

Exploring the co-operative economy

Explorative report 2012

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The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) - with the scientific and technical support of Euricse - launched a new project: **The World Co-operative Monitor**.

Thanks to the support of Crédit Coopératif, the Desjardins Group, the Indian Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Organização das Cooperativas Brasileiras (OCB), and The Co-operative Group, this project aims to monitor and demonstrate the economic and social impact of the largest cooperative and mutual organizations worldwide.

The research team launched the pilot study of the World Co-operative Monitor in 2012, collecting economic and social data on the world's largest cooperatives and mutuals as of 2010.



Of the top 300 cooperatives and mutuals surveyed, the total turnover is **1,975.6 billion USD**.

These top 300 organizations are distributed in 24 countries around the world and are primarily in the insurance sector (43%), agriculture and food industries (26%), and the consumer and retail sector (21%).

When comparing the total turnover of these top 300 cooperatives with the top 300 companies on the Fortune Global500 ranking, the former represents 9.4% of the total turnover of the latter.

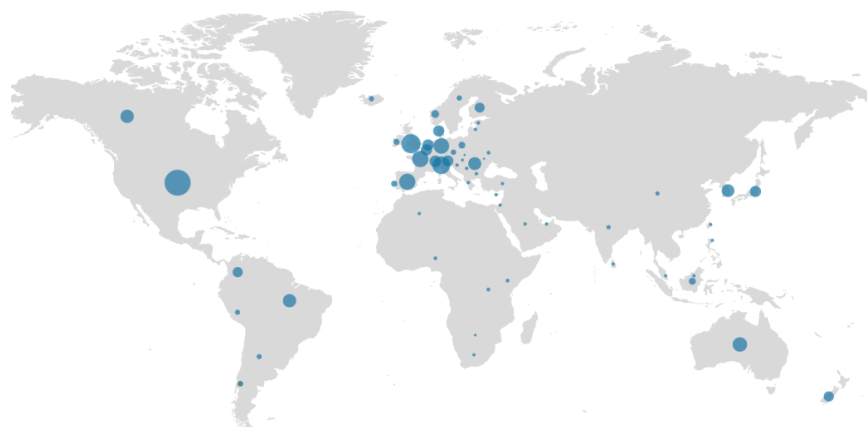
As shown in table 1, Zenkyoren, a Japanese co-operative in the insurance sector, occupies first place in the ICA ranking of the top 300 cooperatives and mutuals.

Table 1. Top 10 Co-operative and mutual organizations in the World Co-operative Monitor database

Rank	Organization	Turnover 2010 (billion USD)	Country
1	Zenkyoren	70.70	Japan
2	Zen-Noh	60.88	Japan
3	Edeka Zentrale	58.16	Germany
4	State Farm Group	56.87	USA
5	Nippon Life	55.50	Japan
6	ReWe Group	52.10	Germany
7	ACDLEC - E.Leclerc	46.53	France
8	Groupe Crédit Agricole	45.73	France
9	Kaiser Permanente	44.20	USA
10	Meiji Yasuda Life	37.81	Japan

The data presented above are extracted from the database developed during the pilot study of the World Co-operative Monitor. The database contains data collected through an online questionnaire addressed directly to cooperative and mutual organizations. That data is also integrated with existing databases and other data collected by national associations, research institutes, and other organizations.

Overall, data was collected for 2,190 cooperatives and mutuals distributed across 61 countries. In 2010, their total turnover (excluding the banking and insurance sectors) is 1,155.1 billion USD; their total net banking income is 185.3 billion USD; and the total premium income for insurance cooperatives and



mutual organizations is 1,101.8 billion USD.

The idea behind the World Co-operative Monitor is to define a new process of data collection, integration, and analysis, culminating in the creation of a regularly updated database containing economic, but also employee and other social data, to monitor and demonstrate not only the economic, but also the social impact of the largest co-operatives, mutuals and non-cooperative enterprises in which cooperatives have a controlling interest, worldwide.

The project aims to achieve, within a few years, a number of objectives, including:

- Raising the profile of cooperatives within their own industries and countries, as well as internationally;
- Demonstrating the economic and social importance of cooperatives and mutuals to government and regulatory agencies;
- Modelling good practice and highlighting successful cooperative business models and innovative approaches; and
- Creating networks between cooperatives and mutuals for greater sharing of information, business intelligence, and business opportunities.

The pilot study conducted this year is only the first step in achieving the final goal of the World Co-operative Monitor.

The World Co-operative Monitor will not be limited to this – its main goal is to give visibility to the largest cooperatives, in terms of economic and/or social impact, in their countries.

The World Co-operative team, therefore, intends to gradually collect data that can describe how the largest cooperatives in the world contribute to the welfare of the countries in which they operate in terms of employment, facilities, etc.

It is an ambitious project that ICA and Euricse will bring forward together, trying to involve more and more federations and local representatives, confident that increased availability of data is a good starting point for a greater recognition of the importance of the cooperative movement.

ICA and Euricse, aware of the opportunity that visibility of the project can provide for single co-operatives that decide to take part, intend in the coming months to develop www.monitor.coop, a website dedicated to the World Co-operative Monitor, where users can browse to find all the co-operatives in the World Co-operative Monitor database and consult the main information.

The success of the project cannot, however, ignore the contribution of cooperatives. Cooperatives can actively participate in the project by completing the questionnaire at www.monitor.coop/quest.

The World Co-operative Monitor report is available at:

http://www.monitor.coop/doc/2012/Explorative_Report_2012.pdf