



Call for Young Researchers

As part of the Research on the Evolution of the Cooperative Sector in the Americas
between the International Years of Cooperatives (2012–2025)

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1. Context

This research is carried out by Cooperatives 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.

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.

Given the above context, this call is open to individuals who wish to develop their undergraduate or graduate theses within the broader framework of researching the evolution of the cooperative sector between both IYC (2012–2025), with the specific details outlined in the following sections.

2. Objectives

The call aims to bring together a group of young individuals from the Americas who are developing their undergraduate or graduate theses on topics relevant to cooperatives in general and to the American continent in particular.

In accordance with the Operating Regulations of the Regional Youth Committee of Cooperatives of the Americas, applicants must be no older than 34 years at the time of application.

With the aim of exploring the evolution of the cooperative sector between both IYC (2012–2025), the specific objectives are:

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



SO1. 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.

SO2. To inquire about the public's perception of the contribution of cooperatives in the Americas to sustainable development.

3. Scope and process

The countries to be analyzed are those of the American continent.

The research papers must include the IYC 2012 – IYC 2025 context by addressing the following question: What was different or remained constant since the first International Year of Cooperatives (2012) that is worth highlighting in relation to the research topic? In other words, what has happened between 2012 and 2025, between the two International Years of Cooperatives? The purpose of this question is to identify changes or significant aspects between both International Years of Cooperatives (IYC).

The data analysis must consider connections to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, using both primary and secondary sources.

As part of the evaluation and selection process, the results will be presented at events organized by Cooperatives of the Americas in 2025-2026, either as part of its Agenda for 2025, the International Year of Cooperatives, its 24th Regional Conference, and/or its 7th Cooperative Summit of Cooperatives of the Americas in 2026. Additionally, the results will be disseminated through specific publications coordinated by the Regional Office, with due acknowledgment of the participating authors.

3.1. Thesis Proposal

The proposal must follow the format and content guidelines established in the APPENDIX of this document. Papers authored by up to four individuals (co-authorship) will be accepted. The submission deadlines are detailed in Table 1..

Table 1. Thesis Proposal Submission Deadlines

OE	Fecha límite de entrega de propuesta
SO1. 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.	March 17th, 2025
SO2. To inquire about the public's perception of the contribution of cooperatives in the Americas to sustainable development.	April 21st, 2025





It is the responsibility of the applicant to carry out all necessary procedures for obtaining approval from the institution offering the academic program for which they will submit their thesis.

If the proposal is accepted, the designated contact person will be reached out to in order to establish the next steps. The APPENDIX outlines the required style and structure for the final paper, and Table 2 details the submission deadlines for the final works.

Table 2. Final Paper Submission Deadlines

OE	Fecha límite de entrega de trabajo final
SO1. 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.	May 30th, 2025
SO2. To inquire about the public's perception of the contribution of cooperatives in the Americas to sustainable development.	June 30th, 2026

4. Inquiries and Submissions

For inquiries, please email paula.arzadun@aciamericas.coop. Phone calls or telephone inquiries will not be attended.

All submissions must be made through the following link: [SUBMISSION](#), adhering to the established deadlines.

5. Evaluation

Acceptance of papers for evaluation will be communicated via email. Table 3 outlines the evaluation criteria.

Table 3. Evaluation criteria

Item	Relative Weight (%)
Clarity and coherence of the context	20
Clearly formulated general objective (measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound, specific)	25
Clearly formulated specific objectives	25
Properly identified population, sample, and unit of analysis	20
Properly identified potential risks and mitigation actions	10



The submitted work must be strictly original, including its publication on the Internet. If, before the resolution of this call, the submitted work is accepted for another publication, the author must immediately inform the organizers.

6. Acceptance of terms

The authors of the selected works will be explicitly recognized in international forums and specific publications coordinated by the Regional Office.

Participants expressly agree to comply with all the TERMS of this call.

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

In case of any doubts or discrepancies regarding the interpretation of these TERMS, the Regional Office will interpret them according to the spirit and purpose for which this call was created.

For justified reasons, the Regional Office may modify the TERMS after the call has begun.

7. Data Protection and rights transfer

Participants authorize the Regional Office to collect and store information such as their name, phone number, email address, and all data provided within the framework of this call.

Participants grant the Regional Office free editorial rights for the reproduction, distribution, transformation, and public communication of their work, with the right to be cited.

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





Appendix

Thesis Proposal Format

Submissions must be in word processor format (.doc, .docx, or similar), without footnotes, annexes, or appendices, using Arial font, size 11, with Normal margins (2.5 cm top and bottom, 3 cm left and right). Line spacing must be 1.5. The most recent APA citation and reference style will be accepted. The bibliography will not be counted toward the word limit.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to complete all necessary procedures to obtain approval from the institution offering the academic program for which they will submit their thesis.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Full name:

Author 1 (Main Contact Person)	Author 2	Author 3	Author 4

2. Email:

3. Phone Number:

4. Nationality:

5. Date of Birth:

6. Name of the academic program for which the thesis will be submitted:

7. Academic level of the program: Undergraduate? Graduate?

8. Name of the institution offering the academic program:

9. Country where the institution is located:

10. Contact person (advisor or institutional representative):

PROPOSAL



11. Selected Objective (Choose one):

1. 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.
2. To inquire about the public's perception of the contribution of cooperatives in the Americas to sustainable development.

12. Title:

13. Introduction / Context (maximum 200 words, including details of the initiative, location, city, country, etc., as applicable):

14. General Objective:

15. Specific Objectives - SO:

16. Methodology (Specify for each selected OE):

SO	Approach (qualitative, quantitative, mixed)	Techniques	Tools

17. Population, Sample, and Unit of Analysis:

18. Potential Risks and Mitigation Actions (Minimum 2, Maximum 4):

Potential Risks	Mitigation Actions

19. Other Aspects (maximum 200 words)



Final Paper Style and Structure: SO1

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.

To address **SO1**, it is essential to evaluate the impact of **IYC 2012** on education and training initiatives, knowledge exchange, and collaboration partnerships for the growth and development of cooperatives in the Americas.

The structure of the final paper should be as follows:

1. **Sector Context** (Number of cooperatives in the country categorized by economic activity, total number of members, relative GDP representation, number of jobs generated, among other general data).
2. **Methodology, Analysis, and Results:** Education and training initiatives, knowledge exchange, and collaboration partnerships for the promotion, growth, and development of cooperatives in the Americas, both before and after 2012.

The papers must include the **IYC 2012 – IYC 2025** context by addressing the following question: **What was different or remained constant since the first International Year of Cooperatives (2012) that is worth highlighting in relation to the research topic? In other words, what has happened between 2012 and 2025, between the two International Years of Cooperatives?** The purpose of this question is to identify changes or significant aspects between both International Years of Cooperatives (IYC).

3. Conclusions

The paper must be **between 2,000 and 3,000 words**. It must be submitted in **word processor format** (.doc, .docx, or similar), **without footnotes, annexes, or appendices**, using **Arial font, size 11**, with **Normal margins** (2.5 cm top and bottom, 3 cm left and right). **Line spacing must be 1.5**. The most recent **APA citation and reference style** will be accepted. The **bibliography will not be counted toward the word limit**.

Papers may be submitted in **Spanish, English, or Portuguese**. Regardless of the selected language, each submission must include a **summary of up to 350 words in Spanish, English, and Portuguese**, along with **3 to 5 keywords** in each language.

The paper must be **strictly original**, including online publication. If accepted for another publication, the author(s) must immediately notify the organizers.



Final Paper Style and Structure: SO2

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

To address **OE2**, it is essential to evaluate the impact of the **International Year of Cooperatives** on public perceptions regarding the contribution of cooperatives in the Americas to sustainable development.

The structure of the case study should be as follows:

1. **Sector Context** (Number of cooperatives in the country categorized by economic activity, total number of members, relative GDP representation, number of jobs generated, among other general data).
2. **Methodology, Analysis, and Results:** Public perceptions regarding the contribution of cooperatives in the country under study to sustainable development.
3. **Conclusions**

The paper must be **between 2,000 and 3,000 words**. It must be submitted in **word processor format** (.doc, .docx, or similar), **without footnotes, annexes, or appendices**, using **Arial font, size 11**, with **Normal margins** (2.5 cm top and bottom, 3 cm left and right). **Line spacing must be 1.5**. The most recent **APA citation and reference style** will be accepted. The **bibliography will not be counted toward the word limit**.

Papers may be submitted in **Spanish, English, or Portuguese**. Regardless of the selected language, each submission must include a **summary of up to 350 words in Spanish, English, and Portuguese**, along with **3 to 5 keywords** in each language.

The paper must be **strictly original**, including online publication. If accepted for another publication, the author(s) must immediately notify the organizers.