



MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

NATIONAL REPORT: MEXICO

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 Mexico.

i. Historical background

The cooperative movement began in Mexico in the 1870s¹, with the creation of a cooperative for the Production and Sale of hats in 1872; basically, it is the birth, apogee and decline of the Porfiriato.

Despite the "peace" that existed in Mexico, the cooperatives had many constant obstacles throughout the country: indifference, lack of organization, intermediaries in the field of production, the constant struggle for a niche within the market and the (in some cases) political ends of which they were objects. Even before the start of the Mexican Revolution, the movement began to have weight and strength, but these collapsed due to the movement of social rebellion. This movement almost made the cooperatives disappear; however, they became a kind of appendage of the Mexican labor movement that took a lot of strength in those years of struggle².

In the period of the construction of the Mexican State (1920-1934), the cooperatives began to show minimal relative growth, this due to the fact that the consequences of the Mexican Revolution took for granted the need to rebuild the country. In this sense, the growth of cooperatives can be observed during the period 1927-1932. This table shows that the types of cooperatives were concentrated in three: production, consumption and mixed cooperatives. These types are based on the situation of the agrarian distribution, as well as the public policies of national development that occurred in the country during that period.

From then on, the cooperative movement would try to obtain again the influences that with years of effort had generated in the Mexican population and it was not until January 11, 1938 that the Cooperative Law was published by President Lázaro Cárdenas who, under his socialist education plan, gave way to the movement's entry into the political arena.

With the passage of time, the cooperative movement in Mexico was developing from the political and economic elements that were directed in the process of national

¹ Rojas, I. (2008). Rosendo Rojas Coria: a life dedicated to the aggrandizement of Mexican cooperativism. México.

² Olmedo, R. (2017). Cooperativism in Mexico. An alternative in analysis. Available in: <https://iberoamericasocial.com/cooperativismo-mexico-una-alternativa-analisis/>

development from the consolidation of a strong agricultural sector that would support the nascent Mexican industry.

ii. Public national statistics

Mexico does not have country statistics for the cooperative sector, the only recent and available sector statistics are for the savings and credit sector, published by the World Council of Savings and Credit Cooperatives 2014³.

NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:

The World Council of Credit Unions establishes a total of 142 financial cooperatives in Mexico.

EMPLOYMENT:

Data not available for any sector.

COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP:

The World Council of Credit Unions mentions a total of 5 140 944 Mexicans associated with financial cooperatives.

³ World Council of Credit Unions. (2015). Statistical Report 2014.

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 Mexico, 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.

Mexico has 4 ICA member organizations (3 full members and 1 associate member):

- **Caja Popular Mexicana.** Full member.

It is a credit and savings cooperative that, during more than 68 years of service, has contributed to the improvement of the quality of life of its members; offering cooperative and financial education services that promote the experience of cooperative values, in addition to the responsible use of savings, credit and investment services. Sector: Finance.

- **Confederación Nacional Cooperativa de Actividades Diversas de la República Mexicana (CNC).** Full member.

It is a third-level organization founded in 1998, which groups and represents Unions and Federations of cooperatives of various activities (mostly production and services), currently present in fifteen states of the Mexican Republic. Sector: Apex.

- **Federación de Cajas Populares ALIANZA.** Full member.

In the 1970s, the popular savings banks of the Guanajuato and Michoacán region came together and formed a Regional Federation. In the 1990s and with the idea of strengthening integration, the cooperatives agreed to use the ALIANZA image, in order to provide specialized savings and loan services with quality and at competitive prices. Sector: Finance.

- **Federación Regional de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Préstamo Noreste S.C.L. de C.V. (FENORESTE SCL DE CV).** Associate member.

Founded with the purpose of giving legal personality to the popular savings banks and whose constitutive act was registered in the Public Property Registry on February 17, 1971. Sector: Finance.

ICA member organizations are directly or indirectly active in the following sectors:

- Banking
- Commerce
- Industry
- Agriculture and food industry
- Education
- Transportation
- Others

iv. ICA member data

The data collected was provided for 2018 as it was provided by ICA member organizations.

v. General overview

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

Category	Total
Number of cooperatives	194
Number of memberships	2 723 922
Number of employees	6 702

Overall, ICA members represent 194 cooperatives in the country, with a total number of memberships of 2 723 922 and a total number of 6 702 employees.

vi. Sector overview

Due to the non-existence of sectoral or national statistical data for Mexico, this section cannot be constructed.

III. ANNEXES

Sources:

Rojas, I. (2008). Rosendo Rojas Coria: a life dedicated to the aggrandizement of Mexican cooperativism. México.

Olmedo, R. (2017). Cooperativism in Mexico. An alternative in analysis. Available in: <https://iberoamericasocial.com/cooperativismo-mexico-una-alternativa-analisis/>

World Council of Credit Unions. (2015). Statistical Report 2014.

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

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