

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

A background image showing a group of hands of various skin tones reaching towards the center, holding a globe. The image is semi-transparent and has a light green tint.

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



Alphonse
Desjardins
(1854-1920)

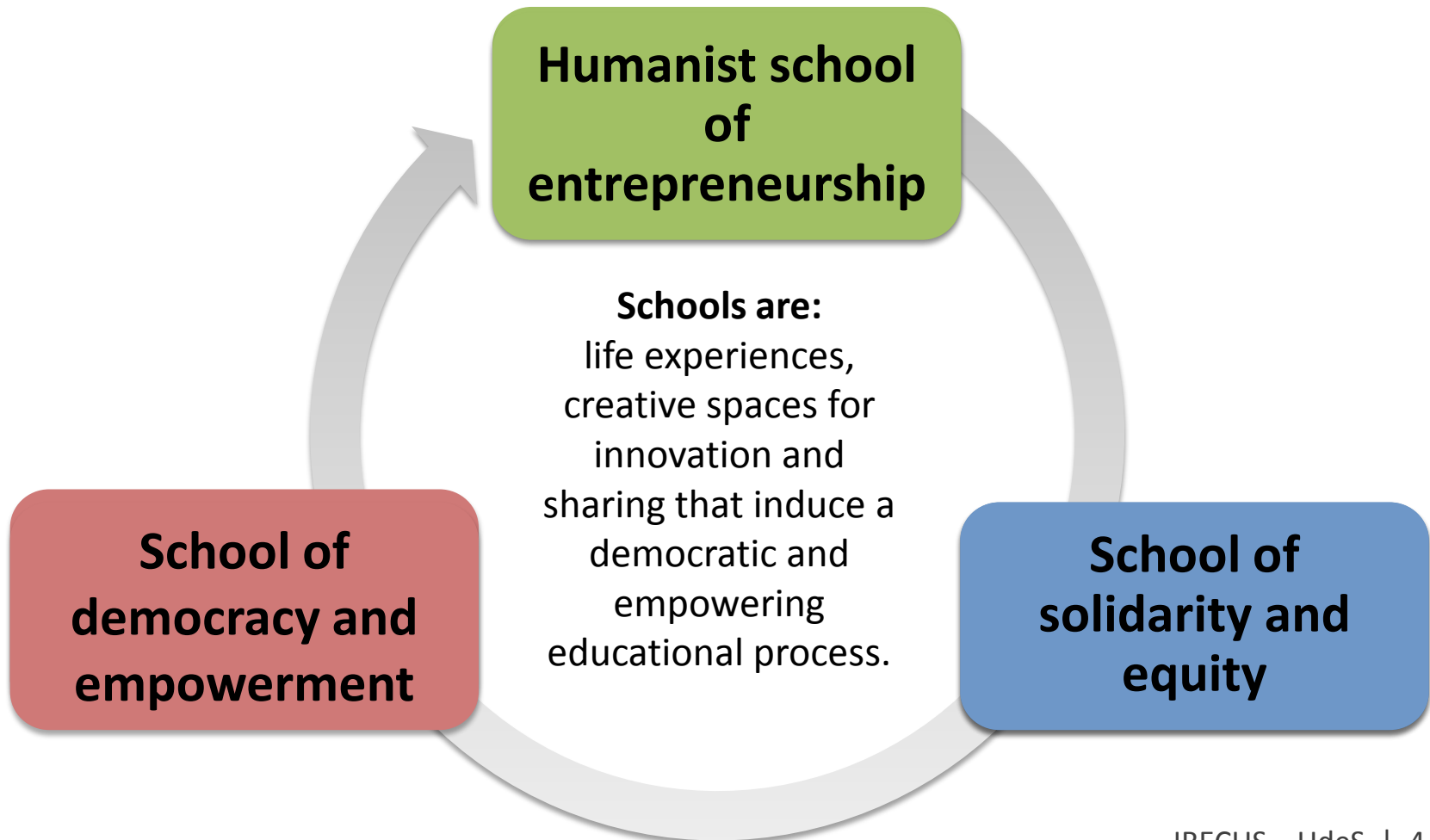
"Cooperation is not just an enterprise, a business in the ordinary meaning of the word(...) it is, above all, a school, a teaching and lesson of solidarity. »



Esdras Minville
(1896-1975)

"Cooperatism has this advantage, thanks to its founding ideal, of being in itself humanizing."

Cooperative identity and socio-economic impact





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



Economic, social and political stability and regulation

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);

4 Response to crises

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



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 mutuels are active in the real economy (non-speculative).

Global 300

(coops and mutuels)

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)

5

Revenues



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

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Democratic force

→ **Largest democracy in the world**

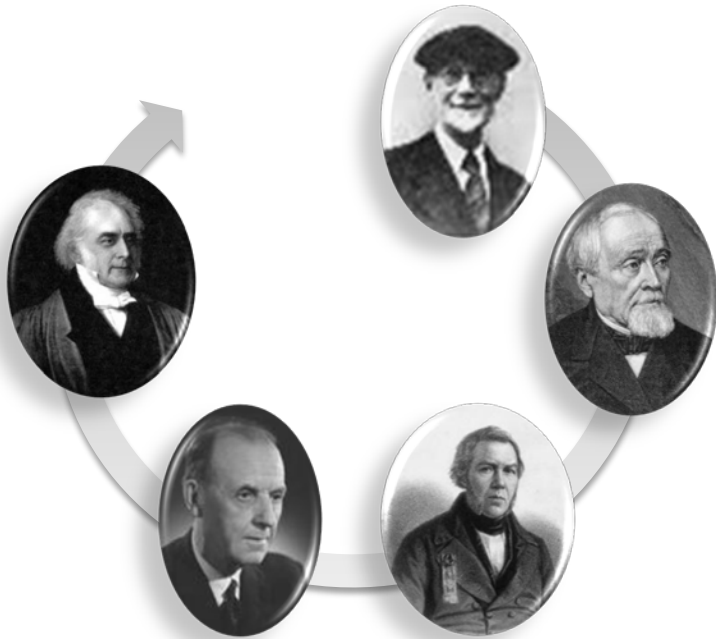
- **725 million people** are at the same time users and owners of the Global 300 and can participate in the decision-making process;
- Annual or semi-annual general meetings, boards, committees, consultations, workshops.



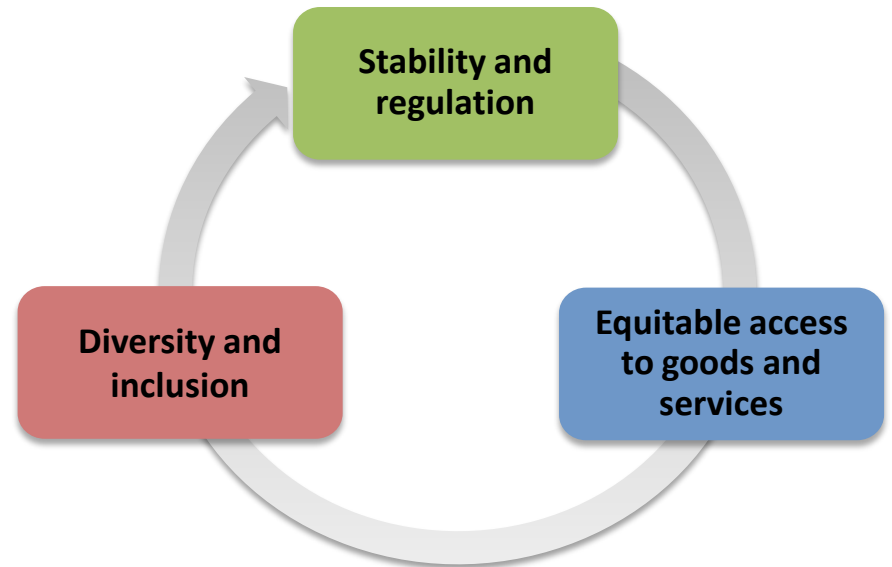
Georges Fauquet
(1873-1953)

"[...] 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."

From yesterday



... to today



... and tomorrow?

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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