

# ICA Cooperative Research Conference “Deepening Our Cooperative Identity”

28-30 November 2021, Seoul, Republic of Korea

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Preparatory event of the World Cooperative Congress on Deepening Our  
Cooperative Identity, 1-3 December 2021

## Change of Dates and Reopening call for Abstracts and Panel Proposals

### *Important Note*

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*Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Cooperative Congress and related events are now rescheduled to take place from 28 November to 3 December 2021.*

*The preparatory Cooperative Research Conference and the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Forum on Cooperative Law will take place on 28-30 and 29-30 November 2021 respectively, and will be precursors for thematic debates based on scientific and analytical contributions aimed to build content for discussions during the Congress.*

*The call for abstracts and the call for panel proposals are open again for submissions until April 5, 2021!*

*We invite you to read this detailed call extension, and request you to direct your questions and concerns regarding the ICA Cooperative Research Conference to [research.congress@worldcooperativecongress.coop](mailto:research.congress@worldcooperativecongress.coop) and those regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Forum on Cooperative Law to [lawforum@worldcooperativecongress.coop](mailto:lawforum@worldcooperativecongress.coop)*



## Context: the 33<sup>rd</sup> ICA World Cooperative Congress

2020 marked the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICA Statement on the Cooperative Identity. It was also a year spent amid a pandemic that continues in 2021. As a result, the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Cooperative Congress has been rescheduled to be organized in December 2021 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The decision to further defer the Congress was taken by the ICA Board towards the end of 2020 considering the most recent situation of the spread of the COVID-19 virus as well as the progress being made by the scientific and medical communities to protect human life.

The Congress offers a unique opportunity to celebrate and deepen the understanding of the cooperative identity and the profound social and economic impact of cooperatives worldwide with discussions on questions such as:

- How do the cooperatives transform societies?
- How does the cooperative way of doing business create an innovative pathway to a sustainable future?
- How cooperatives show resilience and innovation, and help communities, in the wake of crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic?

The event will explore how the cooperative identity addresses current global issues like climate action, sustainable development, conflicts and violence, income and wealth inequality, gender equality and the future of work, that demand a resolute response. The competitive advantage of the cooperative identity — business performance, market share, best governance and management practices, and the unique nature of cooperative capital, will also be explored.

### What is a World Cooperative Congress?

World Cooperative Congresses, organized by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), convene only on very special occasions: the creation of the ICA (1<sup>st</sup> Congress, 1895); the approval of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity (31<sup>st</sup> Congress, 1995); or the UN International Year of Cooperatives (32<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 2012).

These are gatherings of cooperators at large, including representatives of ICA member organizations. The 33<sup>rd</sup> World Cooperative Congress, initially foreseen for December 2020 and now postponed by a year to December 2021, in Seoul, will be only the second Congress to be held outside Europe and is an opportunity to reaffirm the universal value and recognition of the cooperative identity.

Read more about the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Cooperative Congress at  
[www.icaworldcooperativecongress.coop](http://www.icaworldcooperativecongress.coop)

## The Research Conference

The ICA Cooperative Research Conference will be organized on 28-30 November 2021 in Seoul as a pre-Congress event. The Conference will be the precursor for debates on key-themes and sub-themes of the World Cooperative Congress, building content for discussions based on scientific and analytical contributions.

## Abstracts and proposals of panel sessions

**Note to researchers having who have already presented an abstract during the original call for abstracts in 2020**

*We thank researchers who had submitted their abstracts and proposals for panels for the research conference in 2020, with whom we will continue to work through 2021. We ask them to check the information regarding the conference fees and modalities of participation below. This information is also available on the ICA website **HERE** and on the Congress website **HERE**.*

The Cooperative Research Conference will explore and address specific themes intrinsically linked to the overarching theme of the Congress: “Deepening Our Cooperative Identity”.

The ICA invites cooperative researchers, experts and practitioners to submit **individual abstracts (750 words maximum) or/and proposals of panel sessions (including the participants’ names and affiliations)** on the themes defined in the Concept note of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress (see annex below) and proposed under one of the four specific Thematic Lines outlined in the Thematic Lines section below.

Please use submission forms for abstracts and panel proposals, downloadable from [HERE](#). The submission should include:

- Title, author and affiliation
- The Theme of the submission (see Thematic Lines below). A sub-theme may also be indicated.
- The core idea, as well as 3 to 5 keywords
- An explanation on why the submission contributes to the advancement of knowledge about the Cooperative identity (as relevant)

Evaluation and selection will be made on the basis of the potential of the proposed communications and panel sessions to address critical issues in mobilizing relevant and robust arguments based on both theoretical, analytical, conceptual and empirical bases.

Young Scholars (students, or scholars within 2 years of graduation) are particularly encouraged to submit proposals.

The authors of the selected abstracts will be invited to develop them into full papers (5000-7000 words) and if specifically indicated, extended abstracts (2000-3000 words). Selected authors will interact with the Scientific Committee of the research conference in order to elaborate their papers in line with the Congress program.

Abstracts for papers and proposals for panels under this new and re-opened call must be submitted by April 5, 2021. Final papers to be submitted by July 31, 2021.

## Thematic Lines

### 1. The Cooperative Identity

What are the unique opportunities that [the Cooperative Identity](#) presents for membership growth, expanded market share and significant social impact.

- a. Governance and member participation
- b. The Cooperative brand recognition
- c. Education about cooperative identity
- d. Cooperatives and cooperative identity as intangible cultural heritage
- e. Cooperatives and the Social Solidarity Economy
- f. Diversity, equity and inclusion
- g. Other topics clearly related to this theme may also be considered

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### Cooperative Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The cooperative identity as a foundation for innovation and a unique business opportunity.

- a. New economic paradigms, digital transformation, and new business models
- b. Ethical value chain management
- c. Building strong cooperative entrepreneurial networks
- d. Cooperative capital: meeting future capital needs
- e. Other topics clearly related to this theme may also be considered

### Cooperative Global Commitment

The present and future roles of cooperatives in affecting positive change to global challenges: climate crisis, conflict, inequality.

- a. Global crises, such as health crises including COVID-19, migrations etc.
- b. Climate change and environmental protection
- c. Positive peace, natural disaster recovery and socio-economic cohesion
- d. Global cooperative development
- e. Other topics clearly related to this theme may also be considered

## Cooperative identity and the SDGs

Cooperatives as promoters of the SDGs and the role of the cooperative identity

- a. Work and its future
- b. Health and social services
- c. Food security
- d. Energy and housing
- e. Other topics clearly related to this theme may also be considered

## Fees and other Modalities of Participation

The events will be organized in a hybrid format with participants to be given the option of joining virtually through the internet, or physically (presential) in Seoul. The following fee structure will be applicable for participants and will cover access to all research-based events.

### Presential (physical) Participation

- EUR 250 with reception dinner for high-income countries
- EUR 125 with reception dinner for middle-income countries
- Free of charge for low-income countries
- Free of charge for the youth researchers
- Free of charge for the World Cooperative Congress registered participants

### Virtual Participation

- EUR 75 for presenters from high-income countries
- EUR 30 for presenters from middle-income countries
- Free of charge for presenters from low-income countries
- Free of charge for the youth presenters
- Free of charge for the public

### Notes

- 1) Please check the [2020 World Development Indicators of the World Bank](#) to know the classification of countries by income. The country of residence and employment or studies or university affiliation, will be considered in determining participants' countries.
- 2) Fees include certificate of presentation at an international scientific conference.



## Call for Abstracts

Cooperative Research Conference  
“Deepening Our Cooperative Identity”

## Timelines

**Submissions of Abstracts and/or Panels by 5 April 2021**

**Notification to selected authors by 5 May 2021**

**Submissions of final papers by 31 July 2021**

**Publication of abstracts and papers**

All abstracts will be translated into four languages (EN, FR, ES, KR) and integrated into conference proceedings. All papers will be uploaded on the Congress website and app.

**Post-Conference activity (until 31 May 2022)**

After the Congress, authors may review their papers and submit them to the ICA. The submitted papers, if accepted, will be used to publish the ICA Cooperative Research Conference proceedings, a dedicated edition of the *Review of International Cooperation*, and other publications (TBD), including in Spanish, French and Korean, subject to the authors' approval.

## Language

Abstracts should be submitted in English, French, Spanish or Korean. Full papers should also be written in one of these four languages.

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## Proposal Submission

In using provided forms, please submit your abstracts or panel session proposal to [research.congress@worldcoopcongress.coop](mailto:research.congress@worldcoopcongress.coop) indicating in the subject line: “LAST NAME-World Coop Congress 125 Years ICA-Theme #” for communications or “LAST NAME-World Coop Congress 125 Years ICA Panel-Theme #” for panel proposals.

If you are a Young Scholar (student, or within 2 years of graduation) please add:

“LAST NAME - YS-World Coop Congress 125 Years ICA– Theme #”

## More information

For more information, please contact us at

[research.congress@worldcooperativecongress.coop](mailto:research.congress@worldcooperativecongress.coop)





## Scientific Committee

A scientific committee will supervise the process of communication selection and elaboration of papers. The committee has two co-Chairs and is composed of researchers proposed by

- The ICA Committee on Cooperative Research
- The Korea Society of Cooperative Studies

There will be four linguistic streams in the evaluation process, for English, Spanish, French and Korean.

### Co-Chairs:

- Sonja Novkovic, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University, Canada
- Jung-Joo Kim, KON-KUK University, Republic of Korea

### Members:

- Esther Gicheru, The Co-operative University of Kenya, Kenya
- Mirta Vuotto, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Claudia Sanchez Bajo, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Davi Moura Costa, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Jessica Gordon Nembhard, City University of New York, USA
- Akira Kurimoto, Hoseil University, Japan
- Morris Altman, University of Dundee School of Business, UK
- T. Paranjothi<sup>1</sup>, Agricultural Cooperative Training Institute, India
- Cynthia Giagnocavo, University of Almería, Spain
- Constantine Iliopoulos, Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Greece
- Paola Raffaelli, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
- Claude-André Guillotte, University of Sherbrooke, Canada
- Maryline Filippi, University of Bordeaux, France
- Lou Hammond Ketilson, University of Saskatchewan, Canada
- Roger Spear, Open University, UK
- Seungkwon Jang, Sungkonghoe University, Republic of Korea
- Chung-Ok Koo, Seoul Women's University, Republic of Korea
- Hyungmi Kim, Sangji University, Republic of Korea
- Jaeil Song, Myongji University, Republic of Korea
- Sang-Youn Lee, Sungkonghoe University, Republic of Korea
- Seongjae Park, GSJ Institute, Republic of Korea

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ccr.ica.coop/en/newsroom/news/remembering-prof-t-paranjothi-ica-ccr-executive-member-representing-asia-pacific>

[Annex - Concept note]

**33rd World Cooperative Congress, 1-3 December 2021 Seoul, Republic of Korea**

## Deepening our cooperative identity

marking 125 years of ICA  
and 25 years of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity

Social and economic transformation is at the heart of recent movements such as the one to meet the climate change challenge, youth and gender movements and other movements responding to the environmental, economic and social challenges framed in the UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and, more generally, social unrest which mirrors increasingly unequal societies.

In this context, cooperatives ought to be the leaders in contributing with solutions, rather than followers, based precisely on their distinct cooperative identity which provides them with legitimacy as enterprises in the service of people and the common good, rather than capital and profit.

The key question then can be framed around challenges and opportunities: how do cooperatives use the Statement of Cooperative Identity to their advantage; how is the cooperative movement transforming the economy and society, and in what ways can the cooperative model pave the way to a sustainable future?

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It is through their identity that cooperatives exist in today's world. Indeed, cooperatives would not exist as we know them, namely as a global and networked reality, if they had not established global common denominators, and if, as of 1995, these denominators had not evolved into a fully-fledged common identity.

The Statement on the Cooperative Identity, approved at the ICA Centenary Congress in 1995 in Manchester after a very long consultation process within the cooperative movement, not only brought about a more complete set of common denominators for cooperatives worldwide with a seventh principle, a series of foundational values and a definition, but, with these additions and the whole set of standards thus formed, it also constituted a profound qualitative leap forward by explicitly introducing the concept of cooperative identity.

The awareness of this identity over this quarter of a century has made substantial progress. The Guidance Notes on the Cooperative Principles, approved by the ICA general assembly in 2015 after two years of consultation within the cooperative movement, provides an important step forward in the understanding of the principles, which constitute the largest part of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.



Furthermore, by understanding better its common identity, the cooperative movement has since then been able to better integrate the plurality among different forms of cooperatives, including new types that have emerged since then.

International recognition has also followed suit: the cooperative identity has been formally recognized by the international community through the virtually unanimous approval in 2002 of ILO Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (n° 193), while UNESCO in 2016 has granted cooperatives the status of world intangible heritage through the German cooperative movement.

On the other hand, however, there still is a long way to go in order to strengthen the cooperative identity, whereas it is particularly urgent to do so in this period when the world is undergoing dramatic changes and challenges.

The ICA Congress provides an opportunity to celebrate and deepen the understanding of the cooperative identity. It can thus constitute both a point of arrival, by taking stock of these 25 years of development of the cooperative identity, and a point of departure, by launching a debate ushering in a deeper and more multi-faceted understanding of the role which the cooperative identity plays in setting the cooperative model apart from other forms of business and collective action.

In fact, businesses in different corners of the world are reframing their purpose; global sustainability reporting initiatives are being redrafted, having realized that disclosure of various practices are not sufficient to turn around the economy and society. New business models are emerging, centered on, or advocating for ethical values and common good, such as B corporations; social enterprises; Banking on Values. Even the US Roundtable of business leaders declared—in stark contrast to business as usual – that they are accountable to their stakeholders rather than only their shareholders.

The Congress shall debate how our cooperative identity positively impacts the current global issues (development, saving the planet, peace, etc.) and how our cooperative identity impacts global viewpoints on human development (dignity of work, impact of digital technology, gender equity, etc.).

In the same line, the Congress shall include a “Call to Action”, with the ICA sectoral organizations previously polling their members on the top three priorities that would most impact both global stability and human development. Each sector would then bring to Seoul public commitments to achieve measurable results with applicable SDGs in their sector as derived from polling their grassroots members. These commitments would be incorporated into the Congress Declaration and would then be monitored in the 2020-2030 timeframe consistent with the 2020-2030 ICA Strategic Plan.