



# EXPLORING THE CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY

REPORT 2015

Executive Summary

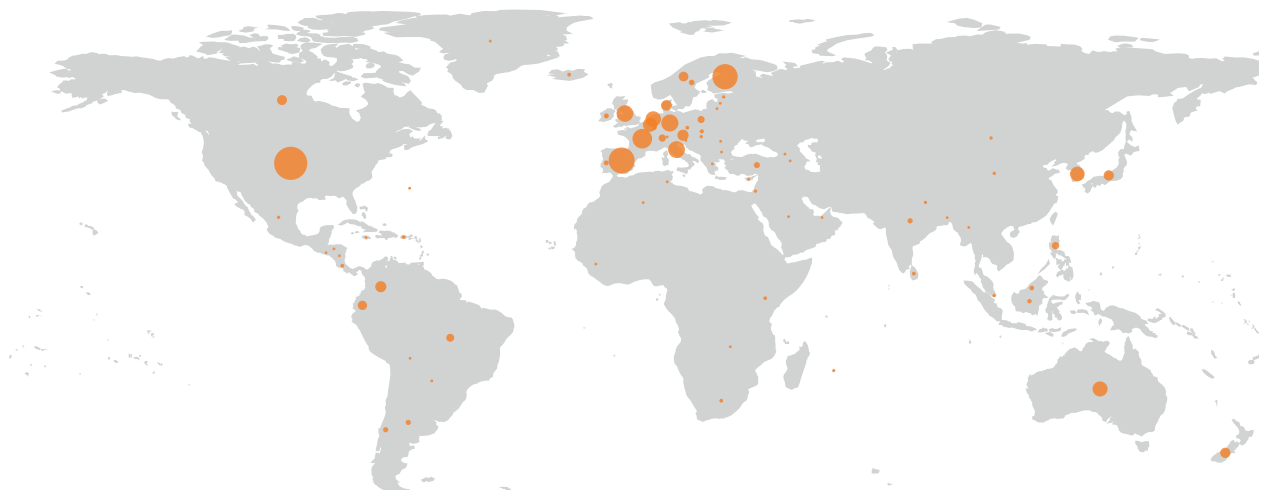


Antalya, November 2015. The International Co-operative Alliance (the Alliance) - with the scientific and technical support of the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) - launches the 2015 **World Co-operative Monitor**.

The 2015 World Co-operative Monitor report was produced by a team of researchers at Euricse with the scientific support of a committee of international experts and scientists and made possible with the support of our organizational partners: Fundación Espriu and OCB System.

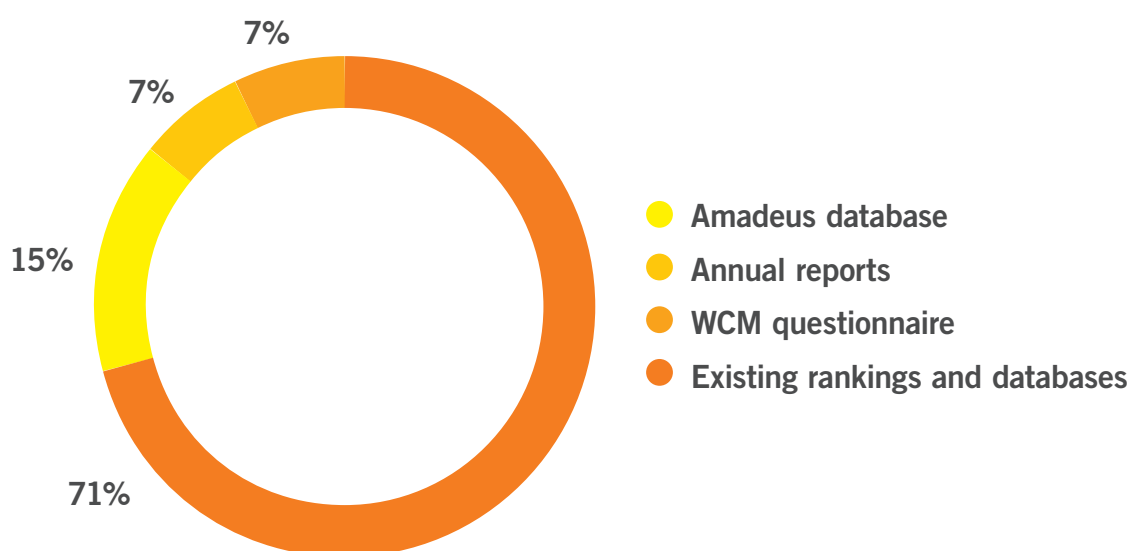
This fourth edition of the Report, **analyzing data from 2013**, highlights the size and importance of the co-operative sector across the globe and includes a special section focusing on the size and relevance of the agriculture and food industries sector. The data shows that the co-operative sector continued to grow in 2013, with the turnover of the Top 300 increasing yet again.

Co-operatives in 2015 World Co-operative Monitor database by country



The Report studies co-operatives<sup>1</sup> worldwide from **76 countries, including a wider database of organizations than ever.** The top 300 of these co-operatives are ranked based on turnover as well as the ratio of turnover to gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, relating the turnover of the co-operative to the purchasing power of the country in which it operates in a comparable way. Additional analysis in the report includes an overall description of the 2015 database and sectorial rankings based on turnover as well as the ratio of turnover to GDP per capita.

Co-operatives by data source



The database contains data collected through an online questionnaire addressed directly to co-operative and mutual organizations. That data is also integrated with existing databases and other data collected by national associations, research institutes, sectorial organizations and others. **Increased participation in this year's data collection efforts have resulted in a larger and more robust dataset. This year, the questionnaire was completed by 200 co-operatives from 54 countries,** with particularly high response rates from Ecuador and the Philippines.

The benefits of the yearly World Co-operative Monitor include the opportunities to:

- Raise the profile of co-operatives within their own industries and countries, as well as internationally;
- Demonstrate the economic and social importance of co-operatives and mutuals to government and regulatory agencies;
- Model good practices and highlight successful co-operative business models and innovative approaches; and
- Create networks between co-operatives and mutuals for greater sharing of information, business intelligence, and business opportunities.

<sup>1</sup> Organizations studied include primary co-operatives, co-operative groups and networks, mutual organizations, and non-co-operative enterprises controlled by co-operatives. For a complete discussion of the methodology see [www.monitor.coop](http://www.monitor.coop)

## KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2015 WORLD CO-OPERATIVE MONITOR:

The overall database this year exceeds all past editions reaching 2,829 co-operatives from 76 countries with a total turnover of 2,950.82 billion US dollars.

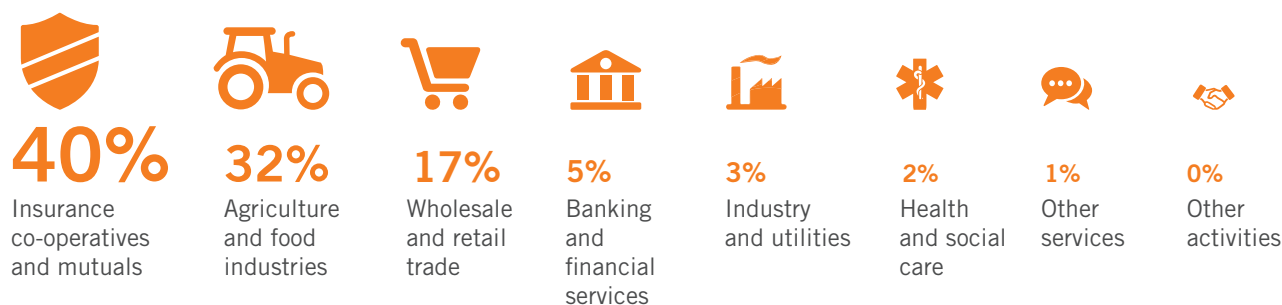
In 2013 we see an overall increase in the total turnover of the Top 300 co-operatives and mutual organisations. **The largest 300 co-operatives and mutuals report a total turnover of 2,360.05 billion US dollars in 2013** compared with 2,205.70 billion US dollars the previous year.

### Top 300 co-operative and mutual organisations by turnover

**25**  
countries

**2,360.05** billion USD  
Turnover in 2013

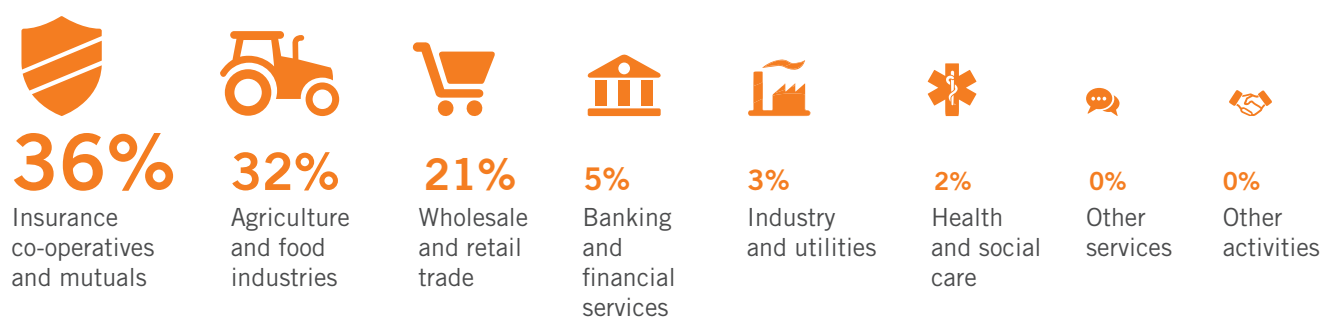
### TOP 300 CO-OPERATIVE AND MUTUAL ORGANISATIONS BY SECTOR



The average turnover of the Top 300 has increased by 0.52 billion US dollars to 7.87 billion US dollars in 2013 from 7.35 billion US dollars in 2012 and the value of the turnover of the 300<sup>th</sup> co-operative has increased to 1.47 billion US dollars in the 2013 ranking from 1.26 billion US dollars in that of 2012. This year, 40% of the Top 300 are in the insurance sector while 32% are agriculture and food industry co-operatives. In all, the total turnover of the Top 300 co-operatives and mutuals represents 80% of the turnover of the entire dataset.

**The five highest ranking organizations in the Top 300 have changed slightly with respect to the prior year, though Zenkyoren (National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives) of Japan retains its top rank for the fourth year in a row.** This year ACDLEC - E.Leclerc (France) rose from fifth position to second, State Farm (USA) from fourth to third, and Kaiser Permanente (USA) and Rewe Group (Germany) entered into the top 5 at fourth and fifth place respectively.

## TOP 300 CO-OPERATIVE AND MUTUAL ORGANISATIONS BY SECTOR BY TURNOVER OVER GDP PER CAPITA



The ranking by turnover to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita highlights the relevance of co-operatives in their country.

RANKING 2013	RANKING 2012	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	TURNOVER/GDP PER CAPITA 2013	SECTOR OF ACTIVITY
1	1	INDIAN FARMERS FERTILISER COOPERATIVE LTD. (IFFCO)	India	2,358,998.95	Agriculture and food
2	2	NH NONGHYUP (NACF)	Republic of Korea	2,117,469.23	Agriculture and food
3	3	ZENKYOREN (NATIONAL MUTUAL INSURANCE FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL COOP.)	Japan	1,639,488.96	Insurance
4	-	CONFERERAÇÃO NACIONAL DAS COOPERATIVAS MÉDICAS UNIMED DO BRASIL	Brazil	1,629,790.56	Health and social care
5	4	ACDLEC - E.LECLERC	France	1,476,389.02	Wholesale and retail

## THE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRIES SECTOR

In recent years much attention has focused globally on agriculture and food systems policies and practices. The theme of the World Expo held this year in Milan, “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life” is the latest demonstration of the importance placed on the food supply chain and its actors. However, despite the large share of agricultural production around the world organized in the co-operative form, data on this type of enterprise is still scarce, and the impact and role of co-operatives in ensuring high quality products, decent wages, and sustainable development is only partially revealed.

The World Co-operative Monitor data helps fill at least part of this gap. In the special section focused on the agriculture and food industries sector, the economic relevance of the top agricultural co-operatives is analysed. The data show an **increase in total turnover of the top 30 cooperatives in the Agriculture and Food Industries sector from 328.42 billion US dollars in 2011 to 410.53 billion US dollars in 2013**, notwithstanding the global economic crisis over these years.

### THE TOP 3 IN 2013:

#### NH NONGHYUP (NACF)

Members

**2,431,353**

individual members of member co-operatives

Personnel

almost **80,000**

Country

Republic of Korea

#### ZEN-NOH

Members

**1,032**

co-operative unions (including 156 secondary unions)

Personnel

over **8,000**

Country

Japan

#### CHS INC.

Members

**625,000**

producers, mainly throughout 1,100 member co-operatives

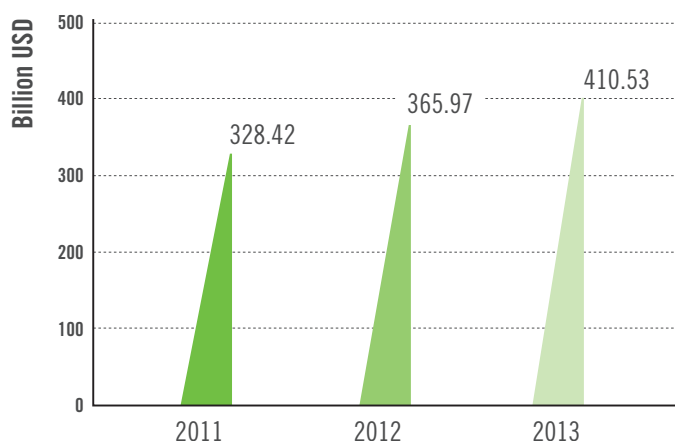
Personnel

over **11,000**

Country

USA

### TOP 30 GROWTH OVER LAST 3 YEARS



Co-operatives can actively participate in the project by completing the questionnaire at [www.monitor.coop](http://www.monitor.coop).

The complete World Co-operative Monitor report is available at: [www.monitor.coop](http://www.monitor.coop)



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