



**International
Co-operative
Alliance**



**Cooperatives
of the Americas**
A Region of the International
Cooperative Alliance

MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

NATIONAL REPORT: ECUADOR

ICA – EU PARTNERSHIP



Table of contents

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

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 Ecuador.

i. Historical background

In the origins and consolidation of the Ecuadorian cooperative movement, at least three fundamental stages can be distinguished ¹:

- a) The first began approximately in the last decade of the 19th century when a series of craft and mutual aid organizations were created -especially in Quito and Guayaquil-.
- b) the second begins in 1937, the year in which the first Cooperatives Law was issued with the purpose of giving greater organizational scope to the peasant movements, modernizing their productive and administrative structure, through the use of the cooperative model.
- c) the third stage began in the mid-sixties with the issuance of the Agrarian Reform Law and the Cooperatives Law.

The first mutual organizations that emerged in the country, at the end of the 19th century, were characterized by being union and multifunctional entities; their autonomy from the Catholic Church and from political parties varied from case to case, but was generally precarious¹.

Da Ross also mentions that cooperativism advanced slowly from its first mutualist sprouts to its final consolidation as a recognized sector of the national economy. Hence, between the founding of the Social Assistance organization “Sociedad Protectora del Obrero” (Guayaquil 1919), considered the first cooperative in the country, and the appearance of the second (the Savings Bank and Cooperative of Loans of the Workers' Federation of Chimborazo) about eight years passed. In 1937, the year of the promulgation of the first Cooperatives Law, there were only six organizations. In this way, an attempt was made to promote the cooperative model as an instrument to correct the socioeconomic inequalities that prevailed in agriculture.

¹ Da Ros, G. (2007). El movimiento cooperativo en el Ecuador. Visión histórica, situación actual y perspectivas. CIRIEC-España, Revista de Economía Pública, Social y Cooperativa. Available at: <https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/174/17405710.pdf>

ii. Public national statistics

For a more comprehensive picture of the cooperative movement in Ecuador, 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 comes from a direct consultation of Cooperatives of the Americas to the Superintendency of Popular and Solidarity Economy of Ecuador, which provided the information directly² with information updated to June 2020.

NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:

Information from cooperatives in the popular and solidarity financial and non-financial sector in Ecuador indicates a total of 3 110 cooperative organizations active as of June 2020.

EMPLOYMENT:

It was not possible to obtain from a reliable source the employment information generated by cooperative entities in Ecuador.

COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP:

Through the information of the cooperatives of the popular and solidarity financial and non-financial sector provided by the Superintendency of Popular and Solidarity Economy of Ecuador, it is determined that the number of people associated with the Ecuadorian cooperatives is 8 064 509.

PRODUCTION VALUE:

Ecuador does not have exact data on the contribution of cooperatives to the national GDP; However, information on cooperatives in the popular and solidarity financial and non-financial sector provided by the Superintendency of Popular and Solidarity Economy

² Dirección Nacional de Gestión de la Información. (2020). Información de las cooperativas del sector financiero y no financiero popular y solidario. Excel document.

of Ecuador indicates that the cooperatives invoiced a total of 1.6 thousand million US dollars (USD) for products and services (approximately 1.45 thousand million euros³) during the first 6 months of 2020.

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

³ InfoEuro exchange rate as of December 2018, 1EUR = 1.13USD

contemporaneously: 1) collecting statistics already available in the country; 2) carrying out a survey targeting ICA cooperative members.

In Ecuador, the mapping questionnaire was distributed and completed by 2 ICA member organizations. 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.

Ecuador has 2 ICA member organizations (all as full members):

- **Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito Policía Nacional (CPN).** Full member.

Founded in 1976, thanks to a visionary group of 35 knights of peace, with the purpose of being able to financially help their fellow police officers through the benefits provided by a cooperative entity. Currently it encourages the economic and social development of its partners, clients and collaborators, providing innovative financial products. Sector: Finance.

- **Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito Rio Bamba Ltda. (COAC Rio Bamba).** Full member.

It is an entity dedicated to popular and solidarity finance since 1978, created to promote the socio-economic development of its members through savings accounts and time deposits; as well as the granting of credits granting financing for productive activities. Sector: Finance.

ICA member organizations are active directly or indirectly only in the financial banking sector.

iv. ICA member data

The data collected was provided for the year 2018 and 2019, based on information collected from member organizations.

v. General overview

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

Category	Total
Number of cooperatives	2
Number of memberships	232 664
Number of employees	671
Turnover	123 147 004 USD ⁴

In general, ICA members represent 2 cooperatives in the country, with a total number of memberships of 232 664 (32.5% women and 67.5% men) and a total of 671 employees (32.5% women and 67.5% men).

vi. Sectoral overview

The sectors used below do not correspond to the categories used in ISIC rev. 4 to classify the economic activities carried out by the interested organizations, but rather by the classification used by information from the cooperatives of the popular and solidarity financial and non-financial sector of Ecuador provided by the Superintendency of Popular and Solidarity Economy.

A general overview is provided in the chart below:

Sector	Cooperatives	Membership	Turnover ⁵
Consumption	13	824	2 999 931
Production	454	16 738	93 764 645
Services	1 944	89 464	461 570 018
Housing	168	26 048	20 526 173
Banking	531	7 931 435	1 042 972 400
Total	3 110	8 064 509	1 621 833 167

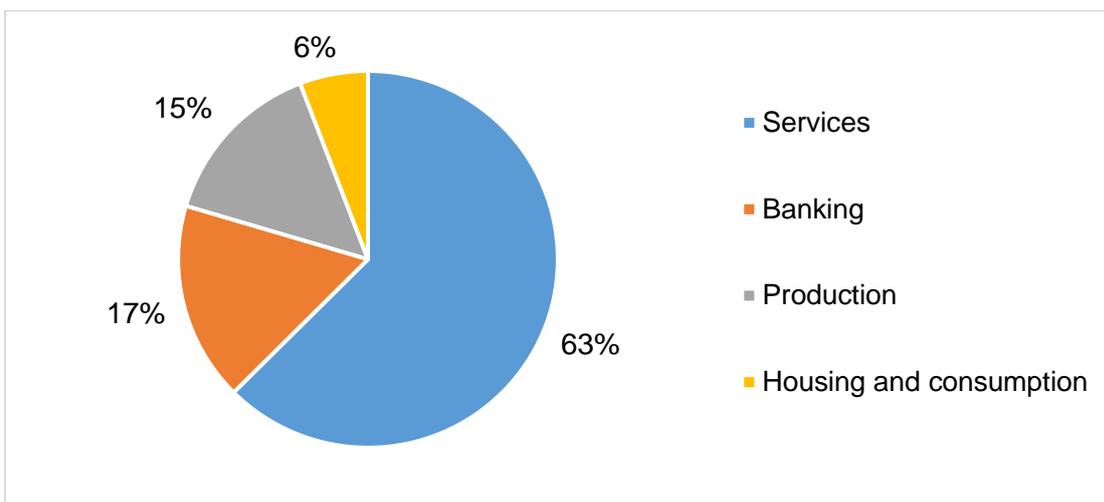
⁴ InfoEuro exchange rate as of December 2018, 1EUR = 1.13USD

⁵ Data in USD

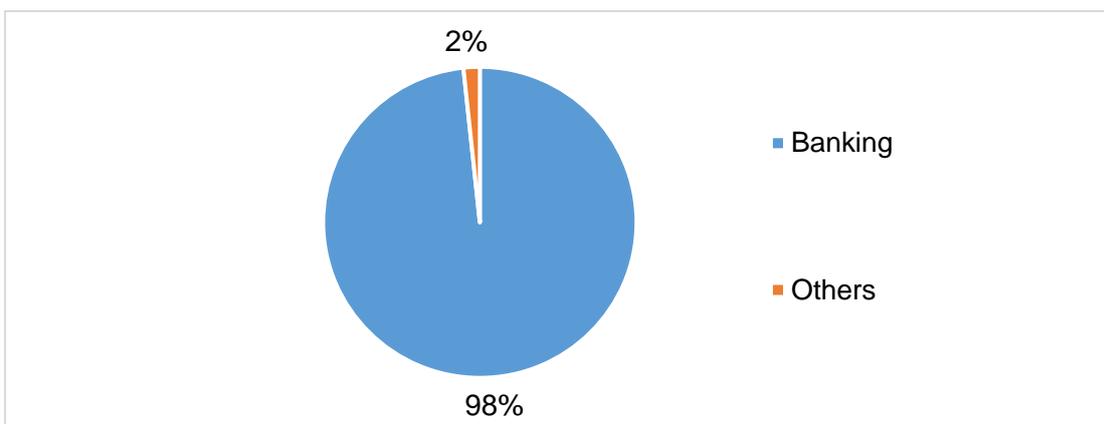
III. GRAPHS

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

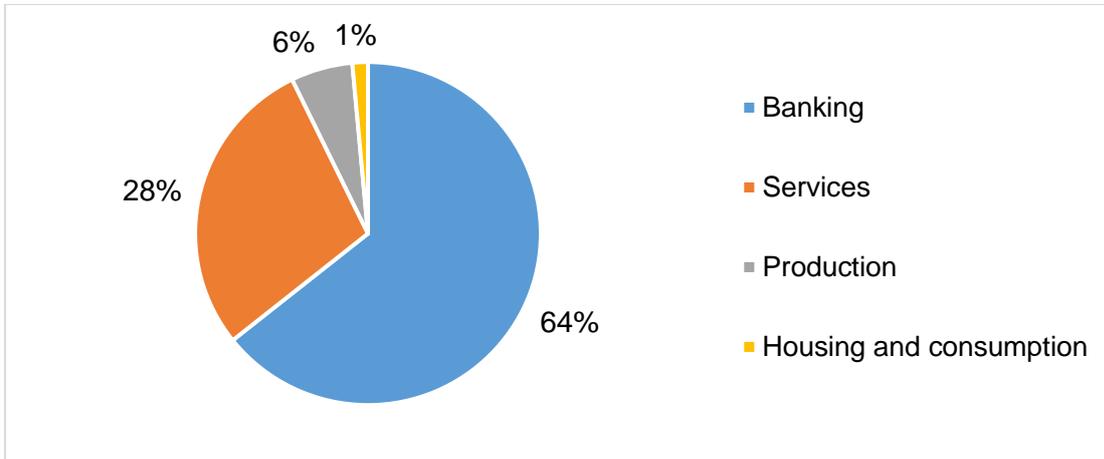
vii. Percentage of total cooperatives by sector



viii. Percentage of total memberships by sector



ix. Percentage of total turnover by sector



IV. ANNEXES

Sources:

Da Ros, G. (2007). El movimiento cooperativo en el Ecuador. Visión histórica, situación actual y perspectivas. CIRIEC-España, Revista de Economía Pública, Social y Cooperativa. Available at: <https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/174/17405710.pdf>

Dirección Nacional de Gestión de la Información. (2020). Información de las cooperativas del sector financiero y no financiero popular y solidario. Excel document.

Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research and other country reports are available on www.coops4dev.coop

The production of this report was overseen by staff from Cooperatives of the Americas and the International Cooperative Alliance. For any further information or clarification, please contact mappingresearch@ica.coop or with the Research Officer for Cooperatives of the Americas carlos.gonzalez@aciamericas.coop

Updated: September 2020

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Cooperatives of the Americas and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.