

Health cooperatives and mutuals worldwide

An analysis of the contribution to citizens' health by cooperatives around the world

In collaboration with the International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO), Euricse is conducting a study devoted to analyzing the role played by health co-operatives and mutuals in contributing to different national welfare systems. The research examines both members and users of health co-operatives and mutuals, in order to provide an estimate of the number of people served globally. This study includes both quantitative and qualitative analysis on health co-operatives and mutuals and the systems in which they operate.

The project is structured in stages and is projected to span a period of five years, building incrementally towards its goal. At the completion of each stage, there will be a discrete output (in the form of a dataset and report). For the first year (2016-2017), the focus is on 15 countries in four continents.

The research focuses on

Physician and general practitioner cooperatives providing services related to treatment, cure, and/or rehabilitation

Cooperatives operating healthcare facilities, hospitals, clinics, etc.

Other cooperatives providing health care and health-related social services

Cooperatives working on illness prevention, health promotion and/or health literacy

Cooperatives in the field of pharmaceutical distribution and retailing

Cooperatives or mutuals offering health plans or insurance policies covering some or all of these services.

Research objectives

General objective

To assess the contribution of health care co-operatives and mutuals in promoting public health and well-being.

Specific objectives

To determine the main typologies of co-operative organizations devoted to the provision of health-related services

To assess how mutuals and co-operatives operate in different national welfare systems

To estimate the number of users accessing mutual and health co-operative services

Methodology

The process of data collection includes obtaining and integrating both international and national official data on the different types of cooperatives as well as obtaining ad hoc data through a short questionnaire administered to co-operative federations.

Data collection is devoted to understanding the number and characteristics of the population served by health cooperatives in different countries around the world. This quantitative-qualitative data will be integrated by semi-structured interviews to key-informants in order to provide an in-depth analysis of some crucial aspects that emerge from the questionnaires.

First year

During the first year, fifteen countries will be covered and six national case studies will be analyzed more in-depth, with the objective of deepening the analysis of a specific organizational typology in each of the countries.

15 Countries

Canada, USA, Argentina, Colombia, Brazil, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Italy, France, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Russia, Australia

6 Case-studies

Canada, Brazil, Japan, Italy, Spain, Belgium



COOPERATIVES: THE POWER TO ACT



**International Health
Co-operative Organisation**
A Sector of the International
Co-operative Alliance



Euricse

European Research Institute on
Cooperative and Social Enterprises