



Section 1 of 2

# Introduction

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## Introduction to Co-operatives Worldwide

Co-operatives were originally established as a practical way to help working people use self-help to improve their conditions. The Rochdale Pioneers inspired a global movement, and there were also many other thinkers and activists working at the same time as them who gave rise to other co-operative traditions. From the beginnings of the modern co-operative movement in Rochdale in 1844, what has united all forms of co-operatives and co-operators is an underlying set of values and principles. In 1995, the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) adopted a **Statement on the Co-operative Identity** that revisited and revised these values and principles to guide co-operative organisations into the twenty-first century and beyond. This global approach invites co-operators around the world to unite in a truly worldwide movement that includes over a billion members.

This course will take you on that journey, exploring the many forms co-operatives take in all four corners of the globe, from Asia and Pacific, the Americas, Europe and Africa. Join us on a tour of a variety of exciting and diverse co-operatives, showcasing the amazing work of co-operatives all

over the world!

## Course outcomes

Through the activities presented in this course, the purpose is to enhance participants' understanding of the role that co-operative enterprise plays around the world. By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Describe the background to the history and development of the global co-operative movement
- Give an overview of the institutional framework of global co-operation
- Discuss a range of examples that demonstrate the diversity of the worldwide co-operative movement

## How and what will I learn?

- 1 The course covers the background to the history and development of the global co-operative movement, and asks questions such as, 'Why and how did the co-operative movement grow and evolve?', 'Who was involved in the emerging global movement?' and 'What does the global movement look like today?'



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- Describe the background to the history and development of the global co-operative movement, and how did the co-operative movement evolve?', 'Who was responsible for creating global movement?' and
- Give an overview of how the global movement look like today?' and
- The course aims to demonstrate the diversity of the global co-operative movement by giving some background to the context in which the co-operative movement has developed in the different ICA regions, namely Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Americas and Europe.

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The course uses a range of activities including films about co-operatives around the world to showcase the work of different co-operatives as well as giving you the opportunity to reflect on how the work of the global movement can be linked back to your own experiences and knowledge.

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