



MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

NATIONAL REPORT: PORTUGAL

ICA-EU PARTNERSHIP



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT	2
<i>i. Historical background.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>ii. Public national statistics</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>iii. Research methodology.....</i>	<i>5</i>
II. KEY FIGURES.....	6
<i>iv. ICA member data</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>v. General overview</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>vi. Sector overview.....</i>	<i>9</i>
III. GRAPHS.....	10
<i>vii. Number of cooperatives by sector:</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>viii. Number of memberships by sector</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>ix. Number of employees by sector</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>x. Turnover by sector in EUR:</i>	<i>13</i>
IV. ANNEXES.....	14

I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This report is part of a Mapping exercise launched by the International Cooperative Alliance and its regional offices, within the framework of a partnership signed with the European Commission for the period 2016-2020. The programme aims to strengthen the cooperative movement and its capacity to promote international development. Other research projects led within this partnership include a worldwide Legal Frameworks Analysis, and several thematic researches on themes of significance for cooperatives.

Responding to challenges and existing knowledge gaps facing the cooperative movement, this research seeks to provide exhaustive information on cooperatives worldwide. This is achieved through a process jointly conducted by the ICA and its four regional offices – Cooperatives of the Americas, Cooperatives Europe, ICA Africa, and ICA Asia-Pacific – using a common methodology. Each office collected the input of ICA members present in the countries within its geographic area, by using the same questionnaire, and completing it with relevant national statistics, in order to obtain an accurate picture of the national situation. Mapping out cooperatives in each country provides a more precise picture of the cooperative context at national and regional levels, enhances the movement's visibility, networking, partnerships opportunities, as well as advocacy, and empowers cooperators by providing them tools for positive change.

Within this framework, the present report showcases information about the cooperative landscape in Portugal.

i. Historical background

Modern cooperative values were disseminated throughout Portugal from England by means of the 1848 Revolutions.¹ Like the UK from where the Rochdale Pioneers emerged, early consumer coops in Portugal were rooted in neighbourhood networks and in the growing industrial belts of Lisbon and Porto.² Portugal was the second country in Europe to legally recognise Cooperatives with the Basilar Law of 1867 which was introduced in the context of the liberal philanthropic movement of the time.³ In the years that followed, and especially during the First World War, the cooperative movement experienced increasing politicisation, in line with the trend of increased state intervention in the economic and social spheres.⁴

Portugal like many other European countries experienced a “crisis of liberalism”⁵ which resulted in authoritarian regimes, first a military dictatorship between 1926 and 1933, followed by a fascist corporatist state known as the *Estado Novo*. The military dictatorship years were favourable to the diffusion of cooperative ideas and voluntary associations were able to continue some of their activities. The political disputes during these years furthermore gave opportunities to the cooperative movement to gain relevance. For example, the Socialist party created a committee

¹ D. Freire and J. D. Pereira, ‘Consumer co-operatives in Portugal: debates and experiences from the 19th to the 20th century’, in Mary Hilson, Silke Neunsinger and G. Patmore (Eds.), *A Global History of Consumer Co-operation since 1850: movements and business*, (2015), Leiden: Brill Publishers

² Ibid

³ M. Fernandes, ‘Farm cooperatives and State policies in Portugal after the Carnations’ Revolution’, IEHA 2006 XIV International Economic History Congress, p. 3

⁴ Op cit, D. Freire and J. D. Pereira, at supra 1.

⁵ Ibid

to monitor the cooperative movement and the party newspaper had a section providing information on cooperatives.⁶

By contrast, in the *Estado Novo* years, from 1933 until the 1974 Carnation Revolution, the cooperative sector was held back by restrictions on association, with the notable exception of cooperatives in the farming sector which experienced state-encouraged growth as part of the regime's efforts to establish controls over Portuguese agriculture.⁷

With the demise of the *Estado Novo*, the cooperative sector was liberated from the restrictions that had been imposed. Significantly, the Portuguese Constitution of 1976 provided recognition for cooperatives and the sector also benefitted from laws granting tax breaks.⁸ These years also saw the emergence of Confagri the association of Portuguese agricultural cooperatives, as well as ConfeCoop, an association for non-agricultural cooperatives.

Following growth of the Portuguese cooperative sector between the mid-1970s to the 1990s, more recent years saw a period in which significant cooperative failures took place, especially in more competitive markets such as the agri-food sector.⁹ The modern-day cooperative sector in Portugal continues to be dominated by agricultural cooperatives which in this report make up around one third of the total. Other important sectors include banking, wholesale and retail trade and education.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Op. cit, Ferndandes, at supra 3, p. 4

⁸ Ibid

⁹ J. Rebelo; J. Caldas, 'The Economic Role of the Portuguese Agricultural Cooperatives', Rev. Econ. Sociol. Rural vol.53 supl.1 (2015)

ii. Public national statistics

For a more comprehensive picture of the cooperative movement in Portugal, the present section provides key data from the country's public registers as a useful background context to the ICA members' data showcased in Section II of the report.

The data presented here stems mostly from Portugal's *Instituto Nacional de Estatística* (INE), as well as the International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy (CIRIEC) statistics published in the European Economic and Social Committee's 2017 report 'Recent Evolutions of the Social Economy of the European Union'.¹⁰

NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:

According to a press release from INE and written in collaboration with Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social (CASES), there were **2,343** cooperative organisations in Portugal in 2016¹¹, out of a total of 1,196,102 enterprises.¹² Therefore, cooperatives made up nearly 0.2% of the total enterprises in the country in this year. More recent data from INE and CASES reports that there were **2,012** cooperative enterprises in the year 2018.¹³

EMPLOYMENT:

According to the INE, there were 4,605,200 people employed in Portugal in 2016¹⁴. Data from INE and CASES for the same year provides a figure of 24,402 people employed by cooperatives¹⁵, suggesting that at least 0.52% of the population are employed by the cooperative sector in Portugal. More recent data from CASES and INE reports that the cooperative sector employed 25,086 in the year 2018.¹⁶

COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP:

According to data from CIRIEC, Portugal had 1,500,000 members of cooperative organisations in 2013.¹⁷ From Portugal's population of 10,427,301 in the same year, these figures mean over 14% of Portuguese people were members of a cooperative in 2013.

PRODUCTION VALUE:

In 2016, the overall Gross Value Added (GVA), at basic prices, of the country stood at 162.2 billion euros, according to data from the INE and CASES.¹⁸ According to the same source, cooperatives in the same year had a GVA of 604 million euros. Therefore, cooperatives made up nearly 0.4% of Portugal's GVA for the year 2016.

¹⁰ CIRIEC-International, 'Recent evolutions of the Social Economy in the European Union', EESC (2017)

¹¹ E. Graça, 'The Social Economy Satellite Account', Eduardo Graça Instituto Nacional de Estatística, Coleção De Estudos De Economia Social N.º 10, Lisboa, INE (2019), p. 76

¹² Instituto Nacional de Estatística, 'Statistical Yearbook of Portugal: 2016', Lisboa, INE (2018), p. 28

¹³ Instituto Nacional de Estatística, 'Inquérito Ao Setor Da Economia Social 2018', Lisboa, INE (2019), p.26.

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 95

¹⁵ Op. cit, INE, 'Social Economy Satellite Account 2016', p. 30

¹⁶ Op cit, INE, 'Inquérito Ao Setor Da Economia Social 2018', p. 6

¹⁷ Op cit, CIRIEC International, p. 90.

¹⁸ Op cit, INE, 'Social Economy Satellite Account 2016', p. 3

iii. Research methodology

The aim of the mapping research is to collect and make publicly available reliable and up-to-date data to understand what the cooperative movement represents in the targeted country. With this view, the data detailed in the present report has been collected using the methodology detailed below.

The methodological tools include a questionnaire used to collect the data, which was distributed online to the members, as well as a methodological note provided for further guidance. They were built jointly with all ICA regional offices with the support of external experts from the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) and are applied in a harmonised way in all the target countries.

The classifications used in the research are consistent with the internal system used within the ICA movement (e.g. on membership status and types of cooperative organisations) and with standards increasingly adopted in recent studies and by international organisations like the ILO – e.g. using international classifications of economic activities such as the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) rev. 4, which ensures the comparability of statistics both nationally and internationally, as well as with statistics on other forms of enterprises.

Regarding the target organisations, considering that a worldwide survey has very challenging goals, and while the value of directly collecting data from non-member cooperatives must be recognised, the present Mapping exercise targets cooperative organisations members of the ICA.

Furthermore, in order to complete the ICA members' data, the decision was taken to also look at external sources, to provide additional and more exhaustive cooperative statistics for the country. As a result, the data is collected following two strategies contemporaneously: 1) collecting statistics already available in the country; 2) carrying out a survey targeting ICA cooperative members.

In Portugal, the Mapping questionnaire, was distributed to, and completed by CASES, an ICA member organisation in the country. After some additional follow-up and clarifications from the member, the figures provided were compiled to be presented in the next section.

II. KEY FIGURES

This section presents the results of the data collection directed by the ICA members. It is different from the general estimates for the country provided in the introduction – as the coverage represents between 60 to 70% of the total number of cooperatives in the country¹⁹.

Portugal counts 4 member organisations of the ICA and the regional offices (2 full ICA / Cooperatives Europe members, 1 full Cooperatives Europe member and 1 Cooperatives Europe associate member).²⁰

Members of Cooperatives Europe and ICA

- **Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social (CASES)**
- **Confederação Cooperativa Portuguesa (CONFECOOP)**

Members of Cooperatives Europe

- **Confederação Nacional de Cooperators Agrícolas e do Crédito Agrícola de Portugal, CCRL (CONFAGRI)**
- **Uninorte**

CASES is a full ICA member²¹ and the national apex organisation²² for Portuguese cooperatives, who they represent in public and abroad. CASES is not a federation nor a confederation, but a Public Interest Cooperative that gathers the State and six representative organizations of the social economy sector, including two cooperative confederations.²³ CASES aims to promote the strengthening of the sector, deepening cooperation between the State and the organizations, as well as the pursuit of policies in the area of volunteering.

Its member organisations and organisations that are covered via its role as a public authority for the cooperative sector are active in the following sectors, ordered here by decreasing order of importance – from the highest to lowest number of memberships:

- Agriculture
- Banking
- Wholesale and retail trade

¹⁹ CASES, 'The statistical overview of Social Solidarity Cooperatives in Portugal 2017-2018', Social Solidarity Cooperatives 2018, April 2020, p. 10

²⁰ See [ICA members](#) and [Cooperatives Europe members](#) for more information

²¹ This category covers members with voting rights – as opposed to associate members (which can include for instance governmental agencies).

²² Defined in the present research methodology as “the umbrella organization at national level in which all sectors of cooperatives (and/or mutuals) converge and that is responsible for promoting the cooperatives (and/or mutuals) in the country and providing services to the cooperative (and/or mutuals) members.”

²³ These include: ANIMAR – Associação Portuguesa para o Desenvolvimento Local; CNIS – Confederação Nacional das Instituições de Solidariedade; UMP União das Misericórdias Portuguesas; UMP – União das Mutualidades Portuguesas; CONFECOOP; and CONFAGRI.

- Other services²⁴
- Education
- Construction
- Human health and social work
- Information and communication services
- Insurance
- Industry

CONFECOOP is a full ICA member and the national confederation representing non-agricultural cooperatives in Portugal. It focuses its activities on values of solidarity and cooperation, in a permanent dialogue with the social economy sector and the private sector, while being autonomous and independent from the state.

Its member organisations are active in the social solidarity, housing and consumer sectors.

CONFAGRI is a full Cooperatives Europe member and national confederation of Portuguese agricultural and agricultural credit cooperatives.

Uninorte is an associate Cooperatives Europe member and is a member-based network that connects and supports local development in Portugal. It works as a central point for dissemination and exchange of experiences, best practice and policy in the field of local development and the economy of solidarity.

iv. ICA member data

The data collected was provided by CASES for the year **2017**. While a significant portion of the questionnaire was completed, data could not be provided for the following variables:

- For cooperative membership, no data was available on gender or number of youth
- At the sectoral level, no data was retrieved on the number of producer-members
- According to data from CASES, 10,211 of cooperative employees in Portugal or 42% of the total are worker-members²⁵, however no data was retrieved at the sectoral level for this
- Some questions on sectoral data were left unanswered because, primarily, the activity is either very marginal or non-existent. There were also some differences in the way sectors are identified, for example, “transport” and “accommodation and food service activities” are all included in the “services” sector according to the definition used by the member organisation.

²⁴ It was not possible to disaggregate data for the following sectors referred to in the questionnaire: Accommodation and food services; Administrative and support service activities; Professional, scientific and technical activities; Real estate activities; Transport; and Utilities

²⁵ The term ‘worker-members’ in this context may refer to both worker members in cooperatives and those who are also members of cooperatives as consumers or users.

v. General overview

The present section provides an overview of the reported ICA membership data for Portugal. It is displayed in several categories and with the support of graphs, for clarity purposes.

Category	Total
Number of cooperatives	1412
Number of memberships	406 302
Number of employees	24 346

For the year 2017, CASES - an ICA member - collected data from 1412 cooperatives in the country, with a total number of memberships²⁶ of **406 302**, and a total number of **24 346** employees.²⁷ According to CASES, 10 211 of these employees are also members of cooperatives, or 42% of the total.²⁸ For comparison, based on the public national statistics above, there were **2343** cooperative enterprises in Portugal in 2016, and **2012** in 2018. Therefore, CASES collected data from 70% of cooperative enterprises in Portugal.²⁹ Based on the above data for 2018, cooperatives employed **25 086** people across Portugal, so data from CASES represented over 90% of workers employed by cooperatives in Portugal. While no economic data was available for all member organisations at the national level, some sectorial data could be provided and is broken down below.

²⁶ Defined in the Mapping methodology as: the number of persons who initially signed the application for registration and those admitted in accordance with the cooperatives' bylaws and who currently participate in the organization in accordance with the cooperatives' bylaws.

²⁷ Defined as: all those workers who hold the type of job defined as paid employment jobs. Note that the number of employees provided by CASES is methodologically broader than the number provided by INE in "Inquérito Ao Setor Da Economia Social 2018", therefore, direct comparisons produce overestimated results.

²⁸ See footnote 23.

²⁹ CONFECOOP is a member of CASES, therefore a proportion of the collected data covers the two ICA member organisations in the country. However, not all of the data collected refers to ICA members.

vi. Sector overview

The sectors used below correspond to the categories used in the ISIC rev. 4. to classify the economic activities carried out by the organisations concerned.³⁰ With regards to the turnover, the amount is provided in Euro (EUR).

A general overview is provided in the chart below:

	Number of cooperatives	Number of memberships	Number of employees	Turnover in million EUR
Agriculture and food industry	465	126481	5910	1547
Banking	87	106575	3736	1266
Wholesale and retail trade	62	94415	1006	796
Education	73	15987	4857	147
Construction	157	14722	193	15
Human health and social work	190	13142	5592	33
Information and communication services	159	6805	1025	25
Insurance	1	4949	43	6
Industry	27	415	207	2
Other services³¹	191	22811	1777	71

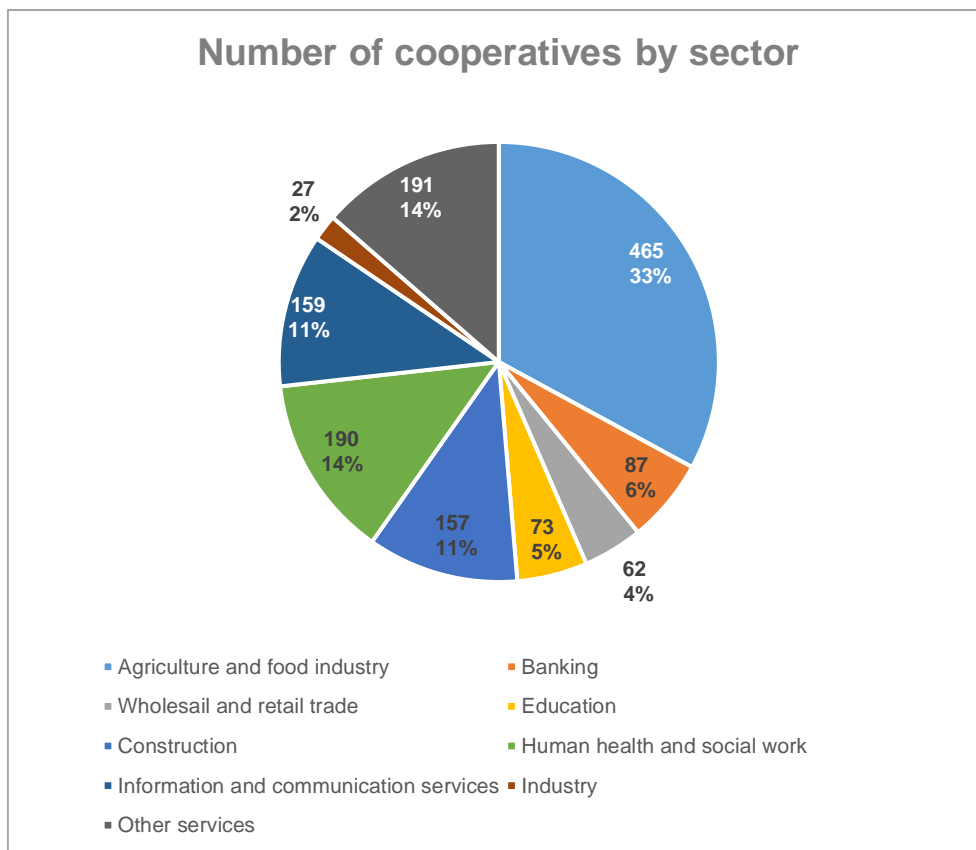
³⁰ Note: the data CASES provided follows the national Cooperative branch classification which is closely related to, but separate from, ISIC 4.

³¹ Refer to footnote 22 for contents.

III. GRAPHS

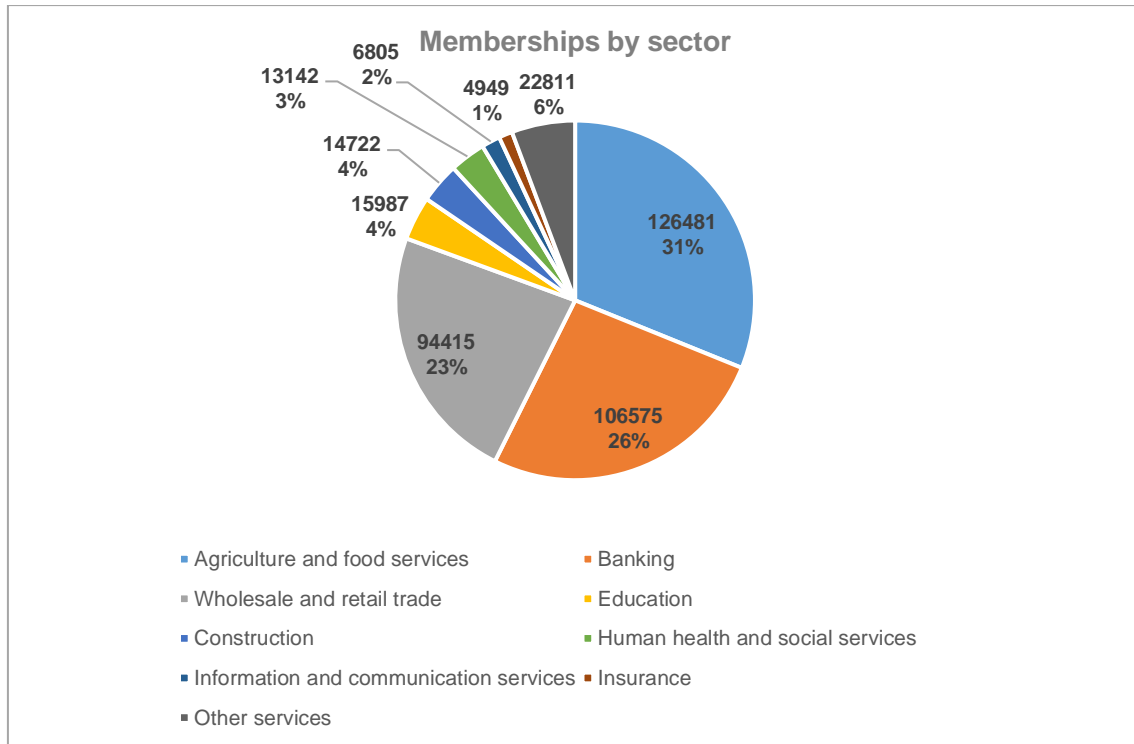
Specific variables are also detailed in the graphs below, when sectorial data was available.

vii. Number of cooperatives by sector³²



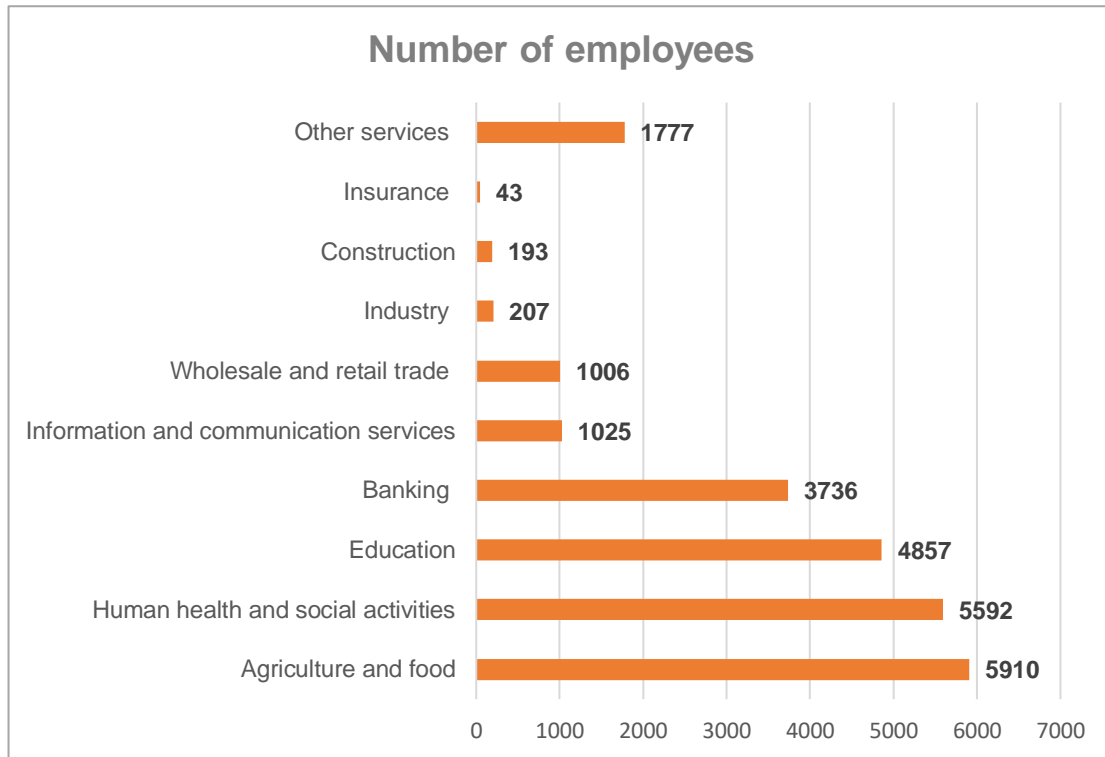
³² This graph does not show Insurance cooperatives, of which there was data for 1 collected, making up around 0.07% of the total number of cooperatives.

viii. Number of memberships by sector³³

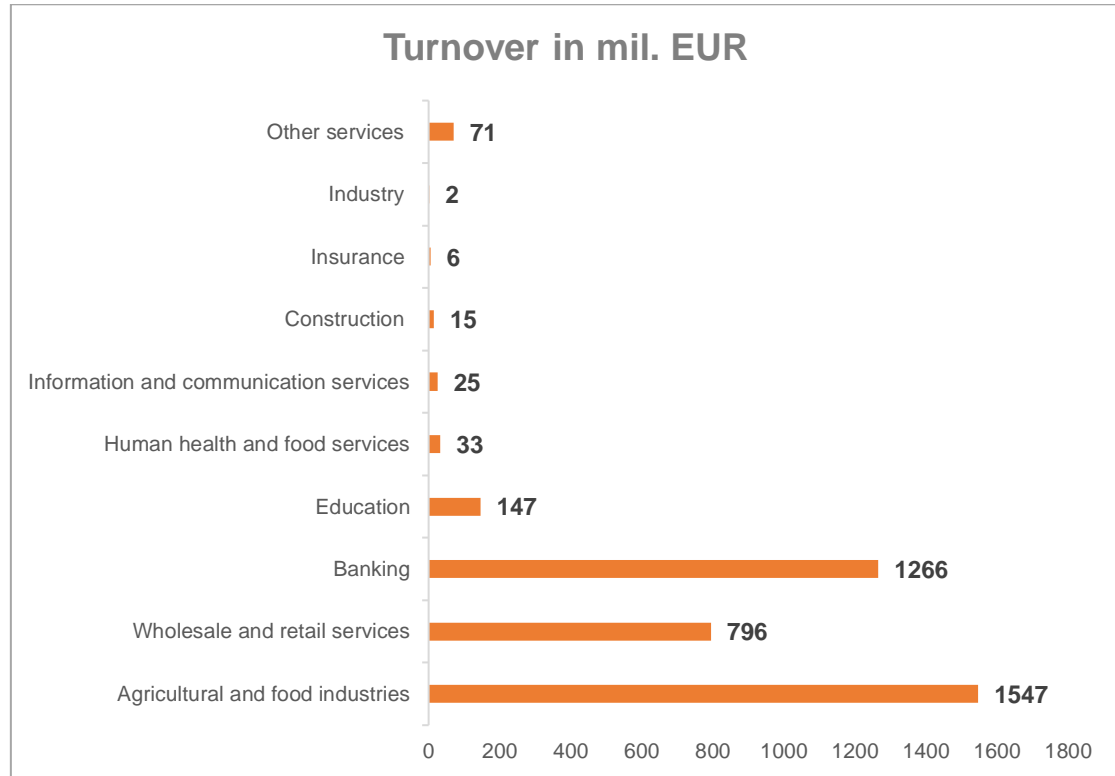


³³ This graph does not show data for members of Industry cooperatives, of which there was data for 415 collected, making up around 0.1% of the total membership.

ix. Number of employees by sector



x. Turnover by sector in EUR



IV. ANNEXES

Sources and contacts are listed below.

Sources

Publications by statistical bodies:

- Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social, (2020), 'The statistical overview of Social Solidarity Cooperatives in Portugal 2017-2018', Social solidarity Cooperatives 2018, p. 10
- CIRIEC-International, (2017), 'Recent Evolutions of the Social Economy in the European Union', EESC (2017)
- Instituto Nacional de Estatística, 'Inquérito Ao Setor Da Economia Social 2018', Lisboa, INE (2019), p. 26.
- Instituto Nacional de Estatística, (2014), 'Statistical Yearbook of Portugal: 2016', Lisboa, INE (2018)
- Instituto Nacional de Estatística, Graça. E, 'The Social Economy Satellite Account', Coleção De Estudos De Economia Social N.º 10, Lisboa, INE (2019), p. 76

Other sources:

- Fernandes M, (2006), 'Farm cooperatives and State policies in Portugal after the Carnations' Revolution', IEHA 2006 XIV International Economic History Congress
- Freire D; Pereira J.D., (2015), 'Consumer co-operatives in Portugal: debates and experiences from the 19th to the 20th century', Hilson M, Neunsinger S and Patmore G (Eds.), A Global History of Consumer Co-operation since 1850: movements and business, Leiden, Brill Publishers
- Rebelo J; Caldas J, (2015), 'The Economic Role of the Portuguese Agricultural Cooperatives', Rev. Econ. Sociol. Rural vol.53 supl.1

Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research and other country reports are available on www.coops4dev.coop

The production of this report was overseen by staff from Cooperatives Europe and the International Cooperative Alliance. For any further information or clarification, please contact mappingresearch@ica.coop

Updated: June 2020

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Cooperatives Europe and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.