



Spanish confederation of  
social economy enterprises

# SOCIAL ECONOMY IN SPAIN

2020



# A Confederation with **43.192** enterprises and **2.184.234** jobs



The Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises (CEPES) is an employers' organisation established in 1992 that represents Social Economy at national level. CEPES is the point of reference of the Social Economy in Spain.

As the umbrella organisation bringing together the diverse forms of the Social Economy enterprise model, CEPES has **29 member organisations**. All of them are national or regional confederations and business groups representing the interests of Cooperatives, Worker-Owned Societies, Mutual Benefit Societies, Integration Enterprises, Special Employment Centres for disabled people, Fishermen' Guilds and Disability Associations with more than 200 support structures at regional level. They represent the plural and diverse industrial fabric of the Social Economy which is actively present in all economic sectors with enterprises of all sizes.

**Social economy's turnover accounts for 10% of the Spanish GDP and CEPES represents the interest of:**

**43.192 enterprises**  
**2.184.234 jobs**  
**21.625.063 persons associated with Social Economy**

## OBJECTIVES

- To promote Social Economy, its movements and sectors.
- To exert influence on the policy-making process of public policies and regulations both at national and international level.
- To contribute to the national economic development by obtaining stability and pluralism in the economic markets.
- To raise awareness of the society and the private sector of a way of doing business that is socially responsible and has specific values
- To promote the visibility of the social economy to all national and EU Institutions at economic, cultural, social or political levels.
- To facilitate the modernisation of Social Economy enterprises and their adaptation to the business challenges they face

## INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO

Although the European Union is the preferential field of action at international level, the international cooperation of CEPES also focuses on Latin America and the Mediterranean, both regions are taking on a greater interest year after year.

**In the EU, Social Economy accounts for 8%**

**2.8 million social economy entities and enterprises**  
**13,6 million jobs (6,3% of the active population)**

Since the end of 2015 CEPES holds the presidency of **Social Economy Europe (SEE)**, the voice of the European Social Economy, and leaders the Euro-Mediterranean Social Economy Network since 2001. ESMED aims at promoting and strengthening Social Economy in the Mediterranean Basin.

The member organisations of the ESMED Network are from **Algeria, Egypt, France, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey**. Its main objective is to coordinate these organisations where Social Economy represents **more than 900,000 social economy enterprises, 8 million jobs and 100 million people associated**.



**Juan Antonio Pedreño, SEE and CEPES President (2nd from right), with co-presidents of the Social Economy Intergroup at the European Parliament. January 2020**



# Cepes in pictures



Audience with King Felipe VI and CEPES of Directors. International Year of Cooperatives



Event with former Prime Minister Jose Luis Zapatero - announcement of Social Economy Law.



Social Economy Law is passed at the Spanish Parliament



Meeting with the Spanish Minister for Employment and Social Economy



President Mariano Rajoy meets CEPES Board of Directors



Mr. Juan Antonio Pedreño at the constitutive meeting of the Social Economy Intergroup at the European Parliament



President Pedro Sánchez meets CEPES Board of Directors

The adoption of Law 5/2011, of 29 March, on Social Economy marks an unprecedented turning point in the acknowledgement, visibility and development of Social Economy at national and European levels.

The text of the Law defines Social Economy as the set of economic and business activities carried out by institutions in the private sector, which seek a general economic or social interest, or both, and in accordance with the following principles.

### The principles that guide Social Economy in Spain are:

- Primacy of the individual and of the social purpose over capital. This materializes in an autonomous and transparent, democratic and participative management, which prioritises a decision-making process based more on individuals and the contribution they make to the organisation with their work and services or on the social purpose, than on their contributions to the capital.
- Distribution of the profits obtained from the economic activity mainly according to the work contributed or the service or activity performed by members and, if applicable, according to the entity's social purpose.
- Promotion of solidarity internally and with society that favours commitment to local development, equal opportunities between men and women, social cohesion, the insertion of persons with the risk of social exclusion, the generation of stable and quality jobs, the conciliation of private, family and work life and sustainability
- Independence with regard to the public authorities

Furthermore, the Law sets the diverse entities that make up the Social Economy enterprises.

**COOPERATIVES:** A cooperative is a business form based on a democratic structure and operation. Its activity is developed in compliance with cooperative principles accepted and regulated at regional, national and international levels: voluntary and open membership, democratic management, member economic participation, education, training and information, and concern for the community

**WORKER-OWNED SOCIETIES.** Worker-owned Societies have a high potential to create enterprises. In worker-owned societies, capital belongs to employees. The fact that the workers are also the shareholders encourages self-motivation in entrepreneurial projects. The minimum number of members is three, and constitution procedures are similar to those of other companies.

**MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES:** These organisations -made up of persons- have a non-profit nature. With a democratic structure and management system, they provide voluntary insurance as a complement to the social security system.

**SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT CENTRES:** These companies combine economic feasibility and market participation with a social commitment to groups with less access to the job market. Their staff includes people with disabilities (They have to account for 70% total employment). They carry out productive and competitive activities that allows them to bring their products to market

**INTEGRATION ENTERPRISES:** Integration enterprises are defined as "learning structures, in business corporate form, that aim at ensuring job market access to disadvantaged groups by developing a productive activity. To that end, an insertion process is designed with a standard labour relationship". The staff must consist of a number of integration employees, from 30 to 60% depending on the region. 80% of the profit is re-invested in the enterprises.

**FISHERMEN'S GUILDS:** These are sector-based, public-law organisations of a non-profit nature. They represent the economic interests of fishing boat builders and fishing workers and operate as an advisory and collaborative body in the corresponding administrations in the area of sea fishing and fishery planning. Their goal is to meet their members' needs and to contribute to local development, social cohesion and sustainability.

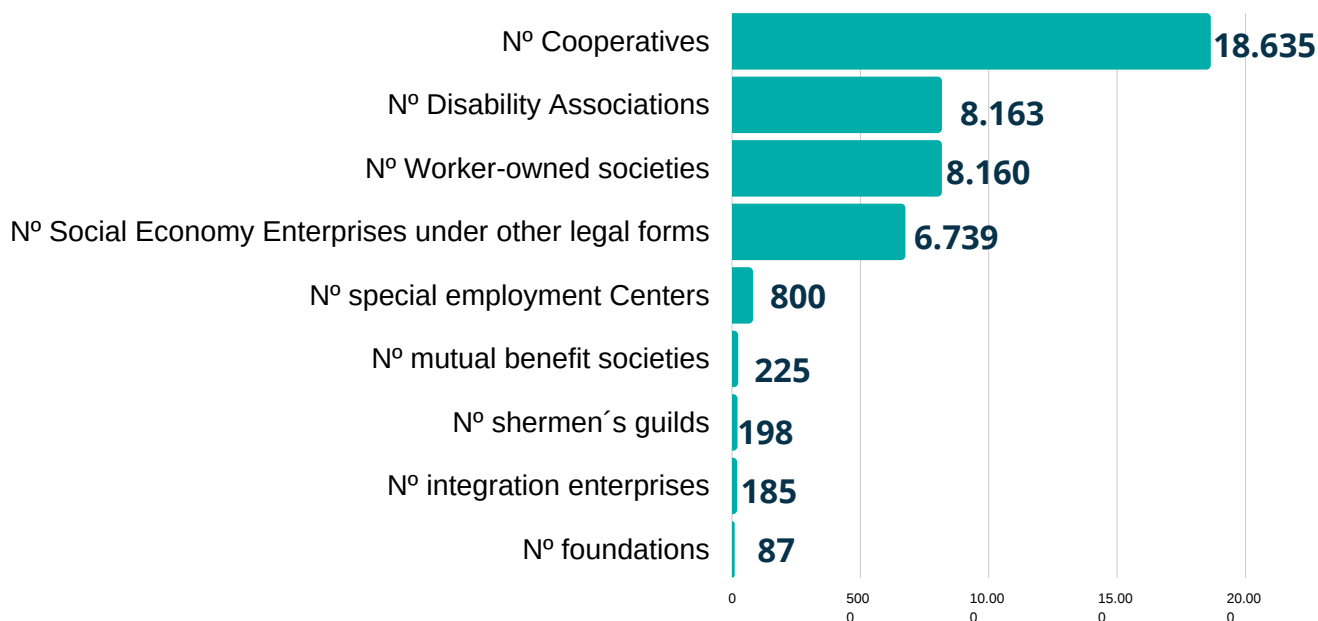
**DISABILITY ASSOCIATIONS:** The main aim of this associative movement is to provide services where the profit-making sector fails to do so. This is usually the case with sectors having to do with people's fundamental rights, particularly with regard to especially vulnerable groups, like people with disability. Other features are innovation in the way social problems are dealt with, and the defence of social, legal and administrative changes aimed at protecting the rights and liberties of those with disabilities as the necessary basis for diversity, plurality and tolerance.

**FUNDATIONS:** These are non-profit organisations whose equity is dedicated to a general interest objective in the long term, by the will of their creators. Social Economy Foundations must fully comply with the abovementioned Social Economy principles contained in Law 5/2011.

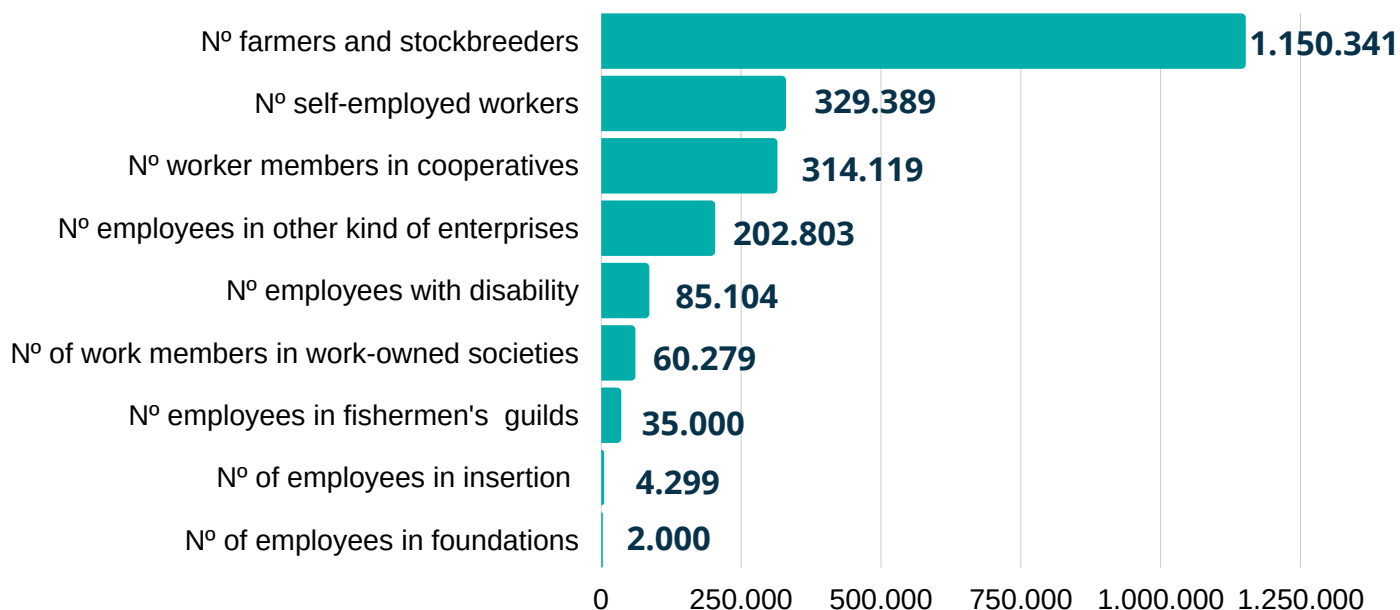


# CEPES' figures in 2019

## 43.192 Social Economy Entities



## 2.184.234 employments



### Sources:

**COOPERATIVES AND WORKER-OWNED SOCIETIES:** Ministry for Employment and Social Economy

**DISABILITY ASSOCIATIONS:** CERMI, AEDIS and REAS.

**SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISES UNDER OTHER LEGAL FORMS:** GRUPO CLADE, FUNDACIÓN ESPRÍU, ATLANTIS, UNIDE, AEDIS, GRUPO COOPERATIVO CAJAMAR, CORPORACIÓN MONDRAGON, UECOE AND REAS.

**SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT CENTRES:** FEACEM

**MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES:** CNEPS

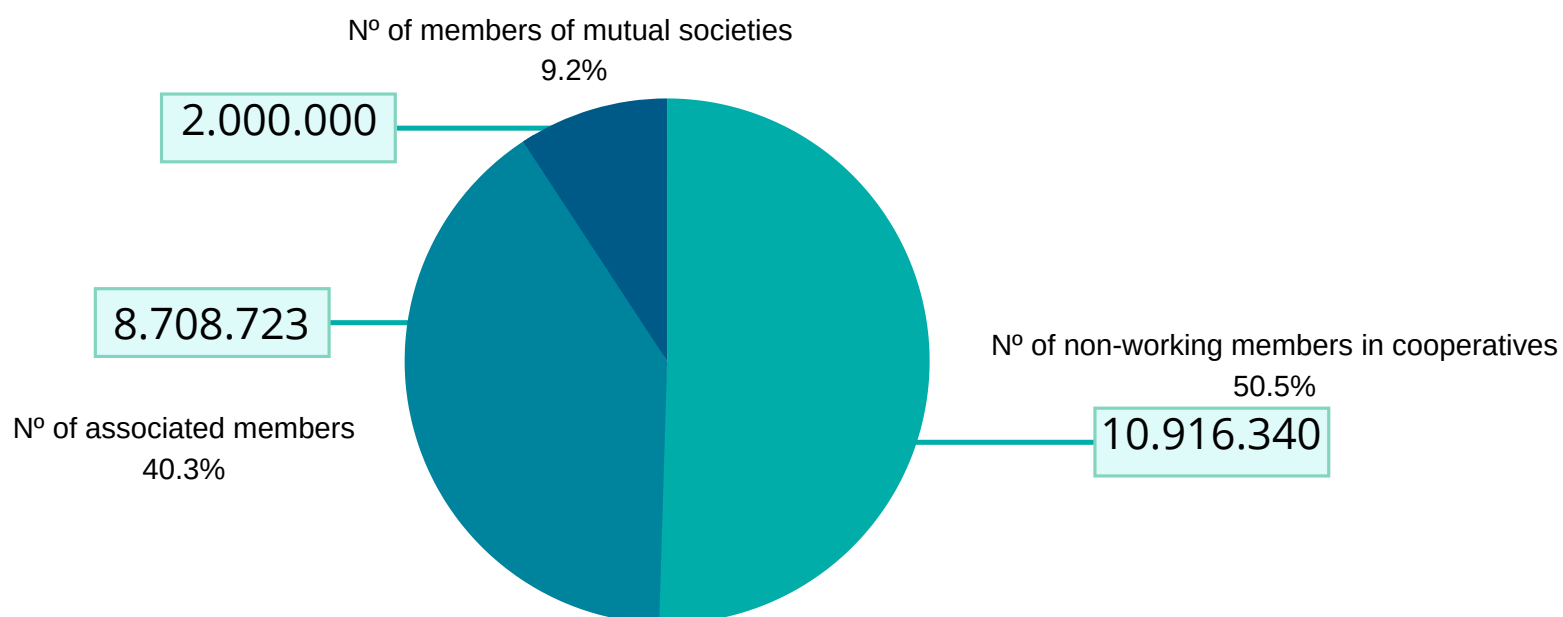
**FISHERMEN'S GUILDS:** FNCP

**FOUNDATIONS:** COVIRÁN FUNDACIÓN ESPRÍU, GRUPO CLADE, CEPES NAVARRA, MONDRAGÓN CORPORACIÓN AND REAS

**INTEGRATION ENTERPRISES.** FAEDEI

# CEPES' figures in 2019

**21.625.063** People are economically linked with Social Economy



## New Enterprises and Jobs

(Years 2018-2019)

- 2.944 new enterprises
- 12.860 new jobs



Family photo of the UfM Workshop on Social Economy in the MENA region and the Balkans. July 2019

# CEPES' institutional representation in public and private organisations at national and international levels

**C**EPES' participation in institutional dialogue at the national and international levels has significantly increased over the last years. One of the CEPES strategic objectives is to increase its active presence in relevant areas of dialogue, with the aim of influencing the law-making process and public policies in all areas. CEPES represents Spanish Social Economy in the following national and international public and private fora:

## ADVISORY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES (NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL)

- **Spanish Economic and Social Council**
- **European Economic and Social Committee**
- **Council for the Promotion of Social Economy** (Ministry of Labor and Social Economy)
- **CSR State Council** (Ministry for Employment and Social Economy)
- **Cooperation Council** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- **State Council for SMEs and Entrepreneurship** (Ministry of Industry)
- **Sustainable Development Council** (Ministry Social Rights and 2030 Agenda)
- **Monitoring Committees of the ESF 2014-2020 Operational Programs for Social Inclusion and Social Economy and Youth Employment** (Ministry of Labor and Social Economy)
- **Permanent Commission of the NETWORK for Social inclusion** (Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda)
- **Executive Committee of the National Rural Network** (Ministry of Agriculture)

## OTHER PERMANENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**
- **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**
- **COOPERATIVES EUROPE**
- **EURO MEDITERRANEAN SOCIAL ECONOMY NETWORK**
- **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE**

## CURRENT AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

### BANKING INSTITUTIONS and MUTUAL GUARANTEE SOCIETIES

- CAJAMAR
- LABORAL KUTXA
- BANCO SABADELL
- ELKARGI
- FIARE BANCA ÉTICA

### THIRD SECTOR ENTITIES FOR SOCIAL ACTION AND FOUNDATIONS

- **THIRD SECTOR PLATFORM**
- **SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF FOUNDATIONS**
- **LARES**, Dependence

### DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ORGANISATIONS & SDG

- **VICENTE FERRER FOUNDATION**

### UNIVERSITIES AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- **CIRIEC ESPAÑA**
- **EOI** (School of Industrial Organization)
- **SCHOOL OF COOPERATIVE STUDIES OF THE COMPLUTENSE UNIVERSITY IN MADRID**

### REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATIONS OF THE HEALTH COOPERATIVES

- **ESPRU FUNDATION**

### REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

- **ONCE FOUNDATION**
- **FORO INSERTA**
- **BEQUAL FUNDATION**

### ENTITIES RELATED TO THE MEDIA

- **CIVIL SOCIETY FOR DEBATE**

### REPRESENTATIVE CSR ORGANISATIONS

- **CORRESPONSABLES**

# CEPES MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

## NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- AEDIS:** Business Association For Disability ([www.asociacionaedis.org](http://www.asociacionaedis.org))
- CNEPS:** Spanish Confederation of Mutual Benefit Societies ([www.confederacionmutualidades.es](http://www.confederacionmutualidades.es))
- COCETA:** Spanish Confederation of Worker's Cooperatives ([www.coceta.coop](http://www.coceta.coop))
- CONCOVI:** Spanish Confederation of Housing Cooperatives ([www.concovi.org](http://www.concovi.org))
- COOPERATIVAS AGRO-ALIMENTARIAS:** ([www.agro-alimentarias.coop](http://www.agro-alimentarias.coop))
- FAEDEI:** Federation of Integration Enterprises Business Associations ([www.faedei.org](http://www.faedei.org))
- FEACEM:** Spanish Business Federation of Sheltered Employment Centers Associations ([www.feacem.es](http://www.feacem.es))
- FNCP:** Spanish National Federation of Fishermen's Guilds ([www.fncp.eu](http://www.fncp.eu))
- HISPACOOOP:** Spanish Confederation of Consumers' and Users' Cooperatives ([www.hispacoop.es](http://www.hispacoop.es))
- ONCE:** Spanish National Organisation for the Blind ([www.once.es](http://www.once.es))
- REAS:** Alternative and Solidarity Economy Network([www.economiasolidaria.org](http://www.economiasolidaria.org))
- UECOE:** Spanish Union of Cooperative Schools ([www.uecoe.es](http://www.uecoe.es))
- UNACOMAR:** Spanish National Union of Seafarers Cooperatives

## REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- ANDALUCÍA SCOOP:** ([www.agroalimentarias-andalucia.coop](http://www.agroalimentarias-andalucia.coop))
- CCC:** Catalonia Cooperative Confederation ([www.cooperativescatalunya.coop](http://www.cooperativescatalunya.coop))
- CEPES ARAGÓN:** Social Economy Association of Aragon ([www.economiasocialaragon.es](http://www.economiasocialaragon.es))
- CEPES-NAVARRA:** Confederation of Social Economy Entities of Navarra  
([www.cepessnavarra.org](http://www.cepessnavarra.org))
- CONFEDERACIÓ DE COOPERATIVES DE LA COMUNITAT VALENCIANA:**  
([www.concoval.es](http://www.concoval.es))
- FECOMA:** Federation of Cooperatives in Madrid ([www.cooperativasdemadrid.com](http://www.cooperativasdemadrid.com))
- FOROESGAL:** Foro por la Economía Social Gallega ([www.fecoma.coop](http://www.fecoma.coop))

## SOCIAL ECONOMY BUSINESS GROUPS

- ATLANTIS GRUPO:** ([www.atlantis-seguros.es](http://www.atlantis-seguros.es))
- CORPORACIÓN MONDRAGON:** [www.mondragon-corporation.com](http://www.mondragon-corporation.com)
- COVIRÁN:** ([www.coviran.es](http://www.coviran.es))
- FIARE BANCA ÉTICA:** ([www.fiarebancaetica.coop](http://www.fiarebancaetica.coop))
- FUNDACIÓN ESPRIU:** ([www.fundacionespriu.coop](http://www.fundacionespriu.coop))
- GRUP CLADE:** ([www.grupclade.com](http://www.grupclade.com))
- GRUPO COOPERATIVO CAJAMAR:** ([www.grupocooperativocajamar.es](http://www.grupocooperativocajamar.es))
- ILUNION:** ([www.ilunion.com](http://www.ilunion.com))