

COOPERATIVE EDINSTVO



ADDRESS/COUNTRY

Village of Komoshtitsa, Yakimovo
Municipality, Montana district - BULGARIA

CONTACTS

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LEGAL ORGANISATIONAL FORM

Agricultural cooperative

VIDEO, PPT, OTHER

interactive materials to present the coop

Cooperatives at a crossroads
<https://bit.ly/31s4Dtm>
(Bulgarian language)

CONTEXT

/

INFO

YEAR OF CREATION

1992

DESCRIPTION/MAIN ACTIVITIES

The cooperative mainly develops in two branches: plant growing and animal breeding.

The cooperative grows 28 thousand decares, which are sown with wheat, barley, rapeseed, sunflower, corn and alfalfa for the animals.

It raises 700 animals - cows and sheep. The animals are under selection, the cooperative is a member of the Breeding Association in Bulgaria, which maintains the gene pool of the herds.

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

member, clients, producers

About 930 co-operatives are members of the cooperative with share capital and land.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

1-service/goods production; 2-markets/consumers/beneficiaries

- 1 The production of the cooperative is produced entirely on the territory of the village of Komoshtitsa;
- 2 Markets: trading with companies from all over the country.

REVENUE

The revenues of the cooperative are from the sale of agricultural products and the received subsidies. Cooperative reported an increase in net sales revenue of 10.56% in 2019. The total amount of its assets reported a negative growth of 0.35%. The net profit margin of Unity Cooperative Business Cooperative will increase by 0.33% in 2019.

STRUCTURE/ OWNERSHIP

OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE

who/how many: shareholders/owners/members/worker members/ donors, ...

About 930 shareholders are members of the cooperative. All of them have the right at a general meeting to elect their Supervisory Board, Management Board and Chairman among themselves. This elected management makes decisions during the year and during its term of office, which is 4 years. The most important decisions are taken at a general meeting and are proposed by the Management Board. The cooperative has 84 workers in different industries.

VOTING PROCESS

In the cooperative, decisions are made by all the members. These are at least at the level of the Management Board and come to the level of the General Assembly, where all co-operative members have the floor in the process of voting. Decisions are approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

BENEFITS OF BEING MEMBERS

The social policy of the cooperative distinguishes it from the tenants. First, the rent is the highest in the region; all co-operative members receive dividends on their share capital; all co-operative members at retirement age receive BGN 50 each. for the Christmas holidays, etc.

GOVERNANCE and MEMBERS PARTICIPATION

STRUCTURE/ORGANISATION CHART

Assembly, Control Board (which is made up by 3 members); above the Management Board and as main leading figure in the cooperative is the Chairman.

ASSEMBLIES

how many, how, other assemblies than the General one

The Assembly, which provides rights and guidance to the Management Board on how to act during the year, is the supreme governing body of the cooperative is the General Assembly. All members participate.

BOARD COMPOSITION AND ORGANISATION

The Board of Directors consists of 7 people.

**COOPERATIVE
PRINCIPLES
BEST PRACTICES**

*Principles for which
the coop represents
a good practice*

PRINCIPLE 4. AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

As mentioned in the social activities of the cooperative above, the cooperative provides for its members. This is evidenced by the distribution of social benefits for the treatment of extremely needy cooperative members in old age. Also the distribution of food at half price to lonely, sick and old co-operative members. The cooperative also helps with money for the maintenance of the village (town hall, community center). Over the years, the cooperative has also helped the Corn Institute in Knezha with money.

PRINCIPLE 5. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

The cooperative allocates funds for training activities developed for current or future staff. In this way, it managed to keep the Bulgarian village alive for a longer time. About 800 people live in the village Komoshtitsa, and 85 of them are employed in the cooperative. The campaigns also hire additional labor. Daniel Dimitrov, chairman, is convinced that thanks to the cooperative, the village is alive. Not to be underestimated are the good salaries that keep young people. They also provide scholarships for those who want to study and then return, as he once did. He was a fellow of the cooperative, graduated from the University of Ruse, and then returned to work. He works hard, without a day off, and without the opportunity for vacations. In addition, they carry out a huge amount of social activity. In the cooperative “Edinstvo” there is a special restaurant for feeding the cooperating members in old age. All public activities in the village are supported, gifts are given on holidays.

PRINCIPLE 6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Most cooperatives in Bulgaria unite to defend their interests by being members of the National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives in Bulgaria. The cooperative “Edinstvo” is also member of the Union of Agricultural Cooperatives in Bulgaria.

PRINCIPLE 7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

The cooperative works for producing services, adding value to the products and uses environmentally friendly practices.

For examples, animal welfare includes practices as:

- » Permanent access to open spaces for the animal breeding;
- » Good grazing to adequately meet their nutritional and behavioral needs;
- » Suitable shelter;
- » Low animal density.

The cooperative works also for recycling animal waste and storing other farm residues as a result of additional activities (oils, medicines, disinfectants, sewage sludge).