

# Cooperantics

## People skills for cooperatives

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### Different types of co-operative

**WORKER CO-OPERATIVE:** Owned and controlled by its employees. Members participate in the co-operative by working for it.

**CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVE:** Owned and controlled by its customers. Members participate in the co-operative by purchasing goods and/or services from it.

**FOOD CO-OPERATIVE:** Not a very precise term, but generally a small, local and often relatively informal bulk-buying consortium.

**CO-OPERATIVE CONSORTIUM:** Owned and controlled by users of the services provided. Members participate by using the services, possibly paying some sort of annual fee or contributing their labour on a rota basis. Examples include actors agencies and taxi-drivers co-ops.

**AGRICULTURAL & FISHING CO-OPERATIVE:** Variety of co-operative consortium, providing marketing, purchasing or equipment hire services.

**CREDIT UNION:** Savings and loans co-operative owned and controlled by savers and borrowers.

**HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE:** Owned and controlled by the tenants. Members participate by living in the co-operative's property. Housing co-ops seek to benefit their members by providing good quality, reasonable cost housing.

**TENANT MANAGEMENT CO-OPERATIVE:** A form of housing co-operative where the co-op does not own the property but manages it under contract (usually on behalf of a local authority or a housing association).

**COMMUNITY CO-OPERATIVE:** Owned and controlled by those members of a community who participate in a business serving the whole community or a large part of it. It is the element of "self-help" (crucial to co-operative identity) which distinguishes a community co-operative from a community business.