



# Cooperatives

Definition and principles

# What is a cooperative?



A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise. The word comes from the latin co-operare, which means working together.

# Values of the cooperatives

Cooperatives are based on the following values:

Self-help

Self-responsibility

Equality

Equity

Democracy

Solidarity



# Business principles of cooperatives



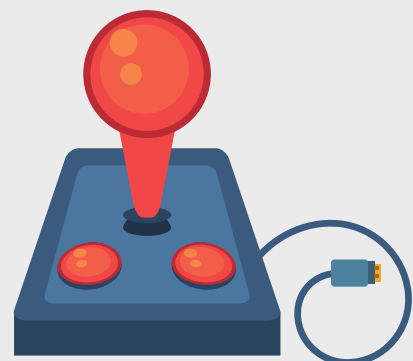
## The user-benefit principle

The benefits of membership are distributed to user-members equally on the basis of the volume of use



## The user-owner principle

People who use the cooperative own and finance the business



## The user-control principle

The people who control the cooperative are those who use the cooperative. They democratically elect a board of directors.