



## LEGAL COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK ANALYSIS

### Within the ICA-EU Alliance

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR COLOMBIA

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

Current regulations lead toward the principles, foundations and rights established within the National Constitution of 1991, however, the normative framework has a multidisciplinary regulation that precedes the new Constitutional Charter, Law 79 from 1988 by means of which the cooperative legislation is updated and which to date remains active and is the legal basis of the cooperative movement. After the creation of the Constitutional Charter from 1991, the country recognized the entirety of the actors that converge in the ecosystem of a solidarity economy, as such, Law 454 from 1998 is established.

**Cooperative Friendliness:** It has been identified that existing national legislation has more barriers than benefits, i.e. it turns out to be more against the cooperative movement in the country than in its favor. This is due, in part, to the lack of a strong institution with coherent functions and current practices that strengthen the cooperative movement within the country and that is under a relevant structure in decision making, for example, one that exists under the outline of the Presidency of the Republic.

**Key Recommendations for Improvement:** Remove access barriers or regulatory or administrative obstacles that restrict the participation of cooperatives in various areas of productive development or the provision of goods and services in conditions similar to those of other economic actors.

**Conclusions:** A measurement compounded of variables that can be evaluated annually to analyze the characteristics of the sector is considered necessary, for example: New cooperatives in Colombia, number of affiliates, type of affiliates, economic sectors and sample of the ecosystem, services offered and provided, among others, can help to better visualize the applicability of the regulation and growth of the ecosystem.

