



# MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

## NATIONAL REPORT: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### ICA – EU PARTNERSHIP



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## 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 Dominican Republic.

## i. Historical background

According to the Conacoop website<sup>1</sup>, cooperativism began in mid-1946, and was in charge of priests of the Scarborough order, organizing the first savings and credit cooperative in Manoguayabo by Father Alfonso Chafe, then also Father Santiago Walsh, parish priest from Bayaguána, organized another cooperative.

The order of the Scarborough fathers observed the need to bring a person technically trained in cooperative matters and made the knowledge of their superiors in Canada, who did not hesitate in the decision to be taken, sending Reverend Pablo Steele to San Francisco de Macorís, who since his arrival, he was in charge of the Villa de Boyá parish and at the same time was in charge of drawing up plans for the promotion of cooperatives throughout the country.

In 1945, a savings and credit cooperative was started in Boyá, another in the town of Monte Plata, and by November of that same year the first consumer cooperative was organized in the capital city, the San Juan Bosco cooperative, under the guidance of the Reverend Juan Balliri and Dr. Alfonso Rochoc, which later becomes savings and credit. This first part of the Dominican cooperativism culminates with the organization of the Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (FEDOCOOP).

In an Assembly held precisely, in the Parish Hall of the San Juan Bosco Church, with the attendance of 25 delegates from 8 cooperatives, from that moment the Dominican cooperative movement expanded throughout the country.

It is in this way and within the context of the new conditions that a growing development of the movement is obtained and, in a few years, the cooperative sector has the legislation created by IDECOOP, which regulates the activities of cooperatives.

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<sup>1</sup> Conacoop. (s.f.). History of cooperativism in the Dominican Republic. Available at: <https://conacoop.com.do/2018/08/26/historia-del-cooperativismo-en-republica-dominicana/>

## ii. Public national statistics

For a more comprehensive picture of the cooperative movement in Dominican Republic, 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 Idecoop statistical reports of 2018<sup>2</sup>.

### **NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:**

Idecoop statistics report a total of 916 active cooperatives in the Dominican Republic for 2018.

### **EMPLOYMENT:**

The Dominican Republic does not report updated and public statistical information regarding the number of jobs generated by cooperatives.

### **COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP:**

Through the statistics report, Idecoop mentions that cooperatives in the Dominican Republic had 1 906 534 members in 2018.

### **PRODUCTION VALUE:**

The Dominican Republic does not report updated and public statistical information regarding the value of the cooperatives' production.

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<sup>2</sup> Idecoop. (2018). Statistical report. Digital version.

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

In the Dominican Republic, 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, which is the same as the general estimates for the country provided in the introduction.

The Dominican Republic has 5 ICA member organizations (4 full members and 1 associate member):

- **Cooperativa Nacional de Servicios Múltiples de los Maestros (COOPNAMA).** Full member.

It is a service company, of a social and economic nature, that promotes and encourages cooperativism, solidarity and cooperation. In principle, it arose to offer savings and credit services exclusively to teachers in the official sector, but later the general assembly decided to open its doors to all personnel of the Ministry of Education (MINERD) and related institutions. Sector: Multi-active.

- **Cooperativa de Servicios múltiples de Profesionales de Enfermería Inc. (COOPROENF).** Full member.

Founded in 1995, it contributes to the creation of wealth and the construction of an inclusive and equitable society to solve the problems or needs of the partners, promoting the integral development of the country through savings, loans and credits. Sector: Multi-active.

- **Cooperativa por Distritos y Servicios Múltiples "Vega Real", Inc.** Full member.

Founded in 1982, by men and women with a wide and recognized trajectory of social and community services; to meet the financial and social needs of its associates and the community. Sector: Finance.

- **Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples La Telefónica (COOPSEMUTEL).** Full member.

It is a non-profit solidarity economy institution, which has the purpose of contributing to the well-being and quality of life of its members, offering insurance, telephone and financial services. Sector: Multi-active.

- **Fundación Dominicana para el Desarrollo Social y Cooperativo (FUNDESCOOP)**. Associate member.

It is an organization dedicated to building a network of cooperatives and people capable of exercising a collective action of social responsibility promoting solidarity actions that benefit cooperative members. Sector: Education.

ICA member organizations are directly or indirectly active in the following sectors, in order of the largest number of cooperatives:

- Banking and insurance
- Education
- Multi-actives

#### iv. ICA member data

The data collected was provided for 2018 and 2019 as provided by member organizations.

#### v. General overview

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

Category	Total
Number of cooperatives	5
Number of memberships	127 703
Number of employees	521

Overall, ICA members represent 5 cooperatives in the country, with a total number of memberships of 127 703 and a total number of 521 employees.

## vi. Sector overview

The sectors used below correspond to the categories used in the ISIC rev. 4. to classify the economic activities carried out by the organisations concerned.

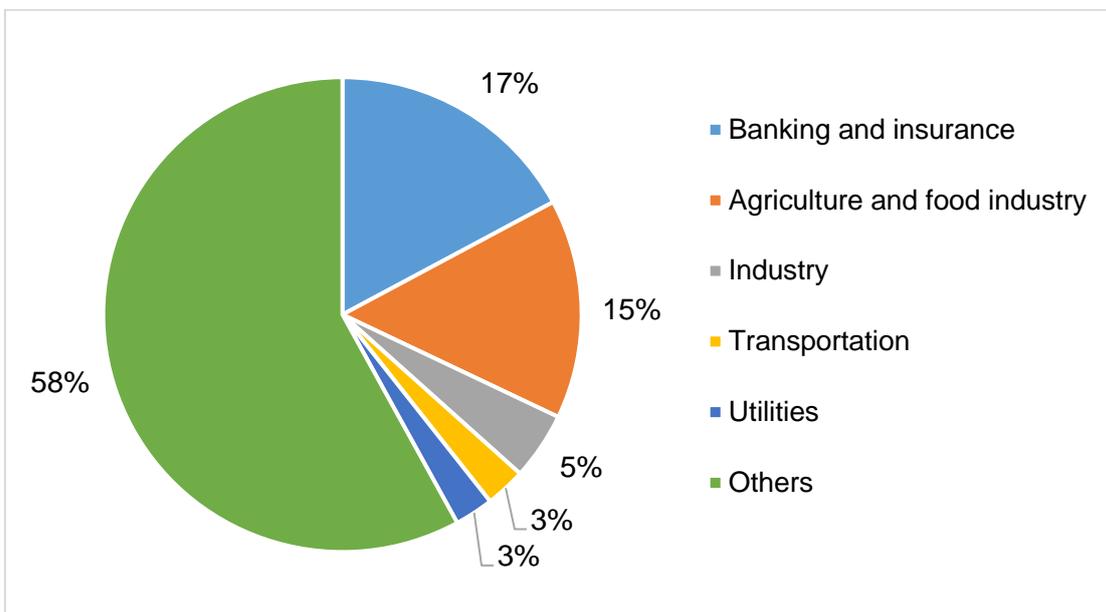
A general overview is provided in the chart below:

Sector	Cooperatives	Memberships
Banking and insurance	157	602.388
Agriculture and food industry	137	37.468
Industry	42	33.512
Transportation	25	4.748
Utilities	24	5.214
Commerce	11	5.316
Housing	7	352
Health	4	1.120
Others	509	1.216.416
<b>Total</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>1.906.534</b>

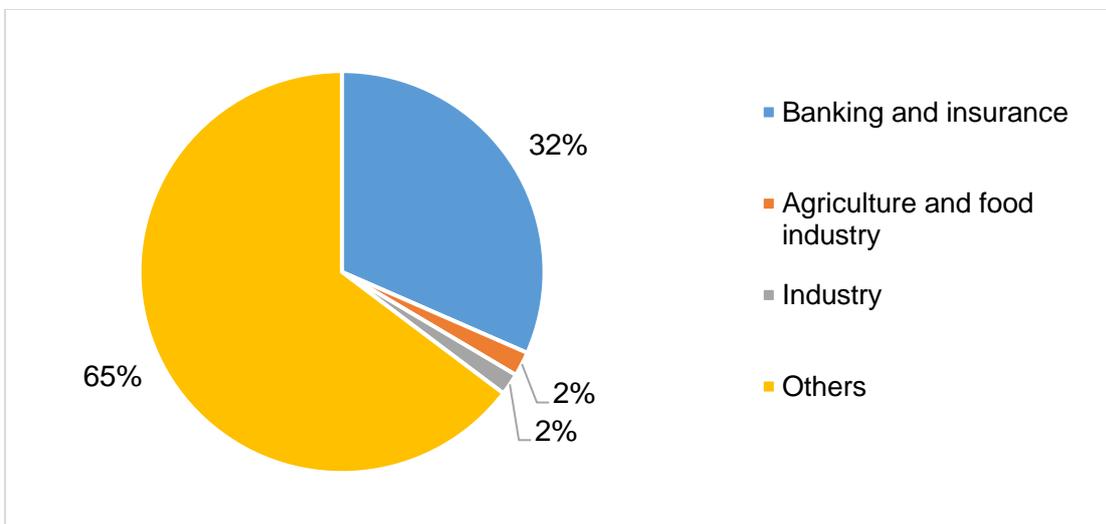
### III. GRAPHS

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



## IV. ANNEXES

### Sources:

Concacoop. (s.f.). History of cooperativism in the Dominican Republic. Available at: <https://conacoop.com.do/2018/08/26/historia-del-cooperativismo-en-republica-dominicana/>

Idecoop. (2018). Statistical report. Digital version.

### Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research and other country reports are available on [www.coops4dev.coop](http://www.coops4dev.coop)

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