simply shopping in coop-shops.)”

- Principle 4 – Autonomy and independence

“Principle 4: Autonomy and Independence: Cooperatives in developing countries are unable to preserve and maintain autonomy and independence. The involvement of external bodies in the affairs of cooperatives are not explicitly mentioned in the statement.”

“I believe that it is necessary to emphasise the independence of cooperatives from government policies aimed at creating subsidised cooperatives from public bodies, i.e. with a strong influence that distorts them into "vertical" organisations instead of being "horizontal" and democratically created from the grassroots and from sectoral needs.”

“Autonomy and Independence of cooperatives is always a questionable principle when the cooperative movement in most of developing countries is sponsored by the government.”

- Principle 5 – Education, training, and information

“I, as a researcher in Information Science, admit that the concept of Information in the fifth principle could go through a discussion process to determine its meaning more effectively. I think that in the current principle, education, training and information have similar meanings, however, each element of this principle has its own dynamics and I consider this an excellent subject for scientific research.”

“If possible, I would change the 5th principle to Education and communication.”

- Principle 6 – Cooperation among cooperatives

“The emerging wider SSEs open new windows for Principle 6 for cooperation beyond co-ops, hence strengthening Principle 7 as well.”

“We could go further by asserting and developing the 6th and 7th principles, to avoid the trial on corporatist drifts, which is sometimes founded.”

“Not practising Principle 6 and Principle 7 does not necessarily mean that they are convenience cooperatives, but it is important to encourage them to practise them.”

“Also do cooperatives really cooperate? In many cases law prevents them in doing so and international cooperation is not well used opportunity so far.”

- Principle 7 – Concern for community

“Concern for community is the highest form of ICA-ICIS showing how significantly coops put their values into action, helping people help themselves and help others.”

“Concern for community. It was first added to the other six principles in 1995. This is the giving back to the community that a cooperative should do. A cooperative should give the community what it gets as surplus or assist it whenever possible because cooperatives are found within a community.”

“The seventh principle could be better labelled to give more strength to our commitment to serving the public good.”

“The seventh principle is general and vague by nature, given that cooperatives contribute to Concern for Community. This was “corporate social responsibility” before it existed as it does today. Today it should be called “cooperative social responsibility” and call out the fact that it’s been around far longer than the other concept.”

“Yes, but it would be good to incorporate a stronger paragraph referring to its social and local development impact.”

“It is important to note that new challenges are mostly linked to the seventh principle in a context of globalisation and focus due to increased competition with conventional companies.”

Respondents provided their opinions on additional topics to be considered and, if possible, added to the SCI.

- Environment and sustainability

“I think there is a need to add a statement around commitment to environmental sustainability and future generations.”

“It would help to open a window into the complexity of the relationship with nature: land, water, air, energy - so that cooperatives can play their role at the forefront of transformation in their territories.”

“I believe that from 1995 to the present day there are changes in the world that should be contemplated in the framework of the Statement of Cooperative Identity, such as: in the definition of what a cooperative is, incorporate “ENVIRONMENTAL needs and aspirations, i.e. that cooperatives

meet "economic, social, cultural and environmental needs", in line with the UN Agenda 2030 definition of Sustainable Development."

"Concern for community should be taken to extend to the non-human community and environment. Our view of the environment should not be one where the environment is separated from humanity."

"Commitment to sustainability should be introduced into the seventh principle."

"I'd be in favour of a slight update to the wording to broaden P7 in regards to modern concerns like diversity and the environment, I don't believe we need more principles."

"There should be a special emphasis as an eighth principle of ecology, biodiversity and sustainability. Youth nowadays criticise this lack of that principle strongly. To host it in the 7th principle is nowadays not enough."

- Responsibility for the future generation

"I think we need a new Principle of Stewardship. Cooperatives manage their enterprises for the benefit of current and future generations."

"The concept of stewardship is not captured in the current Statement: to steward resources and keep them available for future generations."

"This is an interesting question. Perhaps this could be more prominently stated and, if so, it might help with the problem of co-ops selling assets to enrich current members. Our co-op is here because of the effort and investment of members who came before and should be here to create value for the members of the future."

"The Statement could include a separate principle that makes it clear that the wealth created by cooperatives is indivisible and inter-generational."

"Cooperatives are intended to be intergenerational, wealth and experience are to be handed on rather than exploited and used up by the current generation. But the responsibility is not explicitly stated in the statement and perhaps this is an area where the statement can be amended and updated."

"The youth perspective needs to be strengthened."

- Work and employment in cooperatives

"There needs to be an 8th Co-op principle dealing with cooperatives as being good employers, including support for trade unions."

"There needs to be explicit acknowledgement of workers in any statement - as a shareholder-owned coop this is often a point of contention."

"In too many cooperatives the relationship between workers does not reflect mutual self-help and in some it is exploitation. The reality is that in many consumer cooperatives failure would be inconvenient for consumer members, but negative impact on workers is ignored. The need of workers for satisfying work that provides a living wage is too often not a major consideration."

Reflective thinking about many of the cooperative values would often be critical of how workers are treated.”

“Given the usual suspicion of worker cooperatives for their possible use to evade labour law standards, it may be appropriate to explicitly incorporate working conditions in cooperatives as part of the principles.”

“In the principles, add a principle that incorporates DECENT or DIGNIFIED WORK, so that it is implicit in the principles that cooperatives around the world promote decent work in line with the ICA-ILO agreements and that in all evaluations of cooperatives, such as the COOPERATIVE SOCIAL BALANCE SHEET, the labour dimension is incorporated, and confirmed that we comply with the principle of decent work in cooperatives that generate dependent work and labour sovereignty in worker cooperatives.”

“In our country there is a widespread suspicion that labour and cooperative fraud is committed through worker cooperatives, as well as through other types of cooperatives such as credit unions and housing cooperatives. That is why it is so important that there is a cooperative PRINCIPLE that emphasises decent work and the working conditions that are implicit in it, according to the ILO.”

- Diversity, equity and inclusion

“In this day and age, it is absolutely ESSENTIAL that it be modified to include very explicit language about inclusiveness/diversity re race, gender, ethnicity, religion, national origin, migration status.”

“The nature of the cooperative model lends itself well to the inclusion of women, youth, minorities, and disadvantaged persons but unfortunately many cooperatives are complacent. The addition of “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” into the cooperative principles would be helpful to hold co-ops accountable.”

“As you well know, there is a missing aspect on racial equity and inclusion. Concern for Community is not enough. The co-op movement is driven by Western and White culture. It needs to be called out and fixed. I’m pretty disappointed this part of the discussion is not being directly addressed. It will be missed by many given that it only can be addressed in the comments section. This is real, it’s important, do better.”

“Especially when Principle 8, the key role of human diversity, equity, and inclusion is adopted.”

- Gender equality

“Important to introduce a gender perspective.”

“Women [mostly married and young girls] are not as free as men in the participation on cooperative issues, especially those activities which involve movement, over-sleep and needing individual sponsorships.”

“Although progress is being made in the inclusion and participation of women, the participation of women at management and CEO levels is low.”

- Against increasing inequality

“Two aspects should be clearer: the fight against social inequality and for environmental sustainability.”

“The issues of inequality and the environment remain unclear, as mentioned above.”

“It should be modified to include very explicit language about how gross and increasing economic inequality contributes to severe problems in these areas and that co-ops should and do address this inequality.”

- Peace

“I believe that from 1995 to the present day there have been changes in the world that should be contemplated in the framework of the Statement of Cooperative Identity, such as the theme of PEACE as a VALUE, in the concept of Positive Peace as discussed in Kigali.”

“Responsibility for peace is not described.”

- Governance

“To an extent - ownership and systems of democratic governance are problematical and key; this may not be a need to extend the statement, but to develop discussion in guidance.”

- Economic aspects

“I think it is important to put more emphasis on the concept of ownership and control.”

“There is a deficit in the “Management” aspect in the 7 co-op principles - professional management conduct should ideally be a principle as well.”

“We should contemplate statements addressing future generations and subordinating capital to human priorities.”

“An orientation towards sustainable economic activity should be explicitly included.”

“One remarkable issue is lacking here: the attitude to the financial result of a cooperative vs. other business models. A cooperative needs to be profitable (but not to maximise the profit) in order to be able to develop the business according to the needs of the members. But a listed company is maximising the profit to the shareholders.”

- Non-profit purpose

“The absence of a profit motive should be emphasised more, in addition to its formal structure.”

“I believe that it is time to reflect on the reformulation of the Cooperative Principles to give them greater meaning and scope and ultimately the distinctive characteristics of the Non-Profit Social Economy Sector and Environmental Protection and thus deepen the Cooperative Identity.”

- Technology

“Perhaps it should be analysed in the light of the diversity of objectives and new proposals due to technological progress e.g., artificial intelligence.”

“We will have to add a component that deals with digital and inclusion for all and technology.”

Most of the ideas proposing the update of the SCI seem to be motivated by the social issue-oriented approach which emphasises the social dimension of cooperatives and their role in dealing with social issues. This is why most proposals to be added to the current SCI are centred on the 7th Principle.

“It seems to me that the statement should, without leaving aside the solidarity nature of cooperatives, broaden its scope towards a “social business” sphere, too. It is clear that cooperatives are not for profit per se, but they need to grow in order to continue to provide the service that gives them life.”

“Cooperatives could embrace social justice in their identity.”

“Cooperatives do not seem to be leaders in helping society address its challenges.”

“The interest is only for the cooperative members, but not for the community in which it is immersed.”

According to this approach, due to the current SCI – which seems not to deal well with today’s social issues – cooperatives are at risk of losing their ethical ground to other actors in some fields where ethical justification becomes more important. This feeling of losing ground is shared more by Expert respondents and also by respondents from countries with more liberal ideas on cooperatives (weak regulatory framework on cooperatives, strong presence of large cooperatives with more of a business orientation, active promotion of social business concepts in the public sphere) as shown in the country analysis.

This feeling also seems to be related to one of the different understandings of the relationship with other social actors (government, investor-owned enterprises, and other SSE organisations) on social issues. The feeling supposes that cooperatives are competing with other social actors more, and with better recognition for their social contributions. However, it should be noted that many of those who share the feeling of losing ground pointed out that the problem comes from cooperatives’ weak communication of what they are doing compared to those made by other social actors who have more resources.

“B Corps and ESG are eating our lunch or perceived to be eating our lunch.”

“There is both a lack of confidence in the complete superiority of cooperatives compared to other forms of organisation, and the fact that many joint-stock companies are so well advertised that cooperatives appear to be lagging behind.”

"Yes, this is a real risk in Australia. There is a lot of focus and education on social enterprise and social innovation, but virtually none in cooperative education."

"Yes, because our movement is still very bureaucratic and difficult to understand. We need to simplify things and let people know that coop is contemporary."

"Probably, because CSR enterprises adhere to similar values as cooperatives and are becoming more and more important."

A more balanced approach is needed to fulfil the original mission of cooperatives (C)

This position emphasises that cooperatives should focus more on their members and economic equality and justice: their original mission. Whilst it does not neglect the social dimension of cooperatives, priority is given to the original mission, or at least the balance between members' interests and that of the community at large.

"First with its partners, then with the whole of society."

"They measure too much in terms of their image of generosity, of altruism towards minorities without consideration for the majority of its members."

"I disagree that cooperatives as a whole have a responsibility to society as a whole. Coops are businesses that are responsible to their members."

"The concern for its members itself in many ways manifests concern for community at large automatically."

"All co-ops have to balance responsibility to fully serve members' needs and responsibility to society at large. We shouldn't overemphasise one over the other."

"The co-op principles help cooperatives achieve a balanced social and economic purpose. It is the pursuit and achievement of this balanced purpose that captures co-ops' responsibility to society at large. The responsibility is indirect - i.e., through its members."

It seems that those who support this position think that other actors, such as governments, large enterprises or charities are more directly responsible for social issues. Therefore, cooperatives need to collaborate with them – rather than compete with them – to deal with broader social issues.

"No. It is not a competition with the other models, it is about putting people and communities at the centre."

"Responsibility for "sustainable development" essentially lies with governments and big business."

"It is difficult to guarantee full inclusion in cooperatives organised by different sectors or purposes. This can be done by working with NPOs and other organisations."

"Concern for community is not a unique concept in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business. Society as a whole can only advance progressively if all forms of business - not just

cooperatives - actively engage in advancing community concerns (poverty, inequity, etc.). Left only to cooperatives, society will not advance as quickly or as significantly as it needs to when it comes to addressing global challenges.”

The logical conclusion of this position does not necessarily lead to the question of whether the SCI needs to be kept as is or updated. On the one hand (as explained above), this position might lead to proposing the current SCI remains as it is. On the other hand, it might be related to critical opinions of the SCI, Principle 7 in particular.

“It fully captures the responsibility towards the community, however the larger contribution to society, which is inherent in the cooperative model, becomes not as clear.”

“The commitment to the community is not relevant because this principle creates confusion with the pursuit of a social interest found in the associative world. It is governance, the main differentiating element of the cooperative, which will then allow it to define to what extent it wishes to commit itself to the community.”

“The seventh principle has caused a lot of confusion among the stakeholders of cooperatives. This principle has influenced the movement to move towards the character of public sector and charitable institutions. Cooperatives have forgotten to reinforce the member-centric organisation.”

Furthermore, this position considers the social issue-oriented approach as being influenced by the Western neoliberalism, which tries to move the responsibility for social issues from the government to private actors including cooperatives. Some respondents even suspected that this survey was motivated by this approach, aiming to modify the SCI towards a more social orientation, which could in turn weaken the original mission of economic equity/equality through member-based economic activities.

“If you start going into identity politics rather than the core purpose of cooperatives which is to solve class-based issues, the movement is lost for a generation. I can't stress enough that pursuing specific groups rather than economic equity/equality as the foundational issue is a misguided neoliberal approach.”

“Please don't turn the co-op principles into some useless pretentious EU/Western Neoliberal take on diversity and inclusion away from economic inequality reduction and economic justice. Even the use of Social Justice in the survey makes me think this is the direction the committee is headed. It will be a sad day when the ICA turns into a neoliberal cheerleader and nerfs cooperatives by focusing on issues that distract from the core issue (economic inequality) that solves the distracting issues (gender, youth, minorities, etc.) The fact you're even considering discussing minorities in the context of a global, international organisation makes me think the person who designed this survey has an incredibly chauvinistic view of the world. Maybe instead of focusing on Brussels you could think about how Africa has a ton of co-ops and isn't concerned about minorities. Or Indonesia, or anywhere else that isn't extracting the resources of the poor to let a committee of rich people in Europe design a survey that's pretty tone-deaf on actual foundational issues of the cooperative principles. All of these principles are related to economic justice, not goofy social justice issues. What happens if you solve social justice and still have economic inequality? Sounds like a neoliberal paradise to me.”

The SCI is hypocritical (D)

This position represents various opinions criticising the normative nature of the SCI and its proponents. According to this position, the proponents of the SCI – who are usually cooperative elites (leaders or active members) – try to dictate other members' thoughts and acts, although they do not always put the SCI into practice. This perception seems to create respondents' cynical attitude vis-à-vis the SCI as a norm and its proponents, such as people (cooperative elites) and authorities (cooperatives and the cooperative movement), which they consider hypocritical.

"You ought not to need guidance to operate a cooperative, in reality it's quite autonomous. But I suppose global governance bodies enjoy feeling like they're making a difference and so in order to fulfil job descriptions write guidance notes. The issue being that every single cooperative is unique, so it becomes almost impossible to issue guidance that is true for every single cooperative in the world. If the time was spent offering tailored advice to those that seek it, I would wager that a lot more impact would happen."

"Don't be too demanding about what happens on a day-to-day basis."

"Why are we "othering", gatekeeping, or doing purity tests? It's hard enough to start a cooperative. Are we even being inclusive if we don't allow false starts, hiccups, or other forms of human cooperation?"

"I often see people within co-ops act like they are better than other businesses, which is alienating and exclusive."

"There is still too much conceptual hypocrisy and use of the concept of cooperative enterprise as a shortcut to its compliance with the principles."

"It only takes one board (e.g. MEC) to lose sight/abandon the principles and then they're sunk. I feel like the values and principles are talked about more than they are actually practiced."

"I think they have abandoned this work in order to invest a huge budget in bland advertisements that lack the true meaning of cooperation."

This position does not stem from simple and naïve complaints, but tries to find their legitimacy in the real world. It provides a contrast between the normative nature of the SCI and its proponents, on one hand, and people in the real world who are not interested in the Cooperative Identity, on the other. Whereas the real world could not be always clearly defined nor strictly measured by a specific normative viewpoint, business success may be a more important and measurable criteria in the real world.

"Please study here ground reality, cooperative employees are non-cooperatives, only obedient to their boss who is like a company holder."

"Attempts have been made but have failed because there is no interest from the members to know these principles and values. For many years, the cooperative has only tried to maintain the cooperative's heritage, but never beyond that."

"Our customers are far too busy to care. We show through actions, rather than words."

“Oh, but do they listen?”

“There is information but members are more sensitive to the quality of the service than to the principles themselves.”

“Successful cooperatives are often criticised for poorly reflecting cooperative values.”

“It (the Cooperative Identity) does give us a competitive advantage, but price and product come first. This is a more significant advantage for our members.”

Furthermore, this position thinks that the Cooperative Identity might actually be a barrier to cooperative business.

“Sometimes focusing too much on cooperative difference is an obstruction to thinking about delivering good value to customers. It's not always helpful for startups to focus on it too much. It's what they should be Doing other than Selling, Marketing.”

“They used to hinder them to operate with flexibility in this dynamic economic environment.”

“The cooperative principles bring the social character to the cooperative, thus making the community grow and the cooperative socially successful. Identity might limit it a bit in terms of business.”

Respondents from this position are neither ‘for’ nor ‘against’ the review or update of the current SCI, but are negative about the whole discussion on the Cooperative Identity because, for them, it looks like a waste of time and an inward-looking position.

“Conflicting views have been heard, and I say that they may be trying to overdo it.”

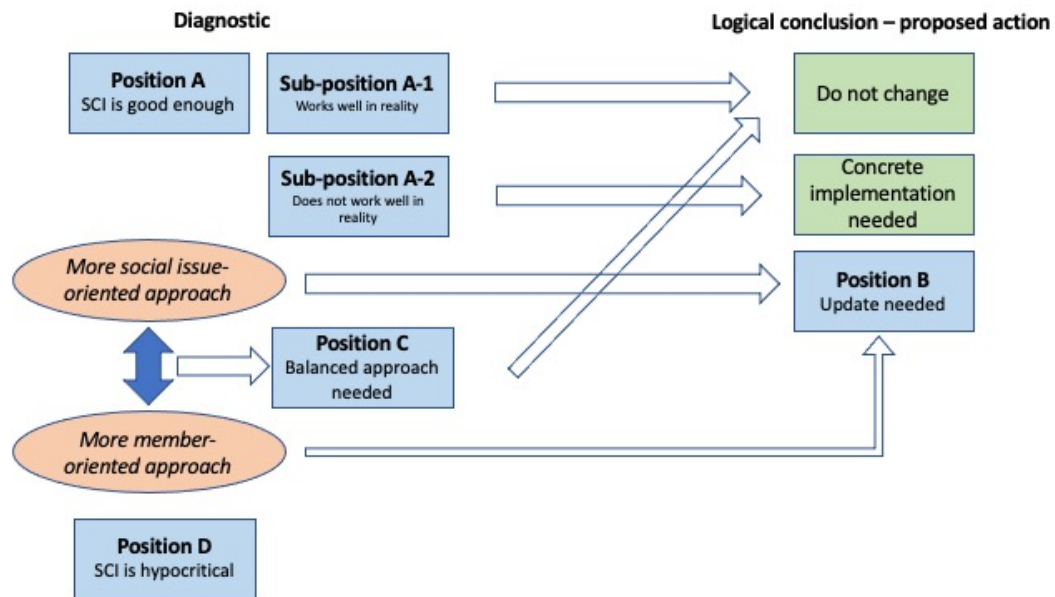
“We do not really sympathise with the promotion of 'identity' as a central concept, although we do not deny its existence or its power. However, we believe that cooperative identity can be a rallying cry mainly because cooperativism is currently a minority movement. And by putting identity at the centre, this minority feeling (even cohesion) can strengthen its minority, inward-looking position. We think it would be more useful to emphasise class or territorial aspects in the openness of cooperativism, or to point out how cooperativism relates to other directions in the left labour movement.”

“Pride comes before a fall.”

This position differs substantially from the other three positions, as it criticises the commonly accepted, very normative nature of the SCI, and current discussions focusing on how the normative foundation should be (re)constructed. Therefore, this position is rarely represented in more formal settings for discussion. However, the existence of this viewpoint is a fact that should not be ignored. This is why this report gives it a separate space, although the position might represent a much wider range of the spectrum than other positions.

Summary of four positions concerning the SCI and their dynamics related to different normative orientations

The graphic below summarises the four positions concerning the SCI and proposed actions as to their logical conclusions. It also shows their dynamics related to different normative orientations, such as a more social issue-oriented approach and a more member-oriented approach.



Annexes

[Annex 1] Number of completed responses by region/country and by language

[Annex 2] List of ICA (direct) members which responded to the survey

[Annex 3] List of collaborators who contributed to the translation of the survey

[Annex 4] Description of demographical and organisational information on respondents

[Annex 5] Questions regrouped by broader concepts

[Annex 6] Description of data – Strength of agreement on questions (in order of 'mean value')

[Annexe 1] Number of completed responses by region/country and by language

Region	Country	English	Spanish	French	Other	TOTAL
AF (39)	Algeria			1		1
	Angola	1			1 (PT)	2
	Benin			2		2
	Botswana	16				16
	Burkina Faso			2		2
	Burundi	1				1
	Cabo Verde				1 (PT)	1
	Cameroun	6		9		15
	Congo			1		1
	Ivory Coast			21		21
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	2		12		14
	Egypt				2 (AR)	2
	Eswatini	5				5
	Ethiopia	17				17
	Gambia	1				1
	Ghana	7				7
	Guinea			2		2
	Guiné-Bissau				1 (PT)	1
	Kenya	33				33
	Lesotho	1				1
	Liberia	2				2
	Madagascar			1		1
	Mali	3				3
	Morocco			10	6 (AR)	16
	Namibia	2				2
	Nigeria	60				60
	Rwanda	7		2		9
	Senegal			4		4
	Sierra Leone	2				2
	Somalia	2				2
	South Africa	7				7
	South Sudan	1				1
	Sudan	2			4 (AR)	6
	Togo	1		2		3
	Tunisia			3		3
	Uganda	13				13
	United Republic of Tanzania	13				13
	Zambia	2				2
	Zimbabwe	2				2
AM	Argentina	6	135	1		142

(29)	Bahamas	2			2
	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		4		4
	Brazil	12	16	86 (PT)	114
	Canada	137		45	182
	Chile	1	9		10
	Colombia	5	158		163
	Costa Rica	2	10		12
	Cuba	1	4		5
	Curaçao	5			5
	Dominican Republic	1	23		24
	Ecuador		9		9
	El Salvador		1		1
	Guatemala		3		3
	Guyana	4			4
	Haïti			7	7
	Honduras		9		9
	Jamaica	7			7
	Mexico	5	37		42
	Panama		9		9
	Paraguay	1	16		17
	Peru		14		14
	Puerto Rico		10		10
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1			1
	Suriname	1			1
	Trinidad and Tobago	5			5
	United States of America	136	2		138
Uruguay		26		26	
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1	3		4	
AP (33)	Afghanistan	2			2
	Australia	34			34
	Bangladesh	7			7
	China (People's Republic of China)	1		1 (CH)	2
	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1		1 (KR)	2
	India	68			68
	Indonesia	9			9
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2			2
	Japan	13		52 (JP)	65
	Jordan	2		4 (AR)	6
	Kiribati	2			2
	Kuwait			3 (AR)	3
	Lebanon	1			1
	Malaysia	13			13
	Mongolia	1			1
	Myanmar	2			2
	Nepal	13		5 (NP)	18

	New Zealand	4			4	
	Pakistan	3			3	
	Papua New Guinea	1			1	
	Philippines	35			35	
	Republic of Korea	7	1	261 (KR)	269	
	Saudi Arabia	3			3	
	Singapore	3			3	
	Sri Lanka	13			13	
	State of Palestine	2		1 (AR)	3	
	Syrian Arab Republic	1			1	
	Taiwan	3		1 (CN)	4	
	Thailand	3			3	
	Timor-Leste	1			1	
	Tuvalu	1			1	
	United Arab Emirates	3		10 (AR)	13	
	Vietnam	4			4	
EU (35)	Albania		1		1	
	Andorra		1		1	
	Armenia	2			2	
	Austria	1			1	
	Belarus	1			1	
	Belgium	14		4	18	
	Bulgaria	5			5	
	Croatia	1			1	
	Cyprus	1			1	
	Czech Republic	1			1	
	Denmark	2			2	
	Finland	36			36	
	France	5		33	38	
	Germany	13	3		16	
	Greece	7			24 (GR)	31
	Hungary	2				2
	Ireland	7				7
	Israel	3	1			4
	Italy	15		1	44 (IT)	60
	Malta	3				3
	Netherlands	5				5
	Norway	1				1
	Poland	8				8
	Portugal	1	1	1	3 (PT)	6
	Romania	2	1	1		4
Russian Federation	4				4	
Serbia	1				1	
Slovakia	1				1	

Slovenia	2				2
Spain	9	68		1 (IT)	78
Sweden	7				7
Switzerland	2				2
Turkey	12				12
Ukraine	2				2
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	62				62
TOTAL (136 countries)	1037	574	166	512	2290

[Annexe 2] List of ICA (direct) members which responded to the survey

(118 members out of 314 current members, 37.58%)

AF (19 mem)	Botswana	Botswana Co-operative Association
	Cameroon	NORTH WEST COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LTD (2)
		COOP Cameroon (2)
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	COOPERATIVE D'EPARGNE ET DE CREDIT DE NYAWERA " COOPEC NYAWERA"
	Egypt	Central Housing Cooperative Union
	Eswatini	Eswatini Multipurpose Cooperative Union (ESWAMCU)
	Ethiopia	Cooperative Bank of Oromia
		Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperatives Union
	Ghana	Ghana Co-operative Agricultural Producers and Marketing Association
		Ghana Cooperatives Council
	Ivory Coast	FÉDÉRATION DES UNIONS DE COOPERATIVES COTON DE COTE D'IVOIRE (FPC-CI COOPCA) (2)
	Kenya	KUSSCO Limited
	Morocco	The Cooperation Development Office
	Nigeria	Federal Department of Co-operatives, Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (FDC)
	Rwanda	National Cooperatives Confederation of Rwanda (NCCR)
Somalia	Somali Union Co-operative Movement	
Tanzania	Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (2)	
Uganda	Uganda Cooperative Alliance Limited	
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe National Association of Housing Cooperatives (ZINAHCO)	
AM (35 mem)	Argentina	Confederación Cooperativa de la República Argentina COOPERAR
		Agricultores Federdos Argentinos Sociedad Cooperativa Limitada
		La Segunda Cooperativa Ltda. de Seguros Generales
		Sancor Cooperative de Seguros Ltda
		Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Consumo Ltda.
		BANCO CREDICOOP COOPERATIVO LIMITADO
		Instituto Movilizador de Fondos Cooperativos Cooperativa Limitada
	Brazil	Sicredi Pioneria RS
		OCB
	Canada	Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada
	Colombia	Confederación de Cooperativas de Colombia - Confecoop
		CANAPRO
		La Equidad Seguros O.C
		COEMPOPULAR (Uncompleted)
		Coomeva (5)
	Costa Rica	INFOCOOP
	Curaçao	Ministry for Economic Development
Ecuador	Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito Riobamba Ltda.	
	COOPERATIVA POLICÍA NACIONAL	
Guatemala	CONFECOOP	

	Honduras	COACEHL
	Jamaica	TIP Friendly Society
	Mexico	Confederación Nacional Cooperativa de Actividades Diversas de la República Mexicana
		Caja Popular Mexicana (2)
	Panama	Instituto Panameño Autónomo Cooperativo (IPACOOOP)
	Paraguay	Federacion de Cooperativas del Paraguay FECOPAR (2)
		PANAL SEGUROS S.A.
		Federación de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Crédito - FECOAC Ltda.
	Puerto Rico	VEGACOOOP
		LIGA DE COOPERATIVAS DE PUERTO RICO
	Dominican Republic	COOPROENF
		Cooperativa Vega Real (2)
	United States of America	National Co-op Grocers (2)
		National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA
Uruguay	CUDECOOP (2)	
AP (37 mem)	Australia	BCCM
		Capricorn Society Ltd
	India	Indian Farm Forestry Development Cooperative Limited (IFFDC)
		NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE COOPERATIVE BANKS (NAFSCOB)
		Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society Ltd (ULCCS Ltd)
	Indonesia	Inkur ki
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Iran Chamber of Cooperatives
		Rah-e Roshd Cooperative
	Japan	Japan Workers' Cooperative Union (JWCU)
		Japan Cooperative Alliance
		Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (3)
		Kokumin Kyosai Co-op
		HeW Co-op Japan
	Jordan	Jordan Cooperative Corporation
	Kiribati	Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Cooperative
	Malaysia	ANGKASA
		Co-operative Institute of Malaysia
	Mongolia	National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives
	Myanmar	Central Cooperative Society Limited (2)
	Nepal	Nepal Agriculture Cooperative Central Federation Limited
	Papua New Guinea	Office of the Co-operative Societies Unit of Papua New Guinea
	Philippines	AIMCoop
		MASS-SPECC COOPERATIVE DEVELOPEMENT CENTER (2)
		CLIMBS
		Union of Legitimate Service Contracting Cooperatives
		Federation of People's Sustainable Development Cooperative
	Republic of Korea	NACF
iCOOP Korea (2)		
Singapore	Singapore National Co-operative Federation (2)	

	Sri Lanka	National Institute of Cooperative Development
		National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka
	State of Palestine	CWA
		Palestinian Center for Economic and Social Development
	Thailand	The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) (2)
	United Arab Emirates	Emirates Empowerment (3)
	Vietnam	VIETNAM COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE (VCA) (2)
AP region	Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions	
EU (27 mem)	Spain	Confederació de Cooperatives de Catalunya
		COCETA
		Espru
	Armenia	Farm Credit Armenia UCO CC
	Belgium	FEBECOOP
	Bulgaria	Central Cooperative Union Bulgaria
	Finland	Pellervo Coop Center
		SOK
	France	FNCC
		CNCM
	Germany	DGRV
		GdW
	Greece	OSFE
	Ireland	Co-operative Housing Ireland
	Italy	Italian Cooperative Alliance
	Malta	Apex Koperattivi Malta
	Poland	National Auditing Union of Cooperatives
		NATIONAL SUPERVISOR UNION OF SPOŁEM CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES
	Portugal	CASES - Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social, Cooperativa de interesse Público de Responsabilidade Limitada
		CONFECOOP - Confederação Cooperativa Portuguesa
	Roumanie	Romanian National Union of Handicraft and Production Cooperatives Association – UCECOM (2)
	Russian Federation	Centrosoyz
Sweden	Hsb Riksförbund	
	KF	
Turkey	The Central Union of Turkish Forestry Co-operatives (ORKOOP)	
UK	Co-operatives UK, The Midcounties Cooperative	

[Annexe 3] List of collaborators who contributed to the translation of the survey

Language	Orgnisation
Korean	Juhee LEE, ICOOP Korea
Japanese	Kenki Maeda, Japan Cooperative Alliance
Portuguese	Luiz Hargreaves, Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives
Nepali	Ranjan Mani Paudyal, Nepal Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperative Union Ltd (NEFSCUN)
Italian	Francesco Gastaldi, Italian Cooperative Alliance
Chinese	Zhang Xiaohong, All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives
Greek	Lucas Mphrecas, KAPA Network / Vassilis Birlirakis, Federation of Greek Pharmacists' Cooperatives
Arabic	Akram Al-Taher, Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine

[Annexe 4] Description of demographical and organisational information on respondents

(Organisation) Description of data – Variables (frequency)

Region

		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	AF	110	17,7	17,7	17,7
	AM	266	42,8	42,8	60,5
	AP	119	19,1	19,1	79,6
	EU	127	20,4	20,4	100,0
TOTAL		622	100,0	100,0	

ICA membership status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	Direct member of the ICA	141	22,7	22,7	22,7
	A Member of an ICA member	317	51,0	51,0	73,6
	Not affiliated	122	19,6	19,6	93,2
	Unclassifiable	42	6,8	6,8	100,0
TOTAL		622	100,0	100,0	

Organisation type

		Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	Other	22	3,5	3,5	3,5
	Coop with natural person members	346	55,6	55,6	59,2
	Coop with legal person	46	7,4	7,4	66,6
	Federation	155	24,9	24,9	91,5
	Government regularotory body	13	2,1	2,1	93,6
	Government development body	12	1,9	1,9	95,5
	Multilateral org	2	0,3	0,3	95,8
	Non profit	18	2,9	2,9	98,7
	Mixed membership (natural and legal)	8	1,3	1,3	100,0
TOTAL		622	100,0	100,0	

Age of orgnization

		Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	Under 5 years	105	16,9	16,9	16,9
	5-10 years	76	12,2	12,2	29,1
	11-20 years	92	14,8	14,8	43,9
	21-50 years	164	26,4	26,4	70,3
	51-75 years	101	16,2	16,2	86,5

More than 75 years	75	12,1	12,1	98,6
Non-coop	9	1,4	1,4	100,0
TOTAL	622	100,0	100,0	

Number of members

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid Under 20	107	17,2	17,2	17,2
20-100	131	21,1	21,1	38,3
101-1000	117	18,8	18,8	57,1
1001-10000	103	16,6	16,6	73,6
10001-100000	63	10,1	10,1	83,8
100001 to 1 million	43	6,9	6,9	90,7
More than 1 million	34	5,5	5,5	96,1
Non-coop	24	3,9	3,9	100,0
TOTAL	622	100,0	100,0	

Number of employees

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid Under 10	217	34,9	34,9	34,9
10-20	79	12,7	12,7	47,6
21-100	130	20,9	20,9	68,5
101-500	80	12,9	12,9	81,4
501-5000	48	7,7	7,7	89,1
5001-10000	14	2,3	2,3	91,3
More than 10000	25	4,0	4,0	95,3
Non-coop	29	4,7	4,7	100,0
TOTAL	622	100,0	100,0	

Turnover in USD

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid Under \$500000	263	42,3	42,3	42,3
\$500000 - \$1 million	69	11,1	11,1	53,4
\$1 million - \$10 million	91	14,6	14,6	68,0
\$10 million - \$100 million	64	10,3	10,3	78,3
\$100million - \$1 billion	40	6,4	6,4	84,7
\$1billion - \$5billion	21	3,4	3,4	88,1
More than 5 billion	17	2,7	2,7	90,8
Non-coop	57	9,2	9,2	100,0
TOTAL	622	100,0	100,0	

Total assets in USD

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid Under \$500000	250	40,2	40,2	40,2
\$50000 - \$1million	64	10,3	10,3	50,5
\$1million - \$10million	103	16,6	16,6	67,0

\$10million - \$100million	60	9,6	9,6	76,7
\$100million - \$1billion	47	7,6	7,6	84,2
\$1billion - \$20billion	23	3,7	3,7	87,9
More than \$20billion	16	2,6	2,6	90,5
Non-coop	59	9,5	9,5	100,0
TOTAL	622	100,0	100,0	

Cooperative type

		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	Producer coop	75	12,1	12,1	12,1
	Financial coop	96	15,4	15,4	27,5
	Consumer coop (retail)	55	8,8	8,8	36,3
	Housing coop	17	2,7	2,7	39,1
	Consumer user coop	29	4,7	4,7	43,7
	Worker coop	86	13,8	13,8	57,6
	Multistakeholder coop	24	3,9	3,9	61,4
	Federation	167	26,8	26,8	88,3
	Not applicable	73	11,7	11,7	100,0
TOTAL	622	100,0	100,0		

How were cooperative types defined?

Due to the complexity of questions related to cooperative type and also to the weakness of respondents' understanding, all information provided by respondents had to be reclassified by the analyst by consulting available information on each organisation. Based on the analysis, all organisation respondents' cooperative types were reclassified (1st reclassification). Due to the length of the list, the first reclassification was regrouped into a shorter one (2nd reclassification). However, as the classification issue is not sufficiently clarified even in the discussion on the cooperative statistics, it should be noted that this final classification could be still controversial.

1 st reclassification		2 nd reclassification	
Agricultural coop	61	Producer coop	75
Enterprise coop	3		
Producer coop (other)	11		
Financial service coop (including insurance)	96	Financial coop	96
Consumer coop (retail)	55	Consumer coop (retail)	55
Housing coop	17	Housing coop	17
Public service coop (including energy)	13	Consumer user coop	29
Consumer/user coop (other service)	11		
User coop (health and social service)	5		
Worker coop	86	Worker coop	86
Multistakeholder coop	20	Multistakeholder coop	24
Social coop	4		
Federation, association, union	167	Federation	167
Not a coop	62	Not applicable	73
Not identified	11		
Total	622	Total	622

(Individual Cooperator) Description of data – Variables (frequency)**Region**

		Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	AF	61	6,4	6,4	6,4
	AM	408	42,9	42,9	49,3
	AP	340	35,8	35,8	85,1
	EU	142	14,9	14,9	100,0
TOTAL		951	100,0	100,0	

Gender

		Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	Female	473	49,7	50,0	50,0
	Male	461	48,5	48,7	98,7
	Other	12	1,3	1,3	100,0
	Total	946	99,5	100,0	
Missing	System	5	0,5		
TOTAL		951	100,0		

Age

		Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	Under 18	1	0,1	0,1	0,1
	18-30	62	6,5	6,5	6,6
	31-40	144	15,1	15,1	21,8
	41-50	254	26,7	26,7	48,5
	51-65	332	34,9	34,9	83,4
	65+	158	16,6	16,6	100,0
TOTAL		951	100,0	100,0	

Year of involvement in the cooperative movement

		Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	Less than 3 years	156	16,4	16,4	16,4
	3-8 years	186	19,6	19,6	36,0
	9-15 years	194	20,4	20,4	56,4
	More than 15 years	415	43,6	43,6	100,0
TOTAL		951	100,0	100,0	

Number of cooperatives in which you currently hold a membership

		Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	None	55	5,8	5,8	5,8
	1	436	45,8	45,8	51,6
	2	240	25,2	25,2	76,9

3	114	12,0	12,0	88,9
4	46	4,8	4,8	93,7
More than 4	60	6,3	6,3	100,0
TOTAL	951	100,0	100,0	

Form of cooperative involvement

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid Other	18	1,9	1,9	1,9
Rank-and file member	293	30,8	30,8	32,7
Member with specific role	224	23,6	23,6	56,3
Employee (including senior manager)	193	20,3	20,3	76,6
Federation (elected leader or staff)	223	23,4	23,4	100,0
TOTAL	951	100,0	100,0	

Formal training - Have you taken any formal training in cooperatives that included study of the Statement on the Cooperative identity?

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid Yes	450	47,3	47,3	47,3
No	501	52,7	52,7	100,0
TOTAL	951	100,0	100,0	

(Expert) Description of data – Variables (frequency)

Region

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid AF	125	17,4	17,4	17,4
AM	296	41,3	41,3	58,7
AP	139	19,4	19,4	78,1
EU	157	21,9	21,9	100,0
TOTAL	717	100,0	100,0	

Gender

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid Female	225	31,4	31,6	31,6
Male	484	67,5	67,9	99,4
Other	4	0,6	0,6	100,0
Total	713	99,4	100,0	
Missing System	4	0,6		
TOTAL	717	100,0		

Age

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
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Valid	18-30	27	3,8	3,8	3,8
	31-40	121	16,9	16,9	20,6
	41-50	159	22,2	22,2	42,8
	51-65	273	38,1	38,1	80,9
	65+	137	19,1	19,1	100,0
TOTAL		717	100,0	100,0	

Organisational type

		Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	Educational institution / Research institute	317	44,2	44,2	44,2
	International development NGO	28	3,9	3,9	48,1
	Other NGO	55	7,7	7,7	55,8
	Consultancy	168	23,4	23,4	79,2
	Cooperative	48	6,7	6,7	85,9
	Federation	23	3,2	3,2	89,1
	Government	25	3,5	3,5	92,6
	Other	53	7,4	7,4	100,0
TOTAL		717	100,0	100,0	

Year of involvement in the cooperative movement

		Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	Less than 3 years	54	7,5	7,5	7,5
	3-8 years	107	14,9	14,9	22,5
	9-15 years	134	18,7	18,7	41,1
	More than 15 years	422	58,9	58,9	100,0
TOTAL		717	100,0	100,0	

Number of cooperatives in which you currently hold a membership

		Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulated %
Valid	None	122	17,0	17,0	17,0
	1	177	24,7	24,7	41,7
	2	168	23,4	23,4	65,1
	3	109	15,2	15,2	80,3
	4	37	5,2	5,2	85,5
	More than 4	104	14,5	14,5	100,0
TOTAL		717	100,0	100,0	

[Annexe 5] Questions regrouped by broader concepts

<p>Relevance of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Statement on the Cooperative Identity (i.e., definition of a cooperative, Values and Principles) fully expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative enterprise model. • The Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles are useful in applying the Principles to the day-to-day governance and operation of cooperatives. • The Statement on the Cooperative Identity accommodates the diversity of types of cooperatives seen today. • The Identity Statement is helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart. • The Guidance Notes are helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart. • The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large. • The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to future generations. • The Statement on the Cooperative Identity has stood the test of time.
<p>Impact of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity on cooperatives in terms of entrepreneurship and competitiveness</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent operate in full accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles. • Our cooperative identity makes a meaningful difference to how we run our business (or to how our members run their business). • The cooperative identity, including the Values and Principles, contributes to the business success of our cooperative (or to the business success of the cooperatives we represent). • Our cooperative identity gives us or the cooperatives we represent a competitive advantage in the marketplace. • Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent market the cooperative difference. • We are proud of our cooperative identity.
<p>Active promotion of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government actors in the jurisdictions where we or the cooperatives we represent operate understand what distinguishes the cooperative form of enterprise from other business models. • Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent measure their performance against the Cooperative Values and Principles. • Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent take sufficient steps to tell members about the Cooperative Values and Principles. • Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent take sufficient steps to tell employees about the Cooperative Values and Principles. • Education on the cooperative identity is widely available and is promoted within our country. • (Expert) Cooperatives in my country are generally aware of the Statement on the cooperative Identity. • (Expert) The Identity Statement is well understood by cooperators in my country.
<p>Negative diagnostics on the current situation - Are cooperatives losing ground to other actors?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperatives may be falling behind private, public or charitable enterprises in ensuring the equitable treatment and full inclusion of women, youth, minorities and disadvantaged persons. • Cooperatives are at risk of losing ground to other forms of social and solidarity enterprise in the realm of redressing social inequities. • Cooperatives are at risk of losing ground to forward-looking investor-owned corporations in the realm of sustainable development.
<p>Familiarity with important documents</p>

-
- The Statement on the Cooperative Identity
 - The seven Cooperative Principles
 - The Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles

Importance of principles in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training and information
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community

Not regrouped

- Some laws or regulations governing our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent are in conflict with aspects of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.
- Sectoral and apex cooperative bodies have a responsibility to make their members aware of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.
- The ICA effectively defends and promotes the cooperative identity.

[Annexe 6] Description of data – Strength of agreement on questions (in order of ‘mean value’)

(All) Description of data – Strength of agreement on statements (in order of ‘mean value’)

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
S_A_P_2	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Democratic member control	2290	4,41	1,011
S_A_P_1	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Voluntary and open membership	2290	4,36	1,013
S_A_P_3	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Member economic participation	2290	4,32	0,992
S_A_2	Familiarity with - b. the seven Cooperative Principles	2290	4,29	1,173
S_A_P_7	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Concern for community	2290	4,27	1,062
S_A_P_4	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Autonomy and independence	2290	4,27	1,044
S_A_P_5	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Education, training and information	2290	4,20	1,094
S_A_P_6	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Cooperation among cooperatives	2290	4,13	1,120
S_A_1	Familiarity with - a. the Statement on the Cooperative Identity	2290	3,91	1,282
S_A_10	g. Our cooperative identity makes a meaningful difference to how we run our business (or to how our members run their business).	622	3,77	1,731
S_A_11	h. The cooperative identity, including the Values and Principles, contributes to the business success of our cooperative (or to the business success of the cooperatives we represent).	2290	3,66	1,737
S_A_25	v. Sectoral and apex cooperative bodies have a responsibility to make their members aware of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	1339	3,64	1,739
S_A_4	a. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity (i.e., definition of a cooperative, Values and Principles) fully expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative enterprise model.	2290	3,62	1,710
S_A_27	x. We are proud of our cooperative identity.	2290	3,62	1,686
S_A_12	i. Our cooperative identity gives us or the cooperatives we represent a competitive advantage in the marketplace.	622	3,45	1,577
S_A_3	Familiarity with - c. the Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles	2290	3,45	1,390
S_A_26	w. The ICA effectively defends and promotes the cooperative identity.	1339	3,44	1,679
S_A_9	f. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent operate in full accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles.	2290	3,37	1,655
S_A_15	l. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large.	2290	3,37	1,738
S_A_6	c. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity accommodates the diversity of types of cooperatives seen today.	2290	3,34	1,775
S_A_28	y. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity has stood the test of time.	2290	3,32	1,770
S_A_13	j. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent market the cooperative difference.	2290	3,30	1,583
S_A_7	d. The Identity Statement is helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	2290	3,24	1,865
S_A_5	b. The Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles are useful in applying the Principles to the day-to-day governance and operation of cooperatives.	2290	3,23	1,898
S_A_17	n. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to future generations.	2290	3,21	1,697
S_A_22	s. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent take sufficient steps to tell members about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	2290	3,15	1,547
S_A_18	o. Cooperatives are at risk of losing ground to forward-looking investor-owned corporations in the realm of sustainable development.	2290	3,12	1,542
S_A_23	t. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent take sufficient steps to tell employees about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	2290	3,10	1,587
S_A_8	e. The Guidance Notes are helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	2290	3,03	1,913
S_A_16	m. Cooperatives are at risk of losing ground to other forms of social and solidarity enterprise in the realm of redressing social inequities.	2290	3,00	1,539

S_A_14	k. Cooperatives may be falling behind private, public or charitable enterprises in ensuring the equitable treatment and full inclusion of women, youth, minorities and disadvantaged persons.	2290	2,99	1,596
S_A_21	r. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent measure their performance against the Cooperative Values and Principles.	2290	2,97	1,571
S_E_27	t. Cooperatives in my country are generally aware of the Statement on the cooperative Identity.	717	2,78	1,376
S_E_28	u. The Identity Statement is well understood by cooperators in my country.	717	2,64	1,304
S_A_20	q. Some laws or regulations governing our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent are in conflict with aspects of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	2290	2,64	1,678
S_A_19	p. Government actors in the jurisdictions where we or the cooperatives we represent operate understand what distinguishes the cooperative form of enterprise from other business models.	2290	2,63	1,459
S_A_24	u. Education on the cooperative identity is widely available and is promoted within our country.	1339	2,62	1,379

(Organisation) Description of data – Strength of agreement on statements (in order of ‘mean value’)

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
S_O_P_2	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Democratic member control	622	4,50	0,906
S_O_P_1	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Voluntary and open membership	622	4,50	0,899
S_O_P_7	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Concern for community	622	4,42	0,951
S_O_P_4	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Autonomy and independence	622	4,40	0,959
S_O_P_3	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Member economic participation	622	4,39	0,940
S_O_2	Familiarity with - b. the seven Cooperative Principles	622	4,36	1,083
S_O_P_5	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Education, training and information	622	4,28	0,990
S_O_P_6	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Cooperation among cooperatives	622	4,24	1,040
S_O_1	Familiarity with - a. the Statement on the Cooperative Identity	622	3,87	1,253
S_O_27	x. We are proud of our cooperative identity.	622	3,84	1,897
S_O_10	g. Our cooperative identity makes a meaningful difference to how we run our business (or to how our members run their business).	622	3,77	1,731
S_O_11	h. The cooperative identity, including the Values and Principles, contributes to the business success of our cooperative (or to the business success of the cooperatives we represent).	622	3,73	1,673
S_O_4	a. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity (i.e., definition of a cooperative, Values and Principles) fully expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative enterprise model.	622	3,68	1,671
S_O_9	f. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent operate in full accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles.	622	3,67	1,742
S_O_25	v. Sectoral and apex cooperative bodies have a responsibility to make their members aware of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	622	3,58	1,768
S_O_13	j. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent market the cooperative difference.	622	3,55	1,630
S_O_3	Familiarity with - c. the Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles	622	3,49	1,364
S_O_28	y. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity has stood the test of time.	622	3,45	1,768
S_O_12	i. Our cooperative identity gives us or the cooperatives we represent a competitive advantage in the marketplace.	622	3,45	1,577
S_O_22	s. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent take sufficient steps to tell members about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	622	3,44	1,601
S_O_15	l. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large.	622	3,43	1,765
S_O_6	c. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity accommodates the diversity of types of cooperatives seen today.	622	3,41	1,723
S_O_23	t. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent take sufficient steps to tell employees about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	622	3,41	1,635
S_O_7	d. The Identity Statement is helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	622	3,39	1,822

S_O_26	w. The ICA effectively defends and promotes the cooperative identity.	622	3,35	1,788
S_O_5	b. The Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles are useful in applying the Principles to the day-to-day governance and operation of cooperatives.	622	3,33	1,840
S_O_17	n. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to future generations.	622	3,31	1,730
S_O_18	o. Cooperatives are at risk of losing ground to forward-looking investor-owned corporations in the realm of sustainable development.	622	3,27	1,484
S_O_21	r. Our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent measure their performance against the Cooperative Values and Principles.	622	3,21	1,619
S_O_8	e. The Guidance Notes are helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	622	3,19	1,863
S_O_16	m. Cooperatives are at risk of losing ground to other forms of social and solidarity enterprise in the realm of redressing social inequities.	622	2,97	1,519
S_O_14	k. Cooperatives may be falling behind private, public or charitable enterprises in ensuring the equitable treatment and full inclusion of women, youth, minorities and disadvantaged persons.	622	2,91	1,560
S_O_19	p. Government actors in the jurisdictions where we or the cooperatives we represent operate understand what distinguishes the cooperative form of enterprise from other business models.	622	2,82	1,515
S_O_24	u. Education on the cooperative identity is widely available and is promoted within our country.	622	2,71	1,496
S_O_20	q. Some laws or regulations governing our cooperative or the cooperatives we represent are in conflict with aspects of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	622	2,67	1,687

(Individual cooperator) Description of data – Strength of agreement on statements (in order of ‘mean value’)

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
S_C_P_1	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Voluntary and open membership	951	4,30	1,056
S_C_P_2	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Democratic member control	951	4,30	1,096
S_C_P_3	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Member economic participation	951	4,23	1,054
S_C_P_4	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Autonomy and independence	951	4,21	1,094
S_C_P_7	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Concern for community	951	4,20	1,112
S_C_P_5	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Education, training and information	951	4,17	1,147
S_C_P_6	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Cooperation among cooperatives	951	4,07	1,154
S_C_2	Familiarity with - b. the seven Cooperative Principles	951	3,96	1,368
S_C_22	s. The cooperatives I belong to are proud of their cooperative identity.	951	3,56	1,789
S_C_1	Familiarity with - a. the Statement on the Cooperative Identity	951	3,55	1,391
S_C_10	g. The cooperative identity, including the Values and Principles, contributes to the business success of cooperatives.	951	3,53	1,855
S_C_9	f. The cooperatives I belong to operate in full accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles.	951	3,43	1,793
S_C_4	a. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity (i.e., definition of a cooperative, Values and Principles) fully expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative enterprise model.	951	3,34	1,856
S_C_11	h. The cooperatives I belong to market their cooperative difference.	951	3,31	1,732
S_C_20	q. The cooperatives I belong to take sufficient steps to tell members about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	951	3,19	1,640
S_C_13	j. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large.	951	3,17	1,870
S_C_3	Familiarity with - c. the Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles	951	3,12	1,446
S_C_6	c. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity accommodates the diversity of types of cooperatives seen today.	951	3,10	1,898
S_C_21	r. The cooperatives I belong to take sufficient steps to tell employees about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	951	3,09	1,685
S_C_23	t. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity has stood the test of time.	951	3,07	1,899

S_C_15	l. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to future generations.	951	3,05	1,803
S_C_5	b. The Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles are useful in applying the Principles to the day-to-day governance and operation of cooperatives.	951	3,00	1,972
S_C_7	d. The Identity Statement is helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	951	2,99	1,957
S_C_19	p. The cooperatives I belong to report their performance against the Cooperative Values and Principles.	951	2,95	1,714
S_C_12	i. I worry that cooperatives may be falling behind private, public or charitable enterprises in ensuring the equitable treatment and full inclusion of women, youth, minorities and disadvantaged persons.	951	2,92	1,705
S_C_8	e. The Guidance Notes are helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	951	2,81	1,983
S_C_14	k. I perceive cooperatives as losing ground to other forms of social and solidarity enterprise in the realm of redressing social inequities.	951	2,80	1,578
S_C_16	m. I perceive cooperatives as losing ground to forward-looking investor-owned corporations in the realm of sustainable development.	951	2,80	1,598
S_C_17	n. Government actors where I live understand what distinguishes the cooperative form of enterprise from other business models.	951	2,52	1,497
S_C_18	o. Some laws or regulations governing cooperatives where I live are in conflict with aspects of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	951	2,35	1,710

(Expert) Description of data – Strength of agreement on statements (in order of 'means')

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
S_E_2	Familiarity with - b. the seven Cooperative Principles	717	4,67	0,782
S_E_P_2	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Democratic member control	717	4,48	0,965
S_E_1	Familiarity with - a. the Statement on the Cooperative Identity	717	4,43	0,942
S_E_P_3	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Member economic participation	717	4,38	0,943
S_E_P_1	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Voluntary and open membership	717	4,31	1,037
S_E_P_7	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Concern for community	717	4,24	1,074
S_E_P_4	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Autonomy and independence	717	4,22	1,039
S_E_P_5	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Education, training and information	717	4,18	1,107
S_E_P_6	Importance in distinguishing cooperatives from other forms of business enterprises - Cooperation among cooperatives	717	4,13	1,136
S_E_4	a. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity (i.e., definition of a cooperative, Values and Principles) fully expresses the distinct purpose and nature of the cooperative enterprise model.	717	3,95	1,461
S_E_3	Familiarity with - c. the Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles	717	3,84	1,219
S_E_10	g. The cooperative identity, including the Values and Principles, contributes to the business success of cooperatives.	717	3,75	1,617
S_E_23	v. Sectoral and apex cooperative bodies have a responsibility to make their members aware of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	717	3,69	1,713
S_E_13	j. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to society at large.	717	3,59	1,488
S_E_6	c. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity accommodates the diversity of types of cooperatives seen today.	717	3,58	1,604
S_E_26	y. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity has stood the test of time.	717	3,53	1,541
S_E_24	w. The ICA effectively defends and promotes the cooperative identity.	717	3,52	1,574
S_E_25	x. Cooperatives in my country are generally proud of their cooperative identity.	717	3,50	1,289
S_E_5	b. The Guidance Notes to the Cooperative Principles are useful in applying the Principles to the day-to-day governance and operation of cooperatives.	717	3,44	1,814
S_E_7	d. The Identity Statement is helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	717	3,43	1,736
S_E_16	m. Cooperatives in my country are at risk of losing ground to forward-looking investor-owned corporations in the realm of sustainable development.	717	3,40	1,439
S_E_15	l. The Statement on the Cooperative Identity fully captures cooperatives' responsibility to future generations.	717	3,32	1,499

S_E_14	k. Cooperatives in my country are at risk of losing ground to other forms of social and solidarity enterprise in the realm of redressing social inequities.	717	3,27	1,463
S_E_8	e. The Guidance Notes are helpful in telling genuine cooperatives and cooperatives of convenience (sometimes called false cooperatives) apart.	717	3,19	1,834
S_E_12	i. Cooperatives in my country are at risk of falling behind private, public or charitable enterprises in ensuring the equitable treatment and full inclusion of women, youth, minorities and disadvantaged persons.	717	3,14	1,461
S_E_11	h. Cooperatives in my country market their cooperative difference.	717	3,08	1,274
S_E_9	f. I perceive most cooperatives in my country as operating in full accordance with the Cooperative Values and Principles.	717	3,04	1,288
S_E_18	o. Some laws or regulations governing cooperatives where I live are in conflict with aspects of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.	717	2,99	1,554
S_E_21	r. Generally speaking, cooperatives in my country take sufficient steps to tell their employees about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	717	2,84	1,348
S_E_20	q. Generally speaking, cooperatives in my country take sufficient steps to tell their members about the Cooperative Values and Principles.	717	2,84	1,300
S_E_19	p. Generally speaking, cooperatives in my country measure their performance against the Cooperative Values and Principles.	717	2,79	1,278
S_E_27	t. Cooperatives in my country are generally aware of the Statement on the cooperative Identity.	717	2,78	1,376
S_E_28	u. The Identity Statement is well understood by cooperators in my country.	717	2,64	1,304
S_E_17	n. Government actors in my country understand what distinguishes the cooperative form of enterprise from other business models.	717	2,60	1,339
S_E_22	s. Education on the cooperative identity is widely available and is promoted within my country.	717	2,53	1,263