

PRESS RELEASE

General Assembly KONFEKOOP, 25 May 2018:

- **2017 has been marked by an improvement in the economic field of Cooperatives.**
- **The census of cooperatives has increased by 50 in the Basque Country in 2017, reaching a total of 1,160 federate cooperatives.**
- **The total number of members comes to 1,206,310 people, 1,098,478 of them being consumer members.**
- **The overall figure of workers has increased by 2.19%. The number of working partners has increased by 1.025 people and the number of self-employed workers by 146 people.**
- **Elkar-Lan S.Coop. has participated in the constitution of 138 cooperatives, creating more than 464 new work posts.**
- **More than 65% of the invoicing of industrial cooperatives are international sales.**
- **Cooperatives give employment to 279 million people throughout the world, of them, nearly 54,500 are in the Basque Country.**

KONFEKOOP, Confederación de Cooperativas de Euskadi, incorporates all the Cooperative Federations of the Basque Country existing in the various cooperative sectors (Worker-coop, Education, Agri-food, Consumer, Transport and Bank-coop) which, in turn, affiliates between 90% and 95% of the members, of the volume of operations and the employment of all cooperatives in the Basque Country.

Cooperative movement, the engine of sustainable development...

.... which contributes to the generation of wealth.

the human and professional development of their members and workers....

the creation of social fabric that is efficient and supportive in the Autonomous Region of the Basque Country...

and the social development of the local communities of our centres.

KONFEKOOP brings together 1,160 cooperatives that generate more than 7% of the GDP in the Basque Country.

The cooperatives generate quality, stable and safe employment which includes all the workers (members and non-members) in the business objective.

Inter-cooperation between people, cooperatives and government administrations, which the cooperative movement promotes, encourages the development of our region,

The cooperative movement respects the natural environment, provides services of great importance to its local communities and creates collective patrimony and human capital which remains for several generations.

The most important data or figures as of 31 December 2017 are the following:

- ❖ The number of **Federate Cooperatives** comes to **1,160**
 - By types of cooperatives:
 - Worker.....997
 - Education 85
 - Agricultural 61
 - Consumer 10
 - Transport..... 6
 - Credit 1
 - Housing.....
 - Others
 - By territory:
 - Araba..... 176
 - Bizkaia 495
 - Gipuzkoa..... 489
 - By productive sector:
 - First or direct product 14
 - Second or transformation 481
 - Third or services 665

- ❖ Total **Members**..... **1,206,310**
 - Agricultural.....9,363
 - of Workers.....34,837
 - of Consumers 1,098,478
 - of Credit..... 10,146
 - Parents 53,456

- ❖ Total **Workers** **54,667**
 - Worker members34,837
 - Non-member workers..... 19,830
 - Men26,518
 - Women.....28,149

- ❖ Turnover.....€9,669,
- ❖ Internationalisation€4,856,

* Data are taken exclusively from the cooperatives integrated in their respective sectoral federations.

* The data collected correspond to cooperatives in the Basque Country.

Within the constraints of the trading year it must be said that it was another year in which we managed to validate our socio-business model, as verified by the following data:

- Net increase of 50 cooperatives
- Creation of 1,171 jobs
- Increase of 1.025 worker-members
- Increase of 2.14% in the number of students at the education cooperatives, which brings the total number of 74,405 students
- Around 6% of the employment in the Basque Country

The Cooperative Movement is committed to the future of the Basque Country:

- Given its zero tendency to de-localisation: local roots with a global dimension
- Given its firm commitment to the development of its local communities
- Because it contributes to generating important human capital in the local communities where cooperatives operate
- Because it contributes to creating collective patrimony which remains in the community for successive generations
- Because the life expectancy of cooperatives is higher than that of capital companies. Excluding recently created cooperatives (in the last 5 years), more than 40% of the federate cooperatives have been in existence for more than 20 years.

Another factor to take into consideration in employment in the Basque Country has been the high level of internationalisation of industrial cooperatives, with the result that of the 9,669 million Euro total turnover, 50% were international sales, namely 4,856 million Euro.

Elkar-Lan S. Coop, company for the promotion of cooperatives, has participated in the constitution of 138 new cooperatives. This figure keeps the Basque Country in the lead of autonomous regions which create most cooperatives each year

Finally, it is worth stressing the commercial platform of the MerkaERKIDE Cooperatives which offer a wide range of products and services, open to requests presented by any type of organisation and which is gradually gaining strength.

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PRESIDENT OF KONFEKOOP
BASQUE COOPERATIVES CONFEDERATION