



Call for papers: Research on the evolution of the cooperative sector in the Americas between the International Years of Cooperatives (2012 – 2025).

1. Context

This research is carried out by Cooperativas of the Americas, Region of the International Cooperative Alliance (also known as “ICA Americas”) within the framework of the International Cooperative Alliance and the European Union Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA), which includes thematic research on topics relevant to cooperatives.

In 2011, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives and highlighted the contribution of cooperatives to economic and social development, especially their impact on poverty reduction, job creation and social integration.

Under the theme "Cooperative enterprises help build a better world", the International Year of Cooperatives 2012 had three main objectives:

1. **Raise awareness:** Create greater public awareness of the contribution of cooperatives to economic and social development, and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
2. **Promote growth:** Encourage the formation and growth of cooperatives, composed of individuals and institutions, to address their mutual economic needs as well as achieve full economic and social participation.
3. **Establish appropriate policies:** Encourage governments and regulatory bodies to implement policies, laws and regulations that are conducive to the formation and growth of cooperatives.

13 years later, a second International Year of Cooperatives will be celebrated, as on June 19, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution proclaiming that 2025 will be the International Year of Cooperatives. Thus, the International Cooperative Alliance hopes to¹:

1. **Raise awareness:** give greater visibility to the contribution of cooperatives to sustainable development.
2. Promote the **growth and development** of cooperatives through training initiatives, knowledge sharing and collaborative partnerships.
3. Foster **enabling environments and appropriate policy and legal** frameworks to strengthen cooperative business ecosystems.
4. Inspire **youth** to participate in the movement and promote the power of cooperatives to create a better world.

¹ About the full press release: https://ica.coop/sites/default/files/2024-06/2025_iyc_theme_press_release_es_1.pdf



Given the above, the call is opened for the presentation of works of research aiming to investigate the evolution of the cooperative sector between both international years (2012 – 2025), with the details outlined in the following sections.

2. Research objectives

The research aims to provide an overview and innovative view of the evolution, new sectors and priority socioeconomic issues, as well as the new practices associated with cooperatives and their actions in the Americas between the two International Years of Cooperatives (2012 and 2025), given the purposes pursued in each of those years. More precisely:

SO1. Map the implementation of policies, laws, and regulations that have led to the establishment and growth of cooperatives in the Americas, before and after 2012.

SO2. To characterize new priority economic sectors, as well as new associative forms, and new productive and social cooperative practices in order to promote the participation of youth, women, and other economically and socially marginalized actors within the cooperative movement of the Americas, after 2012.

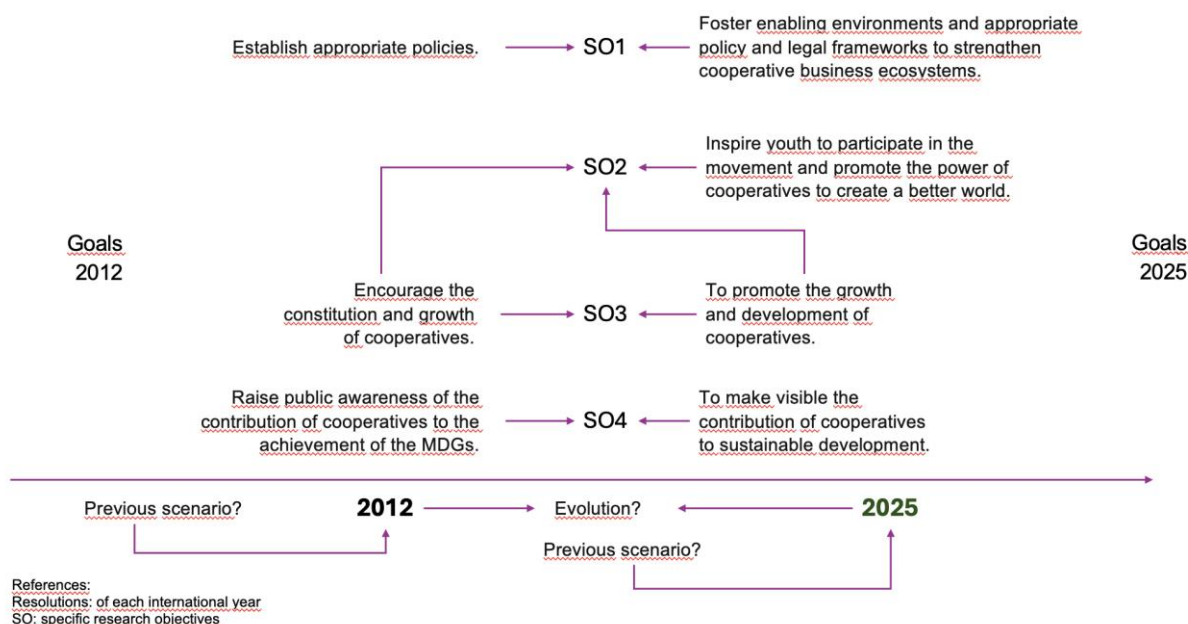
SO3. Identify programs and initiatives for education and training, knowledge exchange, and training alliances for the promotion, growth, and development of the cooperative identity in the Americas, before and after 2012.

SO4. To inquire about the public's perception of the contribution of cooperatives in the Americas to sustainable development.

As can be seen in Figure 1, the four specific objectives detailed above respond to the purposes of the International Years of Cooperatives. In this way, it is intended to delve into the comparison of the scenarios prior to each of these two years, as well as the evolution between them.



Figure 1. Linking the purposes of the international cooperative years and specific research objectives



3. Actors involved

This research will be coordinated by the Education and Research Officer of the ICA Americas Regional Office. An Academic Committee will be put in place for this purpose, comprised of 4 members of the Network of Researchers of Cooperatives of the Americas (one for each subregion); 1 representative of an International Organization; and 2 representatives, with preference for alternating gender and senior and junior levels, of Cooperatives of the Americas Commission on Cooperative Law.

4. Scope and process

This research is based on information from both primary and secondary sources. The research will provide the basis for further research in greater depth and specificity on the topics covered. At the same time, the analysis of the results of the interviews on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda should be focused. The research will have the characteristics detailed in Table 1.



Table 1. Specific objectives, part of the research and scope

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	Research	Scope
1 Map the implementation of policies, laws, and regulations that have led to the constitution and growth of cooperatives in the Americas, before and after 2012.	Part One	Pre 2012 and pre 2025
2 Characterize new priority economic sectors, as well as new associative forms, new productive and social practices of cooperativism in order to promote the participation of youth, women and other economically and socially marginalized actors within the cooperative movement of the Americas, after 2012.	Part One	Pre 2025
3 Identify programs and initiatives for education and training, knowledge exchange, and training alliances for the promotion, growth, and development of the cooperative identity in the Americas, before and after 2012.	Part Two	Pre 2012 and pre 2025
4 Inquire about the public's perception of the contribution of cooperatives in the Americas to sustainable development.	Third	Post 2025

The results will be presented during the events that Cooperatives of the Americas will organize in 2025-2026, either as part of its agenda for the International Year of Cooperatives, or during its 24th Regional Conference and/or 7th Cooperative Summit of the Americas in 2026. In addition, the results will be disseminated through specific publications coordinated by the Regional Office, with the corresponding mention of the participating authors.

The dissemination process will strive to reach a wide range of audiences.

5. Terms and conditions

The investigation will have three parts. The first part of the research focuses on SO1 and 2; the second part, on SO3 and the third, on SO4. For its preparation, both primary and secondary sources may be used.

The research will provide the basis for further research in greater depth and specificity on the topics covered. At the same time, the analysis should focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda.

The countries to be analyzed are those of the American continent. Each work should focus only on one country and only one EMB. Table 2 summarizes basic characteristics of the call.



Table 2. Call characteristics

SO	Deadline	Extent of the work
1	October 7, 2024	Between 2000 and 3000 words
2	October 7, 2024	Between 2000 and 3000 words
3	May 30, 2025	Between 2000 and 3000 words
4	June 30, 2026	Between 2000 and 4000 words

Papers made by up to 4 authors (co-authorship) will be accepted. Full papers may be submitted in Spanish, English or Portuguese. Regardless of the language selected, they must be submitted with an abstract of a maximum of 350 words in Spanish, English or Portuguese, and between 3 and 5 keywords in each language.

In accordance with the above deadlines, the works must be sent to the following link: [SUBMISSION](#).

They will be sent in word processor format (.doc, .docx or similar), without footnotes, annexes or appendices, written in Arial text font, in 11-point body and Normal margins (2.5 cm upper and lower and 3 cm left and right). The line spacing must be 1.5. The most recent APA references and bibliographic citation style will be accepted. The bibliography will be counted outside the indicated word count.

If you have any questions, write to paula.arzadun@aciamericas.coop. Telephone calls or inquiries will not be answered.

5.1. Style and structure: SO1

SO1. Map the implementation of policies, laws, and regulations that have led to the constitution and growth of cooperatives in the Americas, before and after 2012.

The structure of the case will be as follows:

1. Context of the sector (number of cooperatives in the country segmented by economic activity; total number of members; relative representation in GDP; number of jobs, among other general data)
2. Pre-2012 Policies, Laws and Regulations: Legislative, Regulatory and Public Policy Body from the Origins of the Sector in the Country, and Prior to the first International Year of Cooperatives
3. Post-2012 policies, laws and regulations: changes in the body of legislation, regulations and public policies related to the cooperative sector in the country, after the first International Year of Cooperatives



4. In the face of changes in the body of legislation, regulations and public policies related to the cooperative sector in the country after the first international year of cooperatives: what has happened in the country in terms of the constitution and growth of cooperatives in the country?
5. Conclusions

5.2. Style and structure: SO2

SO2 Characterize new priority economic sectors, as well as new associative forms, new productive and social practices of cooperativism in order to promote the participation of youth, women, and other economically and socially marginalized actors within the cooperative movement of the Americas, after 2012.

In order to address the SO2, the case may focus on new economic sectors, new forms of associations, or new productive and social practices. The case could also address more than one of the issues mentioned, always limited to a single country.

Also of interest is the link between the subject to be developed and the resolutions or other publications of various organizations such as the UN, the OECD or the European Commission, in recent years, on cooperativism and social economy.

It is important to make visible the participation of youth, women and other economically and socially marginalized actors.

The structure will be as follows:

1. Context of the sector (number of cooperatives in the country segmented by economic activity; total number of members; relative representation in GDP; number of jobs, among other general data)
2. Development of the selected theme (the case may focus on new economic sectors, new associative forms, or new productive and social practices. The case could also address more than one of the issues mentioned, always limited to a single country)
3. Conclusions

5.3. Style and structure: SO3

SO3 Identify programs and initiatives for education and training, knowledge exchange, and training alliances for the promotion, growth, and development of the cooperative identity in the Americas, before and after 2012.



In order to address SO3, it is of interest to assess the impact of the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives on training initiatives, knowledge sharing and partnerships to promote the growth and development of cooperatives in the Americas.

The structure of the case will be as follows:

1. Context of the sector (number of cooperatives in the country segmented by economic activity; total number of members; relative representation in GDP; number of jobs, among other general data)
2. Training, knowledge exchange and collaborative alliance initiatives to promote the growth and development of cooperatives in the Americas, before and after 2012.
3. Conclusions

5.4. Style and structure: SO4

SO4 To inquire about the public's perception of the contribution of cooperatives in the Americas to sustainable development.

In order to address SO4, it is of interest to assess the impact of the International Year of Cooperatives in terms of public perceptions of the contribution of cooperatives in the Americas to sustainable development.

The structure of the case will be as follows:

1. Context of the sector (number of cooperatives in the country segmented by economic activity; total number of members; relative representation in GDP; number of jobs, among other general data)
2. Public perception of the contribution of cooperatives in the country under study to sustainable development
3. Conclusions



5. Evaluation

The acceptance of the works for evaluation will be announced via email. Table 2 specifies the evaluation criteria.

Table 3. Evaluation criteria

Item	Relative weight
Clarity and coherence: the case study should be well structured and presented in a clear manner	20
Data reliability and validity: Reliability refers to the consistency of the data, while validity refers to the accuracy and adequacy of the data to respond to the specific objective at hand.	25
Proper analysis: The analysis of the data must be detailed and accurate. Important patterns, themes, or relationships should be identified.	25
Appropriate conclusion: It should be consistent with the findings presented and respond to the objective of the call in a clear and concise manner.	30

The work must be rigorously unpublished, including its publication on the Internet. If before the resolution of this call, the submitted case is accepted for another publication, it must be communicated immediately by its author.

6. Acceptance of rules

The authorship of the selected individuals will be explicitly acknowledged in international forums and in specific publications coordinated by the Regional Office.

Participants expressly agree to comply with each and every one of the RULES of this call.

Failure to comply with any of the RULES will result in the exclusion of the participant(s).

In the event of doubts or discrepancies in the interpretation of any of these RULES, the Regional Office will make an interpretation in accordance with the spirit and purpose for which this call has been created.

For practical reasons, the Regional Office may modify the rules once the call has begun.

7. Data protection and transfer of rights

Participants authorize the Regional Office to collect in databases information related to name, telephone number, e-mail address, and all the data provided within the framework of this call.



The participants will transfer free of charge to the Regional Office the editorial rights of reproduction, distribution, transformation and public communication; with the right to appointment.

If selected, participants authorize the Regional Office to process personal data for related activities.