



The Role of Cooperatives in Fostering Generational Change in Agriculture

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Cogeca: The voice of European agri-cooperatives



Mission

To ensure a viable, innovative, competitive EU agriculture and agri-food sector guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe.



Objective

Promoting the view of European agri-cooperatives to **influence** the EU decision-making process.

copa

european farmers

Created in **1958**

23 million European farmers
and family members

60 full members from the EU
Member States and 36 partner
organisations



In **1962**, a joint Secretariat was created



cogeca

european agri-cooperatives

Created in **1959**

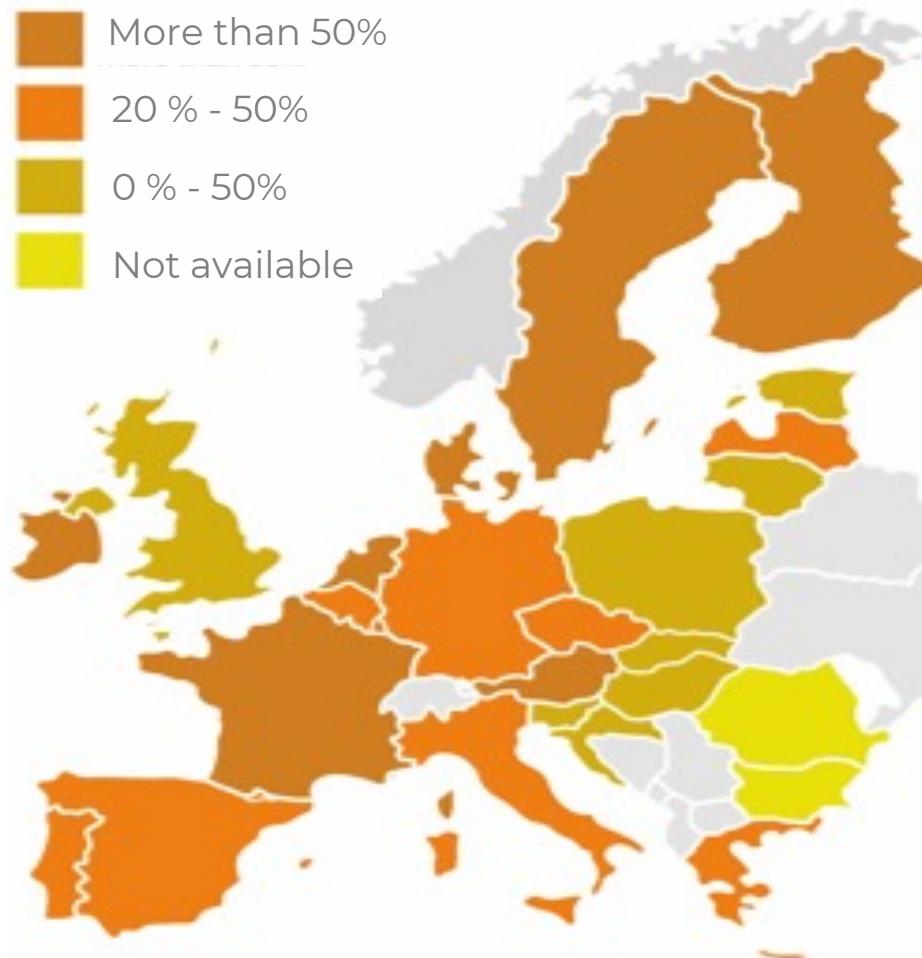
22.000 European agricultural
cooperatives

35 full members from the EU
Member States, 4 affiliated members
and 36 partner organisations

Number of agri-cooperatives across the EU



Market share of cooperatives across the EU



The EU agri-food value chain and the importance of farmer cooperatives

- * 10 million small and fragmented **agricultural holdings**
- * A few large **manufacturers and retailers** dominate the market
- * Horizontal cooperation between farmers can help balance the economic asymmetry within the Food Supply Chain, leading to better market access, greater contractual leverage, and more efficient production



The importance of farmers cooperation is recognised by the CAP

✿ The CMO Regulation (Art. 152) foresees the possibility for Member States (MSs) to recognise POs that:

- ✿ are formed by producers
- ✿ follow democratic principles
- ✿ carry out joint activities
- ✿ pursue certain objectives

✿ Certain recognised POs can receive financial support through EU funds (rural development, operational programmes)

✿ Recognised POs can also benefit from certain derogations from EU competition rules

CHAPTER III
Producer organisations and associations and interbranch organisations

Section 1
Definition and recognition

Article 152
Producer organisations

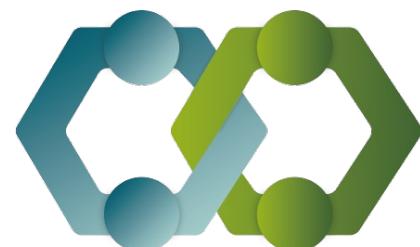
1. Member States may, on request, recognise producer organisations, which:

- (a) are constituted and controlled in accordance with point (c) of Article 153(2), by producers in a specific sector listed in Article 1(2);
- (b) are formed on the initiative of the producers;
- (c) pursue a specific aim which may include at least one of the following objectives:
 - (i) ensuring that production is planned and adjusted to demand, particularly in terms of quality and quantity;
 - (ii) concentration of supply and the placing on the market of the products produced by its members, including through direct marketing;
 - (iii) optimising production costs and returns on investments in response to environmental and animal welfare standards, and stabilising producer prices;
 - (iv) carrying out research and developing initiatives on sustainable production methods, innovative practices, economic competitiveness and market developments;



Role of agri-cooperatives in meeting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN

- ✿ European agri-cooperatives have built resilient business models that enable the business and its farmers to prosper and grow.
- ✿ Agricultural co-operatives always strive to create **sustainable value for all their stakeholders:**
 - ✿ their farmer members,
 - ✿ their employees,
 - ✿ consumers and business partners,
 - ✿ and most importantly, the environment and communities in which they operate.



5th EUROPEAN AWARD FOR
COOPERATIVE INNOVATION



Current priorities for Cogeca

Sustainability – agri-coops are committed to a more sustainable sector and community; they are investing in innovation and creating new business models to deliver on the global climate challenges, while creating additional revenue streams.



Growth strategies – including through mergers and internationalization of cooperatives



Generational renewal - European cooperatives have a key role to play in fostering the economic and social integration of young farmers in the sector and in their governance structures



Copa-Cogeca's position on the Future of the CAP – key areas of action

1. Reinforce the **competitiveness** of EU agriculture (internally and externally), maintain its production potential and guarantee food security
2. **Secure and improve farmers' income** and agricultural profitability on their path to green transition
3. Address **generational renewal** and promoting **women's empowerment**
4. Safeguard and facilitate **investments** to promote a more efficient, innovative and sustainable sector
5. Develop more performant and responsive **market and risk management** measures
6. Boost **cooperation** and farmers' position in the value chain



Recognition of the role of agri-cooperatives in sustainable rural development

13 Dec.
2022

European Parliament Resolution on a long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

"Recognizes the importance of supporting cooperation initiatives in agriculture and the social economy as a tool for rural development; **draws attention to the role of agri-food cooperatives in the environmental, economic and social sustainability of rural areas, adding value to products, creating employment and diversifying the local economy**; urges the Commission and the Member States to encourage and promote cooperatives in rural areas"

20 Nov.
2023

Council Conclusions on a Long-Term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas

- "RECOGNIZES **the important role of cooperatives as contributors to the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of rural areas, providing work opportunities, and keeping rural areas alive and populated**"

Recognition of the role of agri-cooperatives in generational renewal

European Parliament resolution of 19 October 2023 on generational renewal in the EU farms of the future

71. Underlines the role of cooperatives and farmers' organisations in helping young farmers overcome barriers to installation, providing guidance services and enhancing their participation in the policy dialogue; insists on the need to ensure the representation of young farmers in these organisations and to ensure gender-balanced representation in their governance bodies, emphasising that such associations are a key way of involving women in agricultural activity; highlights the fundamental role of young farmers' organisations;
72. Stresses the importance of encouraging young farmers to join associations and encourages the Member States to promote collaboration between farms via cooperatives that share production and/or processing equipment, thus reducing the financial resources needed by young farmers and cutting production costs, and promote joint marketing initiatives and measures to improve the value of their products;

Cogeca Presidency Business Fora



Tarragona Manifesto – 23 aspirational objectives to achieve these 5 main goals

Support young farmers

Support young farmers and their involvement in cooperative enterprises and direct them toward the achievement of long term economic, social and environmental goals

Encourage their involvement

Encourage the involvement of young farmers and forest owners in the life of the cooperative and ensure that young farmers are given the opportunities to grow and take their place in our cooperative movement

Develop training

Develop training programmes for new entrants in cooperatives and fill the skills gaps in sustainability, digitalisation and the bio and circular economy

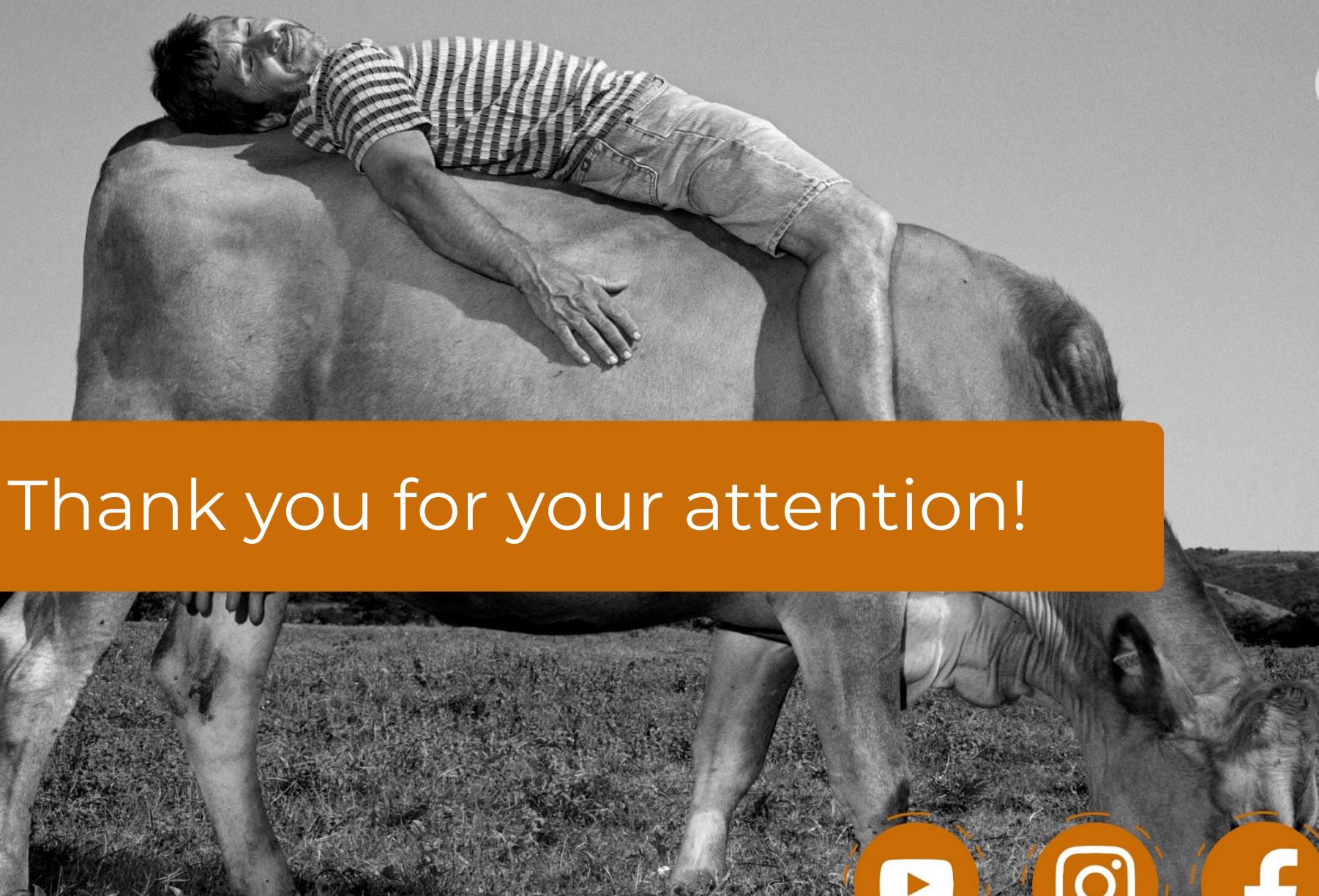
Cooperative entrepreneurship

Promote cooperative entrepreneurship through adequate enabling environments with dedicated financial resources

Build and strengthen partnerships

Build and strengthen constructive partnerships to achieve common objectives as well as democratic and inclusive structures of cooperation





Thank you for your attention!