



LEGAL COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK ANALYSIS

Within the ICA-EU Alliance

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR BOLIVIA

This one-pager aims to provide a brief overview of the most notable features of Bolivia's national cooperative legal framework, based on the work of the national legal expert.

The Bolivian cooperative legislation is contained in national law No. 356 called the General Law on Cooperatives (LGC, for its acronym in Spanish) published in the Official Journal of Bolivia on April 11, 2013 and the Regulations of the General Law of Cooperatives put into effect by Decree No. 1995 of May 13, 2014.

In Article 6, the LGC lists and develops the cooperative principles (solidarity, equality, reciprocity, equity in distribution, social and non-profit purpose) of its partners. In its second paragraph, it also considers those of the international cooperative movement (open and voluntary entry, democratic management, economic participation from its members, autonomy and independence, education, training and information, supportive integration between cooperatives and interest in the community as a whole); as well as values of mutual aid, complementarity, honesty, transparency, accountability and equitable participation.

Cooperative Friendliness: The State's Political Constitution considers the cooperative sector in 12 articles. There, it promotes the purchase and participation of the cooperative sector, even in sectors where the state closes participation to the particular private sector. For the promotion of cooperatives, there is even a state body, which is the Directorate of Public Policy and Cooperative Development. Bolivian legislation is very much in favor of cooperatives.

Key Recommendations for Improvement: The creation of a specific legislation for the sector of associated work cooperatives is necessary and the insertion of tax incentives, the sector does not differ from others in this aspect, and even has double taxes in some cases, affecting competitiveness.

