Socio-economic impact of cooperatives and mutuals

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The study... a few numbers

- More than 300 of the largest cooperatives and mutuals
- 26 countries in the world
- More than 30 studies consulted
- More than 30 collaborators on 3 continents
- 15 indicators
- 1 year of research
Almost 300 years ago, facing major issues of poverty, exclusion and inequalities, men and women created and proposed a new way to meet their needs:

COOPERATIVES and MUTUALS
Cooperatives have an educational and humanist mission and structure

"Cooperation is not just an enterprise, a business in the ordinary meaning of the word(...) it is, above all, a school, a teaching and lesson of solidarity. »

"Cooperatism has this advantage, thanks to its founding ideal, of being in itself humanizing."
Cooperative identity and socio-economic impact

Humanist school of entrepreneurship

Schools are:
life experiences, creative spaces for innovation and sharing that induce a democratic and empowering educational process.

School of democracy and empowerment

School of solidarity and equity
Economic, social and political stability and regulation

1. Number of members and employees
2. Survival rate of cooperatives
3. Reserves
4. Response to crises
5. Impact on the market
6. Exemplary employers
4 Response to crises

Cooperatives and mutuals survive better to crises and take care of their members and communities in those difficult times.

Examples:

- Japanese cooperatives were the first to reach victims of the tsunami (March 11th 2012, Kurimoto);
- Financial and employees-led coops generally survive crises in their industries better than corporations (CICOP, 2012; OIT 2009);
Economic, social and political stability and regulation

Examples:
- 4 cooperatives are in the top10 of the largest dairy transformation businesses (Rabobank);
- According to the Associated Press, their news content is seen by half the world's population on any given day;
- Funeral cooperatives in Québec are responsible of reducing by half the cost of funerals ceremonies.

5 Impact on the market

⇒ Significant market shares and leadership
Promotion of equitable access to goods and services

1. Business sector related to fundamental needs
2. Unique, adapted and extended service offer
3. Intercooperation
4. Concern for community
5. Revenues
Promotion of equitable access to goods and services

1. Business sector related to fundamental needs

Cooperatives and mutuals are active in the real economy (non-speculative).

**Global 300**
(coops and mutuals)

1. Agriculture
2. Insurance
3. Food
4. Financial coops
5. Utilities

**Global 500**
(corporations)

1. Banks
2. Oil and gas production
3. Technology and hardware equipment
4. Pharmaceutical and biotechnology products
5. General retailers
Promotion of equitable access to goods and services

→ 9th largest economy in the world

- Total revenues: $1,926 billion
- Reserves: $867.5 billion (total Global 300)
  Sustainable development and capitalization practice
- Patronages: $66.4 billion (total Global 300)
Promotion of economic, social and political diversity and inclusion

1. Democratic force
2. Citizenship education
3. Promotion of cultural identity
4. Plural economy and innovation
Promotion of economic, social and political diversity and inclusion

1. Democratic force

→ Largest democracy in the world

- 725 million people are at the same time users and owners of the Global 300 and can participate in the decision-making process;

- Annual or semi-annual general meetings, boards, committees, consultations, workshops.
"[...] because too often, we observe to which extent a social movement cease being a movement when it cuts the umbilical cord with its utopias, dreams or even illusions."

Georges Fauquet (1873-1953)

From yesterday

... to today

- Stability and regulation
- Diversity and inclusion
- Equitable access to goods and services

... and tomorrow?
WHY?
To put human, its dignity and fulfillment, first and at the center of the project. To pursue economic and social changes within a peaceful dynamic.

HOW?
• **Education and recognition**
  – Which duties for cooperatives and mutuals?
  – Which duties for political institutions?
  – Which duties for educational institutions?

• **Intercooperation**
  – Imagine if coops and mutuals were doing even more business together...
  – How to cooperate and internationalize, while respecting diversity and cooperative identity?

• **A humanist school of entrepreneurship**
  – How to acknowledge and develop cooperative management practices?
Merci!

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