



## Exploring the co-operative economy Report 2013

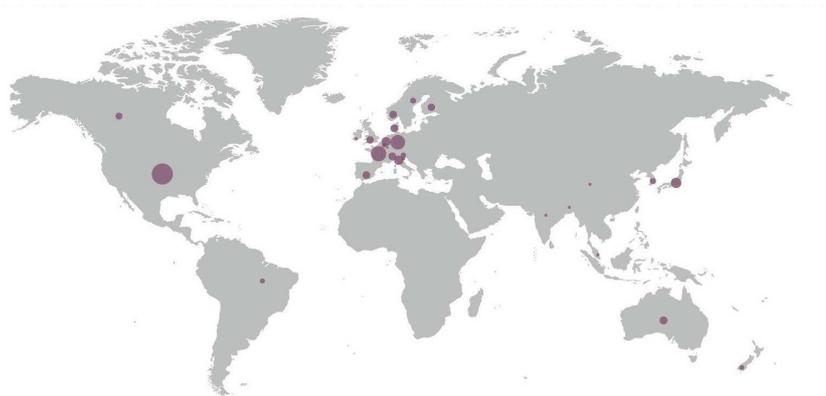
Cape Town, November 2013. The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) - with the scientific and technical support of Euricse - launches the 2013 report of its global statistical project: **The World Co-operative Monitor**. In this new edition the Report has been enriched with a new feature: a ranking list based on ratio turnover on the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.

The report has been developed this year thanks to the support of the U.S. Overseas Cooperative Development Council (OCDC) and of the Fundacion Espriu. The project saw the creation of an extensive network of research institutes and agencies with the aim to collect data about co-operatives worldwide 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. This year, the Report investigates the evolution of the panorama in 2011.

Of the biggest 300 cooperatives and mutuals surveyed, the total turnover is

**2,098.6 billion USD\***. These top 300 organizations are distributed in 23 countries around the world and are primarily in the insurance sector (41%), agriculture and food industries (28%), and the consumer and retail sector (21%).



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

**Table 1. Top 10 Co-operative and mutual organizations by Turnover 2011 in the World Co-operative Monitor database**

Rank	Organization	Turnover 2011 (billion USD)	Country
1	Zenkyoren	81.86	Japan
2	Zen-Noh	62.44	Japan
3	Nippon Life	61.99	Japan
4	State Farm Group	57.13	USA
5	ReWe Group	52.22	Germany
6	Meiji Yasuda Life	49.93	Japan

7	ACDLEC - E.Leclerc	49.05	France
8	Kaiser Permanente	47.90	USA
9	Groupe Crédit Agricole	45.49	France
10	Sumitomo Life	37.98	Japan

In addition to rankings based on turnover, the 2013 report includes also rankings based on ratio turnover on the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. The ratio turnover on GDP is not proposed to compute the contribution of each co-operative to the national GDP, but it is a first attempt to relate the turnover of the co-operative to the purchasing power of the country in which it operates in a comparable way. As shown in table 2, IFFCO, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative, occupies first place in this ranking.

**Table 2. Top 10 Co-operative and mutual organizations by Turnover 2011 / GDP per Capita in the World Co-operative Monitor database**

Rank	Organization	Turnover/GDP per Capita	Country
1	IFFCO	2,606,308.15	India
2	Zenkyoren	1,770,621.73	Japan
3	NACF	1,396,583.00	South Korea
4	Zen-Noh	1,353,408.08	Japan
5	Nippon Life	1,343,747.70	Japan
6	State Farm Group	1,187,506.89	USA
7	Rewe Group	1,186,282.84	Germany
8	Acdlec - E.Leclerc	1,153,495.74	France
9	Meiji Yasuda Life	1,082,367.58	Japan
10	Groupe Crédit Agricole	1,069,801.31	France

The data presented above are extracted from the database developed during this year 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 2,032 cooperatives and mutuals distributed across 56 countries. In 2011, their total turnover (excluding the banking and insurance sectors) is 1,250.6 billion USD; their total net banking income is 176.8 billion USD; and the total premium income for insurance cooperatives and mutual organizations is 1,151.1 billion USD.



To the purposes of the World Co-operative Monitor project, organisations have been classified as follows:

Co-operative	An autonomous association composed mainly of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.
Mutual	Private co-operative type organisation providing insurance or other welfare related services. Consider also micro-insurance and mutuals with both voluntary and compulsory membership.
Co-operative of co-operatives/mutuals	Co-operative composed mainly of co-operatives/mutuals that carry out an economic activity for the production of goods or the provision of services of common interest for their members. It periodically publishes its own financial statements.
Co-operative group	A group that: 1) is composed of organisations that operate as a single economic entity, 2) regularly publishes a consolidated financial statement, 3) includes mainly co-operatives, 4) acts according to co-operative principles and values and 5) is controlled by co-operatives.
Co-operative network	A network that: 1) is composed of organisations that operate as a single economic entity, 2) does not publish a consolidated financial statement, 3) includes mainly co-operatives, 4) acts according co-operative principles and values and 5) is controlled by co-operatives.
Non co-operative enterprise:	Non co-operative enterprise in which co-operatives have a controlling interest

After a careful analysis of existing projects, including the Global Impact Investing Network (GINN)<sup>1</sup>, the World *Co-operative Monitor* team has focused on collecting few SMART indicators<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [www.thegiin.org](http://www.thegiin.org).

<sup>2</sup> SMART stands for *Simple, Measurable, Appropriate, Realistic and Timely*, this approach emerged in the managementa (Doran, 1981) and used today to measure innovation and development in many other fieldse(United Nations, 2013).

ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION: metrics that focus on operational model, type of the organisation, sector of activity and location.	OPERATIONAL IMPACT: metrics that describe the organisation's members, employees and volunteers.
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION: metrics that describe the organisation's products and services.	PRODUCT IMPACT: metrics that describe the performance and reach of the organisation's products and services.
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE: reported financial metrics	GLOSSARY: definitions for common terms that are referenced in the metrics

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 study conducted these two years 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 Monitor 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](http://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](http://www.monitor.coop/quest).

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