



# MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

## NATIONAL REPORT: URUGUAY

### ICA – EU PARTNERSHIP



## Table of contents

<b>I.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<i>i.</i>	<i>Historical background</i> .....	3
<i>ii.</i>	<i>Public national statistics</i> .....	4
<i>iii.</i>	<i>Research methodology</i> .....	5
<b>II.</b>	<b>KEY FIGURES</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<i>iv.</i>	<i>ICA member data</i> .....	7
<i>v.</i>	<i>General overview</i> .....	7
<i>vi.</i>	<i>Sectoral overview</i> .....	8
<b>III.</b>	<b>GRAPHS</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<i>vii.</i>	<i>Percentage of total cooperatives by sector</i> .....	9
<b>IV.</b>	<b>ANEXOS</b> .....	<b>10</b>

## 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 Uruguay.

## i. Historical background

Uruguayan cooperativism is clearly related to European immigration in the mid and late nineteenth century, and to the waves of the first years of the twentieth century. Immigration characterized in many cases by being linked to the emerging workers 'organizations in the old continent, from which the first workers' associations, unions, mutuels and resistance organizations were founded in the country. Some of the experiences identified from that germinal stage are the First Spanish Society of Mutual Aid (1853), the Society for Mutual Aid of Typographic Workers (1870), as well as the Rural Development Societies, the Rural Savings Banks, and the Popular Savings Banks<sup>1</sup>.

The first Uruguayan cooperatives emerged from solidarity organizations focused on the autonomous provision of services, or on the collective provision of jobs. In 1903 the Cooperativa Obrera de Consumption del Frigorífico Liébig de Fray Bentos was founded and in 1909 the consumer cooperative "La Unión" was formed, made up of textile workers from Juan Lacaze, inaugurating a cycle of concretion of several other cooperatives of this type linked to different unions or labor groups.

Juan Pablo Terra<sup>2</sup> points out that the development process of Uruguayan cooperativism has experienced periods of push and the role of third institutions in their own promotion has been relevant. These include the Church, the State, and Civil Society through non-governmental organizations such as the Uruguayan Cooperative Center (CCU) or the action of the organized movement in their Federations and in the Confederation.

In 2008, Law 18407 was approved<sup>3</sup>, by which the cooperative movement has another relevance at the public policy level, promoting the creation of the National Institute of Cooperativism (INACOOOP), which is in charge of proposing, advising and executing the national policy of cooperativism. For 2015, the Development Fund (FONDES-INACOOOP) is created to give economic support to viable and sustainable productive projects of the social and solidarity economy.

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<sup>1</sup> CUDECOOP. (2018). Trayectoria y estado de situación de las cooperativas en el Uruguay. Unpublished.

<sup>2</sup> Tera, J.P. (1986). Proceso y significado del cooperativismo uruguayo. CEPAL. Available at: <http://goo.gl/QN2XvV>

<sup>3</sup> Ley 18407 de cooperativas, regulación, constitución, organización y funcionamiento. Available at: <http://goo.gl/omLofg>

## ii. Public national statistics

For a more comprehensive picture of the cooperative movement in Uruguay, 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 come from statistical sources such as INACOOOP's 2018 Report<sup>4</sup> and responses from our member organizations.

### NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:

The Information and Research Unit of INACOOOP, which is in charge of keeping the data of cooperatives and other Social Economy organizations updated, reported a total of 3 653 active cooperatives in Uruguay for the year 2018.

### EMPLOYMENT:

The Uruguayan Confederation of Cooperative Entities (CUDECOOP) reports through its response to the form sent a total of 11 103 direct jobs generated by cooperatives in 2017.

### COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP:

The Uruguayan Confederation of Cooperative Entities (CUDECOOP) reports through its response to the form sent a total of 1 285 193 people associated with a cooperative in 2017.

### PRODUCTION VALUE:

Uruguay does not have exact data on the contribution of cooperatives to the national GDP; however, the 2009 census<sup>5</sup> indicates that cooperatives, the gross value of

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<sup>4</sup> INACOOOP. (2018). Memoria del Ejercicio 2018. Digital version.

<sup>5</sup> Instituto Nacional de Estadística. (2009). Censo Nacional de cooperativas y sociedades de fomento rural. Digital version.

production (income minus costs) was a total of 33.4 thousand million Uruguayan pesos (UYU) (approximately 1.1 thousand million euros<sup>6</sup>).

### 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.

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<sup>6</sup> InfoEuro exchange rate as of December 2008, 1EUR = 30.7UYU

In Uruguay, the mapping questionnaire was distributed and completed by 1 ICA member organization. After further follow-up of the surveyed members, the figures provided were compiled to be presented in the next section.

## II. KEY FIGURES

This section presents the results of data collection conducted by ICA members; which is the same as the general estimates for the country provided in the introduction, since the coverage represents 100% of the total number of cooperatives in the country.

Uruguay has 4 ICA member organizations (3 full members and 1 associate member):

- **Confederación Uruguaya de Entidades Cooperativas (CUDECOOP)**. Full member.

Established in 1988, it is the highest representative entity of the Uruguayan cooperative movement. Through its member entities, CUDECOOP represents more than 3 500 cooperatives from all sectors with activity in the country, which involve more than one million cooperative members. Sector: Apex.

- **Cooperativas Nacionales Financieras Aliadas en Red (CONFIAR)**. Full member.

Founded in 2001, it is a second degree entity that promotes, develops and facilitates economic activity and comprehensive training of its associates through the reciprocal provision of services of all kinds, be these technical, educational, economic, financial, advisory, provision administrative or commercial services. Sector: Finance.

- **Cámara Uruguaya de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Crédito y Capitalización (CUCACC)**. Full member.

Founded in 2002, a trade association that defends and represents institutionally the capitalization savings and credit cooperatives; representing more than twenty credit unions. Sector: Finance.

- **Instituto Nacional del Cooperativismo (INACCOOP)**. Associate member.

Founded in 2008, it is the one who proposes, advises and executes the national cooperative policy. Its objective is to promote the economic, social and cultural development of the cooperative sector and its insertion in the development of the country. Sector: Promotion entity.

ICA member organizations are directly or indirectly active in the following sectors:

- Banking
- Insurance
- Commerce
- Industry
- Agriculture and food industry
- Education
- Transportation
- Accommodation and food
- Administrative services
- ICT's
- Health
- Construction
- Housing
- Professional services
- Other

#### **iv. ICA member data**

The data collected was provided for the year 2017, based on information provided by member organization Cudecoop.

#### **v. General overview**

This section provides an overview of the ICA membership data for Uruguay. It is displayed in various categories and supported by tables and graphs, for clarity.



Category	Total
Number of cooperatives	3 653
Number of memberships	1 285 193
Number of employees	11 103

Overall, ICA members represent 3 653 cooperatives in the country, with a total number of memberships of 1 285 193 and a total number of 11 103 employees. User cooperatives, producer cooperatives, work cooperatives and multiple cooperatives are present in Uruguay.

## vi. Sectoral 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.

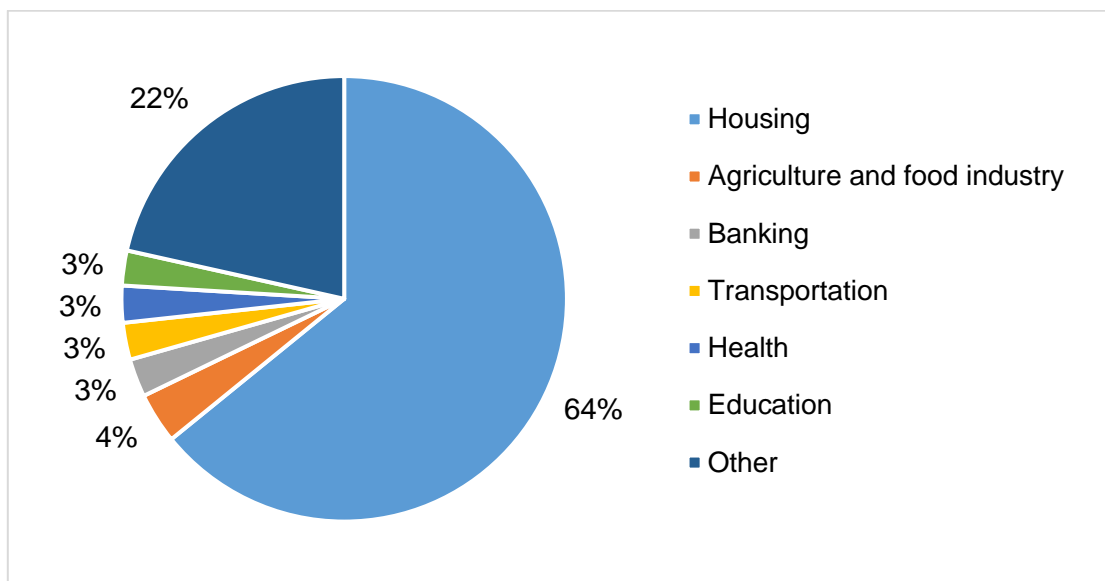
A general overview is provided in the chart below:

Sector	Cooperatives	Employment	Membership
Banking	94	-	-
Insurance	2	-	-
Commerce	62	-	-
Industry	76	-	-
Agriculture and food industry	125	-	-
Education	86	-	-
Transportation	91	-	-
Accommodation and food	8	-	-
Administrative services	13	-	-
ICT's	16	-	-
Health	91	-	-
Construction	26	-	-
Housing	2177	-	-
Professional services	56	-	-
Other	730	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 653</b>	<b>11 103</b>	<b>1 285 193</b>

### III. GRAPHS

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

#### vii. Percentage of total cooperatives by sector



## IV. ANEXOS

### Sources:

CUDECOOP. (2018). Trayectoria y estado de situación de las cooperativas en el Uruguay. Unpublished.

Tera, J.P. (1986). Proceso y significado del cooperativismo uruguayo. CEPAL.  
Available at: <http://goo.gl/QN2XvV>

Ley 18407 de cooperativas, regulación, constitución, organización y funcionamiento.  
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INACOOOP. (2018). Memoria del Ejercicio 2018. Digital version.

Instituto Nacional de Estadística. (2009). Censo Nacional de cooperativas y sociedades de fomento rural. Digital versión.

### Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research and other country reports are available on [www.coops4dev.coop](http://www.coops4dev.coop)

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