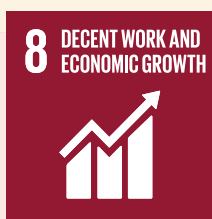




# **SOCIAL ECONOMY: A KEY DRIVER OF INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN LINE WITH THE 2030 AGENDA**

**Best practices of Social Economy  
enterprises in pursuit  
of SDG 8 and SDG 9**





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**Best practices of Social Economy enterprises  
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Report elaborated by:

**Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises - CEPES**

The Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises (CEPES) is the largest representative institution of Social Economy in Spain. It represents the interests of more than 43,192 enterprises that directly and indirectly generate 2.2 million jobs, with a turnover amounting to approximately 10% of GDP in Spain. CEPES members are 29 national and regional organisations and business groups representing the interests of Co-operatives, Employee-Owned Enterprises, Mutual Benefit Societies, Integration Enterprises, Special Employment Centres of social initiative, Associations of disable people, and Fishermen's Guilds.

[www.cep.es](http://www.cep.es)



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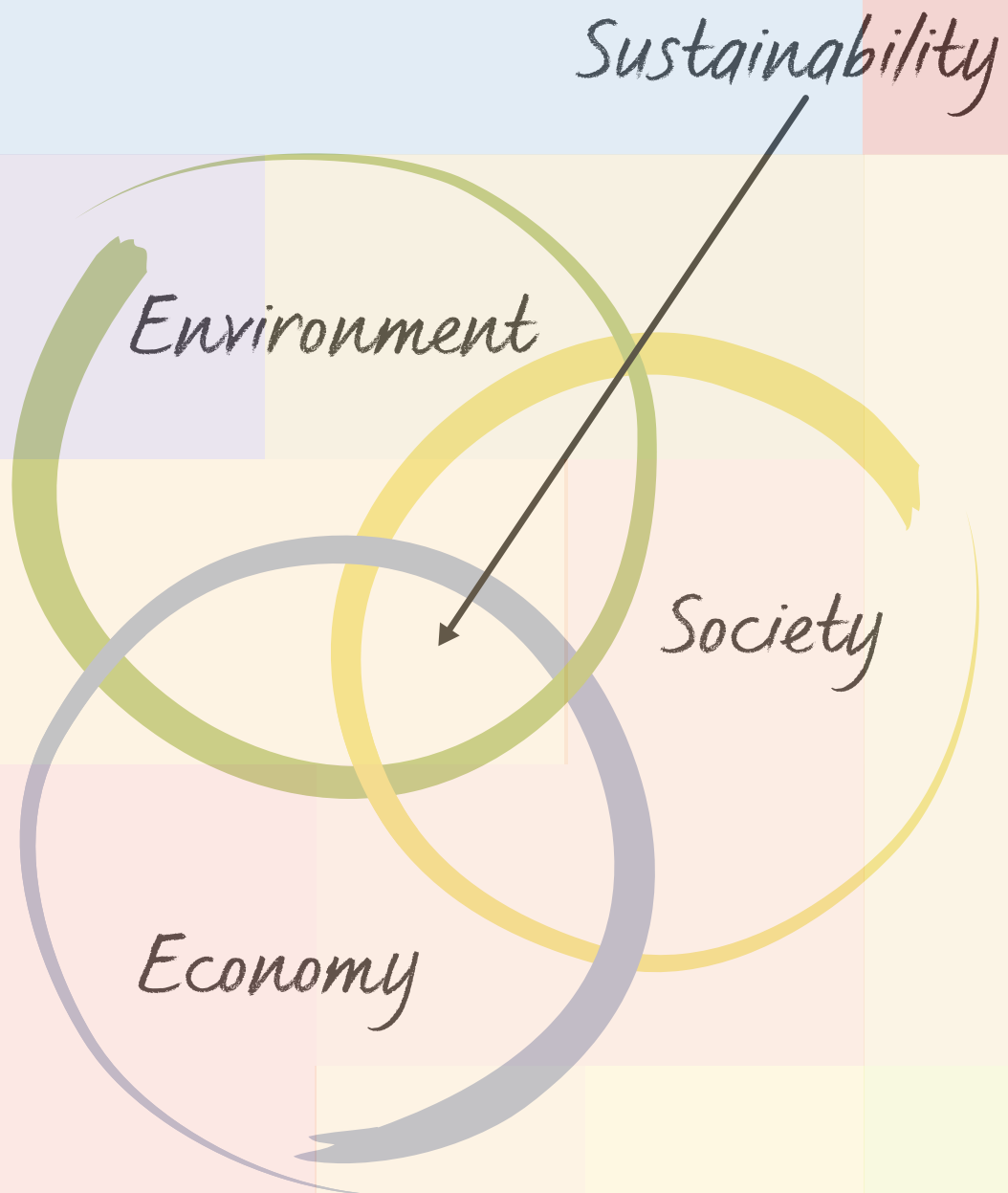
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# 1

## **SOCIAL ECONOMY: A KEY PLAYER OF THE 2030 AGENDA**

Juan Antonio Pedreño Frutos  
CEPES President





Social Economy enterprises are at the forefront of the change in model sought by the 2030 Agenda since, as pointed out by the **Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres**, Social Economy embodies a growth model that is “aimed at finding a new balance between economic efficiency and social and environmental resilience<sup>1</sup>, especially at these difficult times.

International Organisations, European Institutions and Governments are claiming this central role, considering Social Economy as “is an indispensable ally not only in the long-term economic recovery of Europe but also in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030”.

This is the opinion stated by the **high representatives of the 19 European governments, led by the Spanish Minister for Labour and Social Economy, Yolanda Díaz**, who adopted a joint declaration<sup>2</sup> in December 2020 that was the pinnacle of the High Level International Summit “Towards an inclusive and sustainable recovery model: the Social and Solidarity Economy as a key agent” held in Toledo (Spain) as part of the Spanish Presidency of the Group of EU Governments that prioritise Social Economy in their policies<sup>3</sup>.

At this event, important voices such as: **Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Guy Ryder, Director General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and Ángel Gurría, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, alongside representatives from 19 European governments, issued an unprecedented political commitment supporting Social Economy, linking it to the aims sought by the SDG.

This report compiles “best practices” regarding the ways in which Social Economy brings the 2030 Agenda to life, with pioneering actions carried out in 50 enterprises and organisations. These experiences, which are a sample of the rich reality of the Spanish Social Economy, are proof that the values of responsibility, equality and solidarity that characterise this business model, are in line with the SDG, providing added value to the objectives that seek to “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all” (SDG 8) and to “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” (SDG 9).

More important still, this report once again proves Social Economy is a stakeholder involved transversally across the Agenda that will play a central role in the coming decade, responding to the main social, environmental, and economic challenges set by the SDGs, to which it is strongly committed.

I am grateful for the indispensable support given by the Directorate General for Self-Employment, Social Economy and Corporate Social Responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy in preparing this study. Also, I would like to thank the great efforts made by the members of CEPES, especially to the enterprises and organisations that they represent for sharing and conveying their experiences, on which this report is based. Thanks for proving once again that Social Economy is ready to bring to life the SDGs, and that unleashing its full potential is needed, now more than ever, to meet the challenges we have set in the 2030 Agenda.

**Juan Antonio Pedreño**

Presidente de la Confederación Empresarial Española de la Economía Social

<sup>1</sup> UN Report “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: The role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all” – November 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Toledo Declaration 2020 – “The Social and Solidarity Economy as a key agent towards an inclusive and sustainable future.” December 2020.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mites.gob.es/Luxembourgdeclaration/en/index.htm>



# 2

## THE 2030 AGENDA AT THE HEART OF SOCIAL ECONOMY:

A commitment to decent work,  
sustainable economic growth  
and inclusive industrialisation



Five years before the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Spain was the first Member State of the European Union to pass a Law on Social Economy. This Law configures Social Economy as an enterprise model based on values that are closely linked to sustainability.

Law 5/2011 of 29th March defines Social Economy as a set of economic and business activities that are carried out in the private sphere by entities that pursue the collective interest of their members, whether the general economic or social interest or both, in accordance with the following principles:

- 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.

When the UN General Assembly adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets that make up the 2030 Agenda in September 2015, Social Economy enterprises committed to it, fully identifying with the Agenda because Social Economy is based on an enterprise model that makes a commitment to people, employment, the planet, shared prosperity, and eradicating social and territorial inequalities as the path to building sustainable development.

The link of these values with the principles of Social Economy has placed these enterprises at the forefront of compliance with the 17 SDGs, especially those in which the private sector (and, therefore, Social Economy) plays a relevant role, such as:

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**SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all..**

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**SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.**

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This report compiles and analyses “best practices” in 50 Social Economy enterprises and organisations of all sizes<sup>4</sup> and across all economic sectors, showcasing how they contribute to these two goals and all other SDGs, establishing Social Economy as a transversal stakeholder of the 2030 Agenda.

The answers and experiences provided by the consulted enterprises and organisations (they can be found in Appendix I), all linked to the CEPES network and its 29 members, form the basis for this report and establish the close link between the principles that define Social Economy, as contained in Law 5/2011, and the objectives regarding decent work and economic growth sought by SDG 8.

<sup>4</sup> Most of the enterprises are small and micro (37% and 27% respectively), while 20% are large enterprises and 16% are medium-sized.



















The consulted enterprises and organisations show a high level of commitment to the following elements:

- 92% contribute to generating stable and quality employment
- 94% contribute to equal opportunities between men and women
- 94% contribute to work-life balance
- 92% contribute to generating local development
- 88% contribute to fostering social cohesion
- 85% contribute to the integration of people at risk of social exclusion

This perception is also reflected in regard to the targets that fall within SDGs 8 and 9<sup>5</sup>. Social Economy enterprises and organisations consider they contribute to these to a greater or lesser extent:

	<b>By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men</b> , including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	<b>90%</b>
	<b>Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers</b> , including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	<b>77%</b>
	<b>Promote development-oriented policies</b> that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	<b>75%</b>
	<b>Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production</b> and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead	<b>75%</b>
	<b>By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment</b> , education or training	<b>72%</b>
	<b>Sustain per capita economic growth</b> in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries	<b>63%</b>
	<b>Achieve higher levels of economic productivity</b> through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors	<b>63%</b>
	<b>Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure</b> , including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	<b>53%</b>
	<b>By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable</b> , with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities	<b>36%</b>
	<b>Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour</b> , end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms	<b>34%</b>
	<b>Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization</b> and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries	<b>34%</b>
	<b>Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions</b> to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all	<b>27%</b>
	<b>Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises</b> , in particular in developing countries, to <b>financial services</b> , including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets	<b>23%</b>
	<b>Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors</b> in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending	<b>15%</b>

<sup>5</sup> Each of the 17 SDGs is brought to life through 169 targets that establish the objectives to be met. The list of SDGs and targets can be consulted here: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/sustainable-development-goals/>





The experiences and “best practices” compiled in the following chapters contribute to these targets and show how Social Economy is committed to the 2030 Agenda, through its commitment to:

- Quality employment as a driver of change**
- Making equality and gender equality a reality**
- Building better work conditions for future generations**
- No one left behind: people first**
- Educating through Social Economy to build a brighter future**
- Collective entrepreneurship to reach further**
- Commitment to local action to revitalise territories**
- Responsible consumption to safeguard the environment and people’s health**
- A business model that enables a fair green transition**
- Financing growth through solidarity, sustainability and innovation**
- R&D&i for a more inclusive and sustainable industrialisation**
- Transforming the world through solidarity**



## Different forms of Social Economy through shared values and principles

### CO-OPERATIVES

Co-operatives are a form of business organisation that have a democratic structure and are managed democratically. Their activity follows co-operative principles that have been accepted and regulated at regional, national and international level: voluntary and open membership, democratic management, economic participation of its members, education, training and information, and an interest for the community.

### WORKER-OWNED SOCIETIES (*Sociedades laborales*):

These societies have proven to have great potential to generate enterprises. In this type of business, the shareholders' equity belongs mostly to employees. Having employees as shareholders fosters self-motivation in project development. The minimum number of employees required is three and the procedure to establish such enterprises is similar to any other trading company..

### 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 OF SOCIAL INIATIVE

These enterprises are promoted by non-profit social institutions (associations, foundations, etc.) that combine economic feasibility and market participation with a social commitment to collectives that have fewer opportunities in the labour market. Workers at these centres are mainly people with disabilities, and their number cannot be less than 70% of all employees. They become productive and competitive in such a way that their products can reach the market.

### INTEGRATION ENTERPRISES

These enterprises define themselves as commercial learning structures whose aim is to afford access to employment for disadvantaged collectives by carrying out a productive activity. To this end, the company designs an integration process and a conventional employment relationship is established throughout. The proportion of integration workers within the company's staff varies between 30 percent and 60 percent depending on each region in Spain. 80 percent of all profit is reinvested into the enterprise.



## FISHERMEN'S GUILDS

These are sectoral non-profit public law corporations that represent the economic interests of shipbuilders and workers in the fishing industry. They function as consultation bodies, collaborating with the authorities that hold competences in matters regarding the maritime and fisheries sectors, and aim to satisfy the needs and interests of its members, with a commitment to contributing to local development, social cohesion and sustainability.

## DISABLED PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATIONS

These associations mainly work on providing services in those areas where the for-profit sector fails to provide them. That is, usually within sectors that satisfy fundamental rights, in particular, access for vulnerable collectives such as people with disabilities. Furthermore, these associations are characterised by their ability to innovate in the solutions to problems that appear in society, and by defending social, legal, administrative and other changes required to protect the rights and freedoms of people with disabilities, based on a respect for diversity, plurality and tolerance.

## FOUNDATIONS

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.



# 3

## THE ADDED VALUE OF SOCIAL ECONOMY TOWARDS FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030



# Quality employment as a driver of change



One of the core axes on which Social Economy activity is built is the creation of quality jobs. Social Economy enterprises reinvest their profits to maintain jobs or to achieve their social objective linked to job creation that brings a better redistribution of wealth and encourages solidarity.

Social Economy provides a business model that impacts directly on the creation of long-term jobs and higher-quality employment: 75% of the labour force in Social Economy has open-ended contracts and 79% work full time<sup>6</sup>.

The Social Economy enterprises that have contributed to this report state that:

- More than 80% have maintained or created employment during the first wave of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.
- 90% contribute to generating stable and quality employment.
- 77% implement measures to improve their staff's skills. 80% of these measures focus on adapting to the digital world or are related to incorporating forms of production and distribution that reduce environmental impact.
- 96% promote work-life balance by means of flexible working hours, remote working, and paying special attention to workers' family-related burdens (children or older people, single-parent families or large families). They also incorporate measures that improve applicable collective agreements (for instance, on paid or non-paid leaves).

<sup>6</sup> Social Economy Database. Characteristics of workers registered with Social Security. Table of summarised results. March 2019. Ministry of Labour and Social Economy.





These companies boast smaller wage gaps, with wages that are much more equal overall. While in other companies differences between the highest wage and the average wage is 102%, this gap in Social Economy is almost halved: 65%<sup>7</sup>.

- The integration enterprise **TRAPEROS RECICLA, S. L.** has four professional categories and wage differences between each category are under 50€, regardless of responsibilities during a similar working day.
- While in IBEX 35 listed companies, the wages of top executives are 123 times larger than the average wage of the staff, this difference is only 3.6 times at the cooperative bank **LABORAL KUTXA**.

### CORPORACIÓN MONDRAGÓN: A RESPONSIBLE, DEMOCRATIC AND SUSTAINABLE FORM OF ENTERPRISE

MONDRAGÓN is the leading industrial group in the Basque Country and tenth largest in Spain. It is a business group made up of 264 co-operatives and enterprises that employ 81,507 people (2019 figures). The activity of the business Group falls within the industry, finances and distribution sectors, carrying out initiatives in the fields of knowledge, innovation, education and the promotion of new businesses. One third of the Group's sales takes place abroad, with 14,455 people working in 141 production centres.

MONDRAGÓN defines itself as the largest Social Innovation Co-operative Ecosystem in the world. It works alongside business and social stakeholders and the public administrations to create an environment of innovation, with the ambition to transform things. It seeks sustainable solutions that make it possible to strike a balance between economic growth, environmental protection and social well-being.

It has been included by Fortune magazine in eleventh place on the "Change the world 2020" list worldwide. This list recognises the contributions made by companies to the main challenges that society currently faces.

MONDRAGÓN contribuye a la Agenda 2030 aportando soluciones a cada uno de los ODS.



**SDG 1: No poverty:** MONDRAGÓN works with Fundación Mundukide that improves the lives of 80,000 people in Africa and Latin America through development cooperation projects that focus on the socioeconomic development of local communities.



**SDG 2: Zero hunger:** Collaboration with disadvantaged collectives. Close to 10,000 people had their yearly food requirements covered thanks to donations from the EROSKI Co-operative, which is a member of Mondragón, and its customers.



**SDG 3: Good health and well-being:** The mutual benefit society LagunAro, which is part of Mondragón, provides assistance and social provision to 28,204 active members, 73,172 health assistance beneficiaries and 14,544 pensioners.



**SDG 4: Quality education:** As a reference in cutting-edge and pioneering educational models that include work experience, MONDRAGÓN trains more than 11,000 students and 6,000 professionals.



**SDG 5: Gender equality:** 49% of people working in the cooperatives and enterprises that make up MONDRAGÓN are women.

<sup>7</sup> Report: "El análisis del Impacto socioeconómico de los valores y principios de la Economía Social en España". ("Analysis of the socioeconomic impact of Social Economy values and principles in Spain"). CEPEs. 2019.



**SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation:** MONDRAGÓN offers international turnkey projects in the fields of electrical engineering and the automation of water treatment facilities.



**SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy:** MONDRAGÓN carries out projects for renewable energy generation.



**SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth:** This is a core element of the co-operative model. MONDRAGÓN is the leading employer in the Basque Country region and is among the Top 10 employers nationwide. 55% of its workers carry out their job under a certified occupational health and safety management system.



**SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:** MONDRAGÓN boasts an innovative ecosystem of companies, R&D centres and a University employing more than 2,000 people.



**SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:** MONDRAGÓN business group generates equality, quality of life and equal opportunities. The region of Mondragón has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Spain, as well as one of the highest income per capita rates and one of the lowest poverty rates in the Basque Country.



**SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities:** MONDRAGÓN takes part in the European “Smart Cities and Communities” programme and promotes the use of the Basque language among its co-operatives.



**SDG 12: Responsible production and consumption:** MONDRAGÓN focuses on decent work and quality employment, occupational health and safety, education, responsible consumption, innovation as a lever for a fair digital and green transition, and the support to social and community infrastructures and initiatives. More than 50% of its suppliers are small, local production companies.



**SDG 13: Climate Action:** MONDRAGÓN aspires to a carbon-free economy. 90% of its sales are certified in regard to quality management, and 65% are certified in regard to environmental management.



**SDG 14: Life Below Water:** MONDRAGÓN supports the Sustainable Fishing initiative promoted by WWF.



**SDG 15: Life on Land:** MONDRAGÓN takes part in projects for the recovery of local species, forestry management and sustainable production of local products.



**SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions:** The co-operative model fosters transparency and the comprehensive participation of workers: in ownership, in management and in profits.



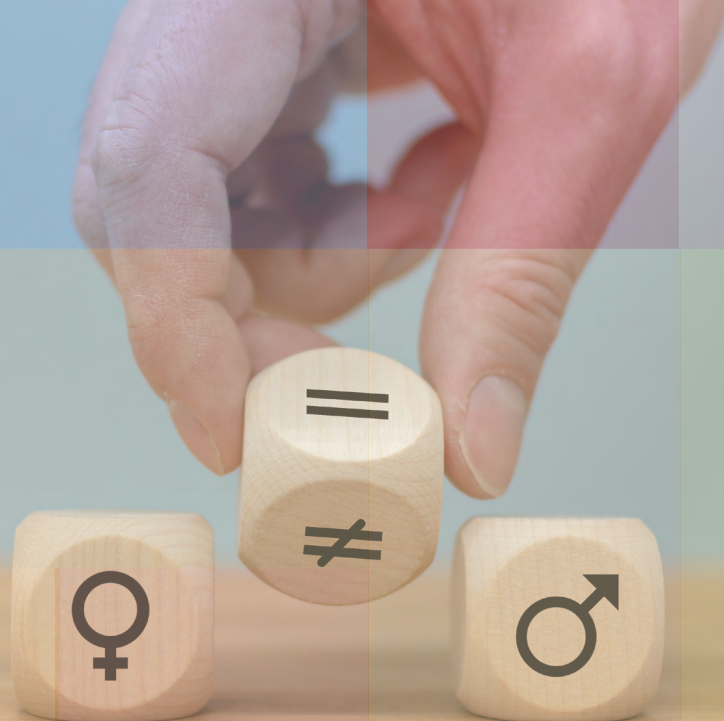
**SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals:** MONDRAGÓN is born out of inter-cooperation and holds agreements with a number of international networks and alliances to multiply its capacity for transformation.

+ Info: <https://www.mondragon-corporation.com/es/hacemos/#proyectos>





# Making equality and gender equality a reality



Social Economy enterprises not only seek to maintain equal pay for jobs of equal value but also to end any discrimination and empower the female entrepreneurs and workers, who make up 50% of the workforce in Social Economy. In some cases, the participation of women is much higher:

- Two thirds of workers at Cooperativa **ESCOLA LES CAROLINES** are women, who run the company's management bodies.
- Women represent 70% of workers at worker education cooperative **SOROLLA**, and hold 78% of the positions in the management team.
- At **FUNDACIÓN ISABEL MARTÍN**, 50% of the board of trustees are women, who also represent 100% of the management body and staff.
- In integration enterprises, women in integration processes represent 47% of all collectives and 53% of the technical and structural staff and the officers accompanying the integration processes<sup>8</sup>.

This commitment to equality is confirmed by the Social Economy enterprises that take part in this report, since **90% implement wage equality policies**.

- **COVIRAN**, a retail cooperative, implements an Equality Plan signed by the largest trade unions that includes 117 measures focusing on the gender perspective, making a commitment to staff diversity management.
- **CLUN**, a co-operative group in the dairy industry, has deployed the initiative “Mulleres de Seu” that targets the co-operative's female farmers and working members to empower women in rural settings.
- **GRUPO SOCIAL ONCE**, which comprises the business group ILUNION, ONCE Foundation and the Spanish Organisation for the Blind (ONCE, Organización Nacional de Ciegos de España), has in place a “Monitoring Centre for Equal Opportunities” whose activity focuses on analysing the state and evolution of women in different spheres across the Group, and monitoring and fostering initiatives regarding equality. The Group's commitment to fighting gender violence aims to eradicate its effects on women with disabilities, as they are at a greater risk of suffering sexual violence than other women.

+ Info: <https://www.once.es/otras-webs/english>

(In Spanish: <https://www.once.es/Comprometidos/observatorio-de-igualdad>)

<sup>8</sup> Social Report. Integration Enterprises 2019. Spanish Federation of Integration Enterprises Business Associations (FAEDEI). 2020

# Building a better work environment for future generations



Social Economy is an attractive path for many young people. In a landscape of labour instability, Social Economy is an option to find decent work, an alternative with strong ties to issues such as environmental care and their demands for a more responsible and collaborative economy at the service of the general interest. 40% of workers in Social Economy are aged under 40.

- 72% of the Social Economy enterprises that have responded to the survey on which this report is based confirm that they collaborate with training and university centres to foster access to employment for young people.
- 56% of these enterprises are involved in initiatives or programmes directed to generate job opportunities for young people.

→ Fostering entrepreneurship is at the core of the training offered by **MONDRAGÓN UNIBERSITATE**<sup>9</sup>, the University of the Mondragón Corporation.

→ Its **LEINN** programme, a bachelor programme in entrepreneurship, leadership and innovation, is a different university degree. The students are entrepreneurs who train for 4 years in order to self-learn by managing their own projects, leading a team to develop innovative ideas and identify opportunities by understanding the business world from the inside. 29 companies have been created through this programme, with more than 100 young workers.

+ Info: <https://www.mondragon.edu/es/grado-liderazgo-emprededor-innovacion>

<sup>9</sup> Mondragón Unibersitate imparts 17 official bachelor's degrees and 15 postgraduate degrees. <https://www.mondragon.edu/es/conoce-mu/universidad-cooperativa>

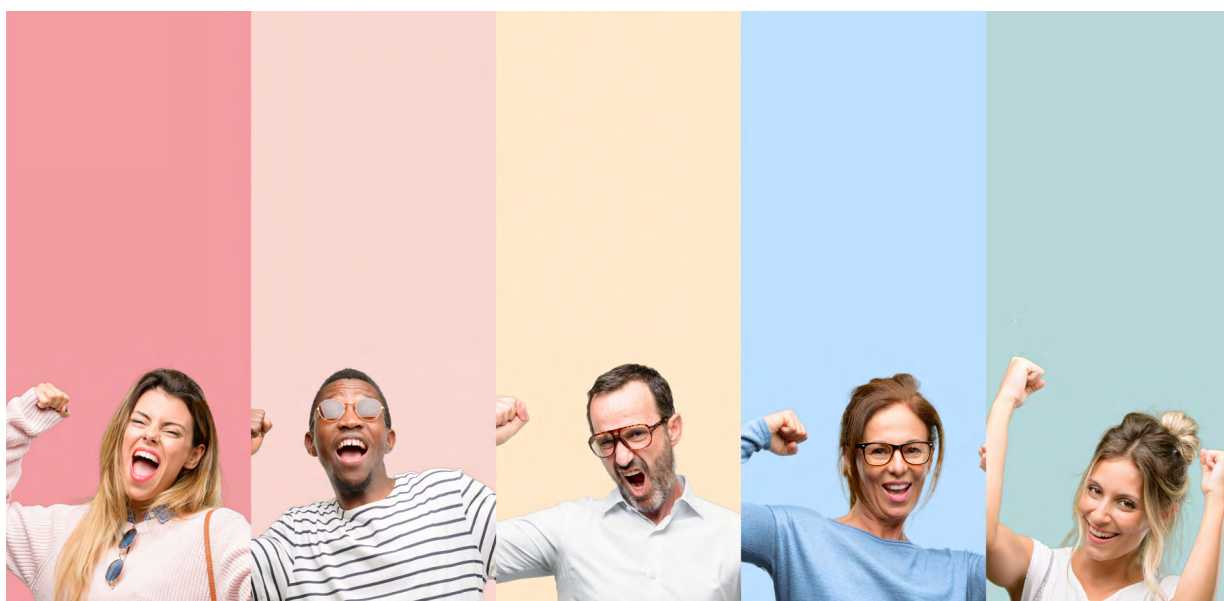


These opportunities are aimed at all young people, including those at risk of exclusion, which is one of the collectives addressed by Social Economy organisations and enterprises that offer training and skilling programmes, as well as programmes to transition to the regular employment market through integration processes adapted to each person's needs.

→ **ILUNDAIN**, an integration enterprise, works specifically in the integration of young people into the labour market. It is part of the network of “Second-Chance Schools”<sup>10</sup> for young people who have dropped out of education, helping them acquire basic training to get a job. These schools offer young people who are excluded from the education system, paths for training that help them become more self-confident and acquire the habits and behaviours required to access the job market.

→ **TRAPEROS RECICLA**, an integration enterprise, accompanies young people coming out of children's shelters under the “Youth Guarantee” programme in collaboration with the Administration. Furthermore, business group **KOOPERA** launched (through Koopera Social Training) the PREST programme, co-financed by the Operational Programme for Youth Initiative under the European Social Fund (ESF), to actively train at-risk young persons aged between 16 and 29, to help them find employment or an internship in a company.

+ Info (In Spanish): <https://www.koopera.org/servicios-sociales/formacion/>



<sup>10</sup> For further information on “Second-Chance Schools”, visit (only in Spanish): <https://www.e2oespana.org/>

# No one left behind: people first



Social Economy shows that building a better world is possible by reducing inequalities, by means of business projects based on a strong social commitment that produce competitive and quality goods and services across all activity sectors.

Special employment centres of social initiative for people with disabilities and integration enterprises are social economy “tools” that provide opportunities to groups of people whose integration in the regular job market is difficult:

- **TRANSFORMA CUIDAMOS PERSONAS** is an integration enterprise in the elderly care sector that assists dependent people and their families. Transforma facilitates access into the job market to young people under the age of 20 and at risk of social exclusion. This enterprise contributes to dignify professions such as social care work, improving the conditions of these workers, who are commonly women, and specifically aims to empower them.
- **TRAPEROS DE EMAÚS** of Murcia and **ASOCIACIÓN «EL RASTRELL»** base their economic activities on collecting, recovering and recycling. The resources generated finance projects whose aim is to offer people with social difficulties the opportunity to access to the job market, providing the necessary tools and support. Traperos Recicla SL, as an enterprise that is strongly committed to environmental protection, is an authorised waste management company with official facilities for re-usage. It has made a commitment to renewable energies, through its suppliers and by installing solar panels in its facilities to generate the electricity required for self-consumption.
- **ISORA INTEGRRA** is an integration enterprise promoted by the Town Council of Guía de Isora (Tenerife), whose goal is to improve personal and labour-related competences and skills, especially among women who have been the victims of gender violence, and single women with children, to promote their economic independence and personal autonomy.





- The Asociación Agiantza Elcartea keeps labour integration as its goal, based on a comprehensive and eco-friendly perspective, working with unemployed persons, former drug addicts or alcoholics, or people with mental health issues. It has created an integration enterprise linked to the environmental sphere: **EKOTOPIA GARBI ENERGIAK, S.L.**, which manages a theme park that promotes renewable energies and a botanical garden that is open to the public and provides guided tours for students.
- **ACTIVANDO SUEÑOS** is an integration enterprise created by the Asociación Afedes, whose aim is to improve the employability and labour integration of people in a state of social exclusion or at risk thereof. Its activity focuses on the retail sale of stationery products, school materials, craft materials and gifts.
- **EIS AILA DEPENDENCIA** is an employee-owned limited company promoted by the Asociación Domitila Hernández - Fademur Canaria that fosters employment for vulnerable groups of people. Its main activity is in the field of social care services for dependent people, house cleaning and carrying out accessibility-related building work in homes.
- The integration enterprise **ESTANCA INSERCIÓN**, created by Fundación para el Desarrollo Social, provides training and job integration processes through maintenance, cleaning, gardening and surveillance services, affording access to the job market to at-risk collectives.
- **DEIXALLES SERVEIS AMBIENTALS** is an integration enterprise promoted by Fundación Deixalles that carries out environmental activities, mainly in waste management and natural spaces, such as cleaning activities and building maintenance services. It aims to improve the social and job prospects of persons with low employability through training, and informs them of their employment rights and duties to make it easier for them to access decent work.
- **FUNDACIÓN TOTS UNITS - KOOPERA** runs specific training programmes aimed at the employment of at-risk youth, as part of their social and labour integration activities for these people. This is an integration enterprise that specialises in the management and recovery of textiles and electric appliances waste.



### GRUPO SOCIAL ONCE: a unique inclusive economy model

Grupo Social ONCE, which comprises the Spanish Organisation for the Blind (ONCE), ONCE Foundation and the business group ILUNION, is a unique example of inclusive economy, managed by and for people with disabilities, that proves that economic profitability and the creation of social value can go hand in hand.

At the end of 2019, a total of 72,693 people worked for the Group, 58% of which have a disability, and created 1,300 direct jobs during the year. On top of the jobs it generated directly, Grupo Social ONCE helped create a further 11,340 jobs in 2019 thanks to job mediation; 10,784 of these jobs were taken by people with disabilities.

Grupo Social ONCE is the fourth largest non-public nationwide employer. One in every 277 people who have a job in Spain works for Grupo Social ONCE (2019 figures). As regards the employment of people with disabilities, Grupo Social ONCE is the leading employer in Spain and worldwide.

Inside Grupo Social ONCE, the business group ILUNION should be pointed out, with approximately 500 work centres, of which almost half are Special Employment Centres of social initiative. ILUNION has 5 divisions (Business & Facility Services, Social & Health Services, Consultancy, Tourism and Commercialisation) and more than 50 lines of business, including some in industrial sectors such as industrial laundry services, auxiliary industry services or the recycling of electric appliances waste. It is a unique example of inclusive industrialisation and prioritises the combination of economic profitability and creation of social value (based on the job integration of persons with disabilities).

In the period 2010-2019, the Group created a total of 78,903 jobs for persons with disabilities (22 jobs per day for people with disabilities over 10 years).

ONCE, ILUNION and ONCE Foundation are present across the Spanish territory (the latter of these, through its associations Inserta Empleo and Inserta Innovación). Worth noting are the support that ONCE provides to students with visual impairment across the territory, ILUNION's lines of business across Spain, and Inserta's work to assist people with disabilities in training so they can become part of the job market, through 40 offices across the country.

New lines of work have been opened in innovative sectors to foster employment among persons with disabilities. In 2019, ONCE launched the programme ONCE INNOVA Emprendedores, whose aim is to identify, assess and reward innovative solutions with a digital component arising from the enterprising ecosystem. Furthermore, ILUNION will explore business opportunities and will support the development of entrepreneurial projects that have a social impact, among others, in the spheres of the circular economy and energy efficiency, thanks to a collaboration agreement signed with Fundación Repsol in 2019.



In all of the following experiences, social integration by means of decent work is at the core of strategies that address the basic needs of groups at risk of social exclusion:

→ **FUNDACIÓN GIZAKIA HERRITAR** is a citizens' organisation that works towards the prevention of social exclusion in childhood and to improve the living conditions of people in socially-vulnerable situations. Under the premise of dignifying the coverage of basic food requirements, this Foundation has started the project "Despensa Solidaria París 365" (Solidarity pantry Paris 365) to guarantee suitable food intake for at least six months for low-income families with children in their care.

+ Info (only in Spanish): <https://www.paris365.org/es/recursos/despensa-solidaria-paris-365>

→ La **ASOCIACIÓN PLENA INCLUSIÓN DE ASTURIAS** for persons with mental disability promotes projects geared towards facilitating their access to the job market<sup>11</sup> as part of the overall activity that this association carries out fostering equal opportunities for this collective, with healthcare and welfare activities, and projects to empower people with mental disabilities by fostering leadership and autonomy and providing individual support to their families..

Social inclusion is a value deeply shared by all Social Economy enterprises and organisations. The commitment to groups at risk of social exclusion, such as persons with disabilities, is also part of the DNA of Social Economy enterprises across all sectors.

● **83% of Social Economy companies contributing to this report state that they contribute to facilitating access to the job market for people with disabilities and/or at risk of exclusion.**

→ The Cooperative **EROSKI** is one of 64 leading companies in Spain that take part in **Fundación ONCE's** Inserta programme and forum that aims to open up new opportunities for employment integration for differently-abled people, with **MONDRAGON** collaborating also through the company Gureak, which is a Basque business group that creates and runs stable and conveniently adapted job opportunities for persons with mental disabilities.

→ **CLUN**, a cooperative group in the dairy sector, directly hires people with disabilities and collaborates in different initiatives with integration associations and collectives.

→ **COOPERATIVA DE ENSEÑANZA JOSÉ RAMÓN OTERO** collaborates with the Red Cross Organisation and the NGO CEAR (Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid) to provide training and professional skilling to at-risk collectives.

→ The cooperative **CONSUM** has included 190 people with disabilities in their staff across its companies in the past 5 years, and collaborates with "València Activa", a service started by the Town Council of Valencia to promote employment and local economic development, so that people whose integration is harder can find employment.

<sup>11</sup> In this sphere, Plena Inclusión Asturias has facilitated access to public employment to people with mental disabilities, supporting the candidates by providing materials adapted to them in order to guarantee accessibility and understanding.



# Educating through Social Economy to build a brighter future



Education is one of the sectors where the presence of Social Economy is significant. One in four companies in the education sector belongs to the Social Economy<sup>12</sup>.

Education co-operatives are at the centre of this business sector, managing open, democratic and plural educational projects based on co-operative values, promoting equal opportunities, a focus on diversity, the work of differently-abled people, work-life balance, educating towards development or environmental awareness. This commitment goes beyond the educational sphere and transfers to other areas, with students taking part in local social activities, such as in food banks, organising collaborative flea markets or helping build schools in less developed countries, to name a few of many examples.

These solidarity and collective work values take shape in actions that foster entrepreneurship from a young age, based also on Social Economy values.

→ **EDUCATION COOPERATIVE LOPE DE VEGA** promotes a co-operative entrepreneurial spirit among its student body through “school co-operatives” through which students collectively take part and become involved in creating and managing a co-operative during the school year, manufacturing products they later sell at a collaborative flea market alongside other “school co-operatives”. This type of initiative, promoted by all Spanish education co-operatives that are associated by its national union<sup>13</sup>, encourages the participation of students throughout the practical process of creation, management, administration and closing down of a co-operative during the academic year, learning co-operative values from a young age: democracy, participation, solidarity and team work.

→ The education co-operatives that make up the **CANTABRIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL ECONOMY EDUCATION CENTRES (ASOCIACIÓN DE CENTROS DE ENSEÑANZA DE ECONOMÍA SOCIAL DE CANTABRIA (ACES-CANTABRIA))** take part in the programme LaborESO, which focuses on bringing the world of labour closer to students in Secondary Education through two-week internship programmes in companies which help them learn about the reality of employment and come in contact with the business world.

<sup>12</sup> Study “ANÁLISIS DEL IMPACTO SOCIOECONÓMICO DE LOS VALORES Y PRINCIPIOS DE LA ECONOMÍA SOCIAL EN ESPAÑA” [“Analysis of the socioeconomic impact of social economy values and principles”]. 2019

<sup>13</sup> Spanish Education Co-operatives Union (UECOE, Unión Española de Cooperativas de Enseñanza). UECOE <https://www.uecoe.es/>



→ **EDUCATION COOPERATIVE JOSÉ RAMÓN OTERO<sup>14</sup>** has promoted educational projects among the students that aim to foster technological entrepreneurship and social impact, in collaboration with Fundación Telefónica and the NGO “Acción Contra el Hambre”. As part of these initiatives, students prepared prototypes such as:

- Genmobility: Initiative to adapt everyday objects for people with reduced abilities to help them in their day to day. The thinking behind Genmobility is to use recyclable materials to make these products cheaper and more sustainable.
- LifeAsk: An app that helps people whose digital skills are low to solve everyday problems by answering questions in their everyday life.
- The Hope: A project to raise awareness and reduce machismo by recording micro-short films and micro-sketches that integrate Augmented Reality for a better user experience.

Social Economy organisations also play a key role in facilitating access to training and employment for people with disabilities.

→ **ONCE FOUNDATION** carries out projects so that young people with disabilities can access university to develop their full potential.

- In 2019, ONCE FOUNDATION signed 41 agreements with universities and other academic institutions, awarding 906 grants in total, 310 of which were awarded to young persons with mental disability.
- ONCE Foundation - CRUE (Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities). Grants-Internships offer external paid academic internships to people with disabilities (273 in 2019)
- A programme to train young people with mental disabilities for employment, developed in collaboration with 23 Spanish universities (310 grants in 2019)

→ The Spanish Organisation for the Blind (**ONCE, Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles**) guarantees educational coverage and comprehensive assistance to blind students or student with severe visual impairment in collaboration with Regional education services (7,413 in 2019, 99.4% in integrated education). ONCE's University College of Physical Therapy is worth noting. It is part of the Universidad Autónoma in Madrid, and is a renowned college at national and international level that trains the best professionals in the sector.

+ Info: <https://euf.once.es/en/>



<sup>14</sup> <https://www.jrotero.com/emprendimiento-fundacion-telefonica-y-accion-contra-el-hambre/>

### **GREDOS SAN DIEGO (GSD): An educational enterprise in the hands of its workers**

Gredos San Diego (GSD) is a leading co-operative group in the world of education, with more than 1,700 workers, 60% of which are co-operative members. More than 65% of the staff are women, who occupy 49% of top management positions (directors, head teachers, top and middle management).

It is fully committed to employment quality, encouraging work-life balance, promoting equal opportunities and implementing a number of social measures for all staff at the Co-operative.

It is a reference at all educational levels (from Nursery and Primary Education, to Secondary Education and Higher-Level Vocational Training). The student body during the school year 2018-2019 exceeded 13,000 students, which is a 23.39% increase on 2011, a percentage that is 2.6 times higher than the student growth experienced in the Region of Madrid, which is where its 8 education centres are found.

GSD boasts a Code of Conduct which is a summary of the ethical values and principles that guide the everyday work of co-operative members, employees, management staff and members of the governing bodies of the co-operative, in line with the UN Global Compact it has been a part of since 2012.

The commitment of GSD schools is to foster tolerance, freedom of ideas, respect for human dignity and the values of a socially-responsible citizenry, which translates into a large wealth of actions and programmes that make GSD a business stakeholder covering the entire 2030 Agenda.

This co-operative is committed to the environment by carrying out projects such as the nature classroom “La Vía Láctea” located in Casavieja (Ávila), the Hostel Sendas del Riaza (Segovia), the project “Bitácora” of See Room, the implementation of the Eco-school programme in its schools and in the management of the Biosphere Reservation in Sierra del Rincón (in Madrid region). In regard to the latter, GSD takes part in the temporary business union “Senda Natura” alongside the co-operative “Helechos”. This business union runs the Biosphere Reservation in Sierra del Rincón and the Environmental Education Centre “Hayedo de Montejo”, which develops an environmental education programmes for student groups and the general public, with 26,000 visitors, of which 4,700 were students and 3,500 from the local population.

GSD’s social commitment to the community around it takes shape in collaboration agreements with all types of educational and social institutions, NGOs and public authorities, as well as countries where improvements are made through projects such as UNHCR’s “Educate a Refugee” programme, collaborating with the programme since 2006. Furthermore, it carries out a schooling project for children in Pouma (Cameroon) at the GSD IS Cameroon school, where it commits to quality education and the fight against poverty, aiming to build a brighter future.



# Collective entrepreneurship to reach further



Social Economy is an example of the saying “if you want to go fast, go on your own; if you want to go far, go with someone”. Social Economy organisations and enterprises accompany and support entrepreneurs to launch their projects based on collective entrepreneurship through co-operatives and worker-owned societies at local, regional and even international levels. For instance, representative Social Economy organisations in regions such as Murcia provide advice services to create and maintain co-operatives and other Social Economy enterprises in the region.

→ The **CO-OPERATIVES UNION OF MURCIA (UCOMUR)** helped more than 150 co-operatives get started in 2019, placing the region at the lead in co-operative creation in Spain, creating more than 3,700 jobs. Furthermore, it accompanied the transition of 16 companies on the brink of closing down into co-operative societies, saving jobs in the process.

+ Info (in Spanish): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0reH2GImQM>

→ The **EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION OF WORKER-OWNED SOCIETIES IN THE REGION OF MURCIA (AMUSAL)** also advises promoters in regard to developing, consolidating and maintaining their businesses. Among other services, AMUSAL has developed a web application to analyse the quality of employment in Social Economy enterprises.

+ Info (in Spanish): <https://www.amusal.es/noticias/1070-amusal-desarrolla-una-web-app-para-hacer-un-diagnostico-de-la-calidad-del-empleo-en-empresas-de-economia-social>

→ The **ALTERNATIVE AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY NETWORK (REAS ARAGON)** has established, in collaboration with Zaragoza Town Council, the centre “Emprendes” for social innovation, local development, solidarity economy and the co-operative movement. This centre accompanies and advises processes involving the creation of social economy enterprises and support groups for entrepreneurship addressing social cohesion, the fight against social exclusion, quality employment, and decent and long-term work. “Emprendes” has collaborated in more than 40 projects creating 254 jobs over 5 years.

+ Info (in Spanish): [emprendes.net](http://emprendes.net)





- Integration enterprises in the Canary Islands, **ISORA INTEGRAL** and **BUSCÁNDOME LAS HABICHUELAS**, promote and explore the entrepreneurship abilities of workers that take part in their integration programmes, aiming to support the growth of self-employment initiatives or the creation of their own companies.
- **MOMENTU IMPULSO EMPRESARIAL** S. Coop de Iniciativa Social accompanies enterprising people at the start of their enterprising adventures, when income is low, providing coverage also to low-income workers and contributing to formalise the informal economy.
- **MONDRAGON TEAM ACADEMY** (MTA World) is a global social innovation network created in 2008, born from the collaboration between Mondragon Unibertsitatea and Tiimiakatemia (Finland) that promotes a learning and entrepreneurship model for groups of young people internationally. In this community people “learn by doing” collectively, with more than 2000 “entrepreneur teams” in different cities around the world: Irún, Oñate, Madrid, Bilbao, Barcelona, Valencia, Shanghai, Pune, Querétaro, Seoul, Puebla, Berlin, Seattle, Pakistan and Kenya.

Additionally, the initiative COOPWORKS is worth noting, as a two-month programme to kick-start entrepreneurship groups at their early stages in the field of platform co-operatives that aim to create employment, share wealth, protect the labour rights of workers and, at the same time, make a positive impact on society and the environment, addressing the effects of climate change. This programme combines a traditional business curriculum with co-operative principles to create more resilient jobs in Spain and tackle the economic impact of COVID-19.

+ Info: <https://www.coopworks.online/>



# Commitment to local action to revitalise territories



Social Economy's strong ties with the territory in which these enterprises arise makes them the “lever” - sometimes the only one - to ensure the competitiveness of rural areas and diversify its productive fabric, avoiding depopulation and strengthening the areas' potential.

- Co-operatives, such as **COOPERATIVA VITIVINÍCOLA AROUSANA** or **GREDOS SAN DIEGO (GSD)**, are “hubs” for local transformation as they revitalise activity in the territories where they are located, not only economically but socially, by giving priority to hiring their employees within the territories where they are located and encouraging local consumption.
- Social economy organisations at regional and local level, such as the aforementioned **AMUSAL** or **UCOMUR**, have reached collaboration agreements with local development agencies in town councils in the Murcia region to promote entrepreneurship and improve the local business fabric.

These ties with the local areas are highlighted by large Social Economy business groups, for instance the following ones:

## COVIRÁN A sustainable development agent in the local sphere

COVIRÁN is a retail co-operative that started its activity in 1961 in the field of food distribution, becoming a business reference across Spain, with more than 2,855 supermarkets and close to 16,000 jobs, that also promotes female entrepreneurship (48.6% of members are women). 87.52% of the jobs created are open-ended and hiring at the co-operative grew by 6% in the first half of 2020.

COVIRÁN supermarkets are ranked second in food distribution across the country by number of establishments, and ninth by square-footage of its sales facilities.



The company is highly involved in the local development. The stores that are a part of the co-operative are an element of social cohesion that contributes to creating employment and stop the depopulation of rural areas given that COVIRÁN is present in 1,292 towns across Spain and is the only shopping option in 324 towns with a population of under 10,000, 271 of which are small towns with a population of under 2,000.

COVIRÁN commits to purchasing from local producers, generating employment through its members' supermarkets and logistics platforms.

As part of its corporate social responsibility duties, COVIRÁN signed up to the UN Global Compact in 2011 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, taking on the commitment of integrating these principles into its strategy, culture and activity plan, towards strengthening its commitment to a balanced and sustainable economic development, specifically in regard to those that are linked to its surroundings and direct activity. This enterprise has a deep social commitment to people and to a responsible management model based on circular economy, energy efficiency, reduction of water consumption and reduction of food waste:

- It has created 60 "Points for Responsible Sale" based on 5 axis: responsible hiring, the fight against food waste, the improvement of universal accessibility, energy efficiency and collaboration with its surroundings through social institutions in the area, especially to favour the integration of group of people at risk of social exclusion with difficulties to access the job market.
- COVIRÁN is the first and only food distribution brand in Spain with two supermarkets that have been certified for Universal Accessibility by AENOR.
- COVIRÁN's company cash flow in 2019 was 707 million Euros. This amount shows the co-operative's contribution to improving the local economy with its activity.
- Covirán Foundation promotes collaboration programmes with social institutions and authorities to train at-risk collectives and facilitate their access to the job market. Thanks to its training activities in 2019, in which 169 students took part, 31 people gained employment in the co-operative's own logistics platforms, in general services and at its members' stores.
- Thanks to the investment made in air conditioning equipment, electricity consumption in COVIRÁN facilities has decreased by 10%. Similarly, greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by somewhere between 60% and 85%.
- A total of 1,006 tonnes of waste was recycled in 2019. This is 67.7 tonnes more than the previous year. Furthermore, measures to establish more efficient logistics routes have been incorporated, and tests have been run with gas-driven lorries seeking to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the distribution of stock between cities.



### COOPERATIVAS LÁCTEAS UNIDAS CLUN

#### A leading “zero kilometre” industry in the dairy industry

CLUN is a co-operative group that transforms and commercialises leading market brands such as Feiraco, Única, Clesa and Arquega. The milk behind these brands originates only from farms belonging to the 3,500 members that make up CLUN, in approximately 30 towns in the Spanish regions of Galicia and Asturias. Besides the indirect jobs linked to its activity, CLUN has a staff of more than 400 workers.

Thanks to its co-operative organisation, small producers gain business volume, unify processes and techniques, structure the value chain according to globally-shared criteria, and, furthermore, become more competitive and efficient by benefitting from research and development projects that value the natural resources in its territories. The Co-operatives take the farmers' product to an industrial level, transforming and selling it, strengthening their market position and offering them better options than if they sold in bulk and without processing.

CLUN generates employment and wealth in rural areas where options are scarce, fostering the creation of small milk collective enterprises, animal feed haulers and vet services.

Innovation is a part of all products, processes and services offered by CLUN, aiming to create new products and services and improve those in existence. CLUN commits to improving productivity and modernising co-operatives by leading scientific research projects with universities, laboratories or research centres. The pioneering incorporation of new packaging stands out among other projects, with a guarantee to reduce manufacturing process emissions to zero. As a results of these innovative processes, CLUN does not emit 1,650 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year, which added to the more than 20% reduction at origin by improving cows' digestive processes, places CLUN as a business reference in the fight against climate change.



# Responsible consumption to safeguard the environment and people's health



Social economy is at the forefront of incorporating new forms of production and consumption based on social and environmental criteria, with the objective of reducing the impact of business activity on the environment and improving the quality of life of people and the generations to come.

- 75% of the Social Economy enterprises and organisations that have contributed to this report state that they promote sustainable consumption through product development and sales.

There are many ways in which Social Economy has become a driver of environmentally-friendly production and consumption models.

Social Economy gives prominence to “short circuits” for fresh or seasonal products to bring farmers closer to consumers, with a lower environmental impact resulting from not transporting produce long distances and not using plastic packaging.

→ The integration enterprise **BUSCÁNDOME LAS HABICHUELAS** takes part in such initiatives that promote sustainable and organic agricultural products..

- The **ECO-DINING ROOM PROGRAMME IN THE CANARY ISLANDS** distributes organic fresh products from more than 60 producers on the islands to provide for public collective dining rooms (schools, hospitals, universities) on the island of Tenerife. 95% of purchases made by the enterprise throughout 2019 were from local organic and fair trade producers.
- Operational Group supra-regional **“ALIMENTACIÓN PÚBLICA SOSTENIBLE 4.0” (GOSA)** (sustainable public food) promotes the supply of local organic produce in public collective restaurants as a strategy for agricultural and environmental sustainability.

This group works to improve the competences of local organic fruit and vegetable producers and foster the transition towards sustainability in public dining rooms in Madrid, Valencia and the Canary Islands.

+ Info (in Spanish): <https://sostenibilidadalimentaria.org/>



- The co-operative **TRES DE CAMPO DE CAPELA** in Galicia brings together 33 small milk producers, each with 15 cows on average raised semi-extensively in the meadows surrounding the co-operative, producing different dairy products from unpasteurised milk prepared with additive-free foods and naturally limiting the use of pesticides, promoting shepherding and a respect for the land, with measures to reuse whey and self-generate electricity through solar panels. This is the first cheese factory in Spain that has measured its ozone emissions.
- The integration enterprise **GOILURRA**, promoted by the Asociación Goiztiri, has the social goal of promoting decent job creation in agriculture through revitalising abandoned farming areas so that local and high-quality foods can be accessed at affordable prices. Goilurra has a farming operation where vegetables are sown and harvested in traditional ways. It distributes vegetables directly to the end consumer without going through chilling processes or any other intermediaries. It preferably works with the food stores in the small town and valley where it is located, and its agricultural production is sold in consumer groups and small nearby stores.

Social economy gives priority to suppliers who agree or reinforce their social commitment, or who are in line with the aspirations of greater environmental protection. These suppliers are often from other Social Economy enterprises in sectors such as green energy (with co-operatives such as Som Energia or Goiener), insurance (such as Arç Cooperativa) or financial services (Fiare Banca Ética or Colonya Caixa Pollença, among others). There are also examples of how organisations or enterprises that have taken part in this report become involved in social economy financial institutions: this is the case of REAS-ARAGON or the co-operative Ciudadania, that are partners of COOP57, a co-operative offering ethical and solidarity financial services.

These approaches are further strengthened and channelled through spaces where Social Economy enterprises collaborate and cooperate and that are open to society at large:

- “Social Markets”, promoted by the **Solidarity-based Alternative Economy Network of Networks (REAS)** (Red de Redes de Economía Alternativa y Solidaria) across the Spanish territory, are devised as a production, distribution and consumption network of goods and services, and mutual learning between Social and Solidarity Economy enterprises and institutions, and individual and collective consumers. These markets foster the creation of networks of producers, distribution and consumption of goods and services according to ethical, democratic, environmentally-friendly and solidarity criteria.  
 . + Info (in Spanish): <https://www.mercadosocial.net/>

- **BEN MERCADO** “A tenda de economía social galega”, brings together 30 Social Economy enterprises, such as the co-operative Ciudadania that specialises in fostering the active participation of citizens in public policy, designing research, consultancy and training processes.

Ben Mercado presents itself as the place where you can learn about consumption at the click of a mouse, understanding at every moment how each of the supplying enterprises carry out their activity with total transparency and a real commitment to our territory and the values of social economy. Products and services at BEN MERCADO are prepared respecting the principles of participatory democracy and equality. “Behind them, there is an economy project looking to make a fairer and more sustainable society.”

- . + Info (in Spanish): <https://benmercado.gal/market/ehs/>



Social Economy promotes fair trade as a collaborative commercial system based on solidarity that is an alternative to the conventional system, seeking the development of peoples and the fight against poverty based on:

- Suitable labour and wage conditions for producers in the South that allows them to live with dignity.
- Fighting child labour exploitation.
- Gender equality: both receiving equal treatment and pay.
- Environmentally friendly: goods are produced through practices that are respectful with the environment in which they are manufactured<sup>15</sup>.

Varias ONGs de Desarrollo son actores de comercio justo que actúan desde los parámetros de la Economía Social:

- **ALTERNATIVA 3 S.COOP** is a co-operative that produces fair trade organic products and works with co-operatives and small producers in Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Ecuador, Colombia, Ghana, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. It offers responsible, sustainable, quality alternatives for products such as coffee, cocoa and cane sugar. It is currently the only manufacturer of fair-trade organic cocoa in Spain.
- Fair trade is a part of the activities carried out by **PROYDE**, an Education for Development NGO that provides alternative paths for consumption towards generating significant changes in our society. It collaborates with co-operatives in third-party countries to sell their products while promoting their growth, as well as local quality employment in disadvantaged areas. PROYDE fully reinvests its profits from its fair-trade activity in development projects, promoting the respect of human rights.
- **FUNDACIÓN VICENTE FERRER**, as an agent committed to eradicating poverty, promotes co-operation projects in India with disabled women by means of handcrafting workshops that are a part of the Fair Trade World Organisation. The craft products that Fundación Vicente Ferrer distributes are manufactured from recycling and using natural raw materials.
- **FUNDACIÓN ISABEL MARTÍN** works with women producers' co-operatives in India, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. As a fair-trade importer and distributor, Fundación Isabel Martín promotes activities that generate income and contributes to the development of these female producers and their communities. Its fair-trade projects involve textiles, fostering investment in equipment and renewable energies (solar panels).
- **MEDICUS MUNDI ÁLAVA**, a Development NGO operating in the field of health, fosters fair trade through its co-operation projects in Peru, Ecuador and Rwanda and distribution through its own stores, having an impact on the creation of decent work, and the establishment and growth of micro-enterprises.

<sup>15</sup> Spanish national fair trade Coordination. <https://comerciojusto.org/>

## CONSUM

### a leading enterprise committed to social, economic and environmental sustainable development

CONSUM is the largest co-operative in the Spanish Mediterranean area, with more than 16,000 workers. It operates in the retail and wholesale distribution sector. Its leadership has led to sales growing by 38% in the past 5 years.

CONSUM is a multi-faceted co-operative made up of two types of members: workers and consumers, who share in the capital, management and profits. This company has a double social objective: to provide the best working conditions to workers, in order to achieve greater commitment, and to fully satisfy consumers by offering the highest-possible quality products.

Aiming to promote healthy consumer models, CONSUM effectively contributes to compliance with the SDGs by being fully committed to economic, social and environmental sustainability:

- In 5 years, it has created 4,583 new net jobs. 95% of the jobs are stable and 80% of the staff members work full time. 91% of the staff members are members of the co-operative.

In 2019, CONSUM was certified as a Top Employer for the seventh year running, an award that recognises the co-operative as one of the best companies to work for in Spain.

- 72% of the staff members are women. In the past 5 years, 64% of internal promotions were awarded to women.

The 3rd Equality Plan 2018-2022 of CONSUM includes measures and commitments that efficiently and truthfully place the gender perspective across all departments, at all levels and on every scale across the co-operative.

It is part of 148 companies that make up the Network of Equality Certified Companies established by the Ministry of Equality, which recognises the co-operative's involvement in effective gender equality.

- CONSUM's Charter Franchises network revitalises economic activity and employment in urban neighbourhoods and small towns, generating more than 2,000 jobs and decreasing depopulation. CONSUM's activity generates 35,000 indirect jobs in the territory.
- 99% of CONSUM's procurement takes place with national suppliers, 66% of which are local suppliers in the regions where CONSUM is present.

By means of a CSR clause included across its contracts, the co-operative promotes its suppliers sharing its economic, social and environmental values, especially in regard to protecting the fundamental rights of people, work-life balance, equal opportunities and carrying out commercial practices that promote the environmental efficiency of resources.

- As a company committed to work-life balance, CONSUM promotes the co-responsibility of fathers and mothers in childcare.

CONSUM has invested 53 million Euros in work-life balance, with more than 75 measures available to workers, which includes a two-week paid paternal leave in addition to what is stipulated by law.

- In the past 5 years, CONSUM has invested 54 million Euros in R&D&i to address the co-operative's digitalisation process.
- CONSUM has carried out environmental investments and expenses amounting to 57 million Euros in the past 5 years, reducing its carbon footprint by 83.6%.





- CONSUM is the only enterprise in the food distribution sector that has obtained the “Reduzco” seal from the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITERD), which records its footprint on a public database.
- Its bags are manufactured using more than 70% recycled plastic.
- 98% of the energy consumed by the co-operative comes from renewable energy sources. Thanks to its eco-efficient stores, energy intensity has decreased by 30% in the past 5 years.
- Its new store model includes solar panels to generate 25% of its self-sourcing energy, includes charging stations for electric vehicles and bicycle parks, and has insulated flooring containing 10% recycled material.
- It has recovered 134,000 tonnes of waste for recycling or revaluation in the past 6 years. 70% of the waste is treated.
- It has renewed 100% of its logistics fleet, now having 319 eco-efficient vehicles with fewer emissions, and 24 vehicles that use liquid gas.
- In 2019, CONSUM donated more than 6,900 tonnes of products, valued at 17.9 million Euros, avoiding them going to waste. Thanks to these donations, the ongoing work of CONSUM's workers and the efforts carried out by more than 1,000 volunteer staff in collaborating institutions, its Profit programme is estimated to benefit close to 50,000 persons in need annually.



# A business model that enables a fair green transition



Social Economy's commitment to the communities also involves an action in favour of environmental protection. The enterprises and organisations that have contributed to this report confirm that:

- More than 80% of them include environmental and social considerations in their production processes.
- 69% of them adopt measures or incorporate techniques to improve energy efficiency and reduce the company's environmental impact.
- 62.5% of them implement circular economy models that decrease environmental impact and improve the efficiency of its resources.

This vocation translates into the implementation of measures to reduce the consumption of paper, water or electricity through sustainable lighting systems.

- As pointed out earlier, Social Economy enterprises commit to renewable energy suppliers, which are often distributed by co-operatives, as pointed out by the integration enterprise **GOILURRA**, which also hires delivery services for their agricultural and vegetable produce to a co-operative of cyclists.
- Educational co-operatives **ALMAZARRÓN SOC. COOP, CIDE, LES CAROLINES OR COSSIO SOC. COOP. MADRILEÑA** commit to suppliers whose supply is 100% green, they have placed solar panels, they recycle in the classroom and across their facilities, they use recycling containers and they organise workshops and lectures to raise the students' awareness on environmental issues.
- All educational projects in the facilities of **SOROLLA** Cooperative group are based on the SDGs, they undergo environmental auditing and implement a waste management plan.
  - 100% of its electricity is renewable, including the installation of solar panels, and 100% of the main products and services they purchase are procured locally, aiming to minimise their environmental impact. SOROLLA has reduced its use of plastic by 90%. All of these measures have led to a 22% decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during the school year 2019/2020.



- This work and the commitment of SOROLLA led to it being shortlisted in the 2019-2020 Edition of the Excellent, Innovative and Sustainable Management Award granted by the “Club Excelencia en Gestión” (the Management Excellence Club) to raise visibility and acknowledge the best Spanish companies in regard to excellent management.

→ The association **PLENA INCLUSION ASTURIAS** has got a green seal as an environmentally-friendly organisation, and Cooperativa **TRES DE CAMPO DE CAPELA** was the first cheese manufacturer in Spain to measure its emissions to the ozone layer.

→ **ILUNION** stands out for its environmental responsibility, investing more than 8.5 million Euros in 2019 in waste management, waste water management and landscape protection, as well as investing to protect the air, climate and land, and from radiation, noise and vibrations, and in R&D. This commitment comes to life clearly in:

- **ILUNION Hotels** collects used cooking oil (more than 10,000 litres in 2019) to be used as biodiesel, and bottle tops (more than 1,000 kilos in 2019) for revaluation. ILUNION Hotels’ 26 establishments were awarded the international seal QSostenible, which certifies the sustainability of its facilities and buildings. This enterprise has fully committed to reducing its environmental impact through the optimisation of energy consumption in its buildings, for instance through installing thermal solar panels to produce hot water at several of its hotels.
- **The 45 industrial laundries of ILUNION** have consolidated their leadership in this sector thanks to its commitment to environmental sustainability. This translates, among other things, in an innovation of its processes and the improvement of its facilities to achieve energy and water savings (installing solar panels, new water recovery systems, wash load optimisation, etc.), as well as decreasing the use of resources and waste generation (decreased use of plastic and cardboard for packaging products).

Moreover, large cooperatives in the food distribution sector foster local consumption to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused by the transporting of goods and strengthen local producers in the territories.

Within this chapter on green transition, Social economy enterprises specialising in recycling management and the reusing of waste (electrical appliances, textiles, furniture, tools or paper) are worth noting, as they support groups of people at-risk of social exclusion:

→ **JOSENEA** is a non-profit institution born as a social and labour integration centre for people who are socially excluded, helping through small business projects. It commits to sustainable, environmentally-friendly activities that have an impact on the generation of wealth for the territory through the organic farming of aromatic and medicinal plants. Since 2002, more than 85% of the people who have gone through their integration programmes have managed to consolidate their employment and personal situation. JOSENEA has an organic farm with the following characteristics:

- It is self-sufficient in regard to energy consumption thanks to solar panels and a wind farm that allows it to cover the regular consumption of its equipment, as well as to generate of thermal energy for the process of drying their aromatic herb production. .



- “Water efficiency” by means of optimising the risk systems that guarantee lower water consumption through greater precision and efficiency, with a radiating ground system that creates stagnant pools with watering by minor flooding, so that plants absorb the nutrition they require autonomously from the water.
- “Zero Waste”, aiming to reuse and recycle all sorts of materials to produce manure and compost.

JOSENEA's work was recognised in December 2020 when it was granted the Best Practices in Sustainable Local Development Award, together with the Navarra Public University. This award, granted by the Department of Rural Development and Environment of the Regional Government of Navarra, rewards innovative projects in the field of community, urban and regional development and sustainable management, with prominence given to projects based on association, innovation and transferability.

The project for which JOSENEA was awarded establishes a combination of different circular bioeconomy actions for local recycling (in the community of Sangüesa) of organic waste and its later revaluation as compost. All of this as part of its project for social and labour integration.

→ **ILUNION Recicladados** is a special employment centre of social initiative for persons with disabilities that specialises in waste management regarding electric and electronic appliances.

It has two facilities: one in La Bañeza (León) and the other in Campo Real (Madrid) whose impact also involves the generation of quality employment for people with disabilities in rural areas, where there are few job opportunities. They started operations in La Bañeza in 2009 with 10 workers and now employ more than 65 people, 90% of which have some sort of disability. 25 people are currently hired by ILUNION Recicladados Campo Real, from the rural setting where the facilities are located.

+ Info (in Spanish): <https://youtu.be/Y28ISnAPsdo> <https://www.ilunionrecicladados.com/>

→ **ILUNDAIN** is an integration enterprise promoted by Fundación Ilundain Haritz Berri whose objective is to work towards the social and labour integration of vulnerable young people. Its main activity is to offer services in the sphere of forestry and environmental services and the maintenance work of green areas, as part of its commitment to environmental sustainability.

Fundación Ilundain has created initiatives such as Aterpeak that also aims to raise job opportunities for at-risk youth, designing and presenting innovative solutions in regard to:

- Pest control and improvement of profitability in agrifood companies by decreasing their consumption of chemical products
- Offer town councils projects to promote biodiversity in their territories
- Build child park elements using sustainable woods
- Offer environmental education services

+ Info (in Spanish): <https://www.aterpeak.eco>

→ The integration enterprise **AILA DEPENDENCIA** includes among its business projects the running and management of an eco-forest since 2015. The aim of this initiative is to have a productive forest that, besides providing a variety of naturally-farmed organic vegetables, fruits and medicinal plants, contributes to environmental protection by creating a carbon sink that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and fights climate change. Furthermore, Aila Dependencia offers training courses in the fields of agriculture and the environment, which they can offer thanks to their eco-forest.

+ Info (in Spanish): <https://www.facebook.com/AILA-AGRO-1418388078183690/>

→ **ASOCIACIÓN ELKARTENET HEZKUNTZA ELKARTEA** works in the reusing of computing equipment to extend its life cycle, aiming to provide access to digital means to associations, small shops and citizens in general by means of tools developed using free software. Its goal is to develop applications that will help small local shops come into contact with their neighbourhood in order to foster local consumers and stores.

The Circular Economy is one of the areas where Social Economy is pioneering business models that promote the adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes.

→ Some examples have been shown earlier. The impact of such examples is highlighted by the Spanish Association for Social Economy Recovery **“AERESS” (ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE RECUPERADORES DE ECONOMÍA SOCIAL Y SOLIDARIA)**. The goal set by the 40 solidarity institutions in 14 regions that make up AERESS is two-fold: environmental and social. They combine the search for social transformation by means of training and employment opportunities for vulnerable or excluded groups of people, with suitable waste management to fight climate change.

In total, AERESS represents 1,665 jobs from its member institutions, of which 44% are integration jobs for people at-risk of social exclusion. There are 465 volunteers and they have assisted more than 13,000 people.

- 75,816 tonnes of waste managed
- A surface of 55,000 m<sup>2</sup> for urban waste management and treatment
- 101 points of sale for recovered and second-hand items
- 198 vehicles to collect waste

In 2019, emissions of 61,762 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> were avoided thanks to the reusing of textile products and furniture and waste management of electric and electronic appliances by AERESS members. This is equivalent to:

- 8,6 million trees absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> in one day
- Eliminating 29,000 cars from circulation for one day

→ The opportunities of contributing to generate “green” jobs have led organisations such as AMUSAL to create a Monitoring Centre to detect circular economy opportunities in the region of Murcia.

+ Info (in Spanish): <https://www.amusal.es/asociacion/observatorio-economia-circular>



### **KOOPERA** **social business innovation for a circular economy**

KOOPERA is a network of social and solidarity economy institutions linked to Cáritas: integration enterprises, foundations and social co-operatives. A network that carries out business activities in environmental services, reusing and recycling (specialising in textiles), sustainable consumption (Koopera Store shops), care work and other services that can help fulfil its goal, with training and employment as tools for integration, building a more environmentally-friendly, inclusive and collaborative society.

- 460 workers, 51% of which are women. Out of the 157 integration contracts in 2019, 67% accessed the regular labour market.
- It manages 19,000 textile recovery and recycling containers in close to 500 towns, with more than 50 million clothes processed.
- 32 sustainable clothes stores with more than 700,000 customers
- They have avoided more than 18,000 tons of textile residue from ending in landfills
- They have decreased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 414,000 tonnes and water consumption by 31 million m<sup>3</sup>
- More than 63,000 items of clothing have been donated from their stores to disadvantaged people
- They have 2 textile processing plants and 11 transfer centres. Koopera's reusing plants process textiles, footwear, electric devices and home appliances, toys, books and other items that are deposited in their containers, recycling points and cages located in companies and through campaigns in education centres. Pioneering technology is implemented to maximise product recovery and converge towards zero waste.
- 530 persons were assisted in their training centres to facilitate their access to the labour market.
- They have outsourced their integration model to Chile, creating two subsidiaries and 2 textile processing plants with an store where 17 people work following the same social integration strategy.
- They have started the sustainable mobility project Bizimeta, as a sustainable public inter-urban transport system using bicycles for the towns that make up the community of UribeKosta (Bizkaia).

+ Info: <https://www.koopera.org/memoria2019/>



# Financing growth through solidarity, sustainability and innovation



Social economy financial institutions are agents of change that provide social and environmental value to money.

This is the case of **COOP57**<sup>16</sup> or **FIARE BANCA ÉTICA**<sup>17</sup>, which focus on financing projects linked to the social and labour integration of people, agro-ecology, energy efficiency, education and culture, and fair trade. This commitment is also taken on by other Social Economy institutions such as **MUTUALIDAD DE LA ABOGACÍA**, which is the leading social provision institution in Spain, allocating more than 22% of its investments to sustainable and socially-responsible assets such as green bonds and renewable energy infrastructures.

Co-operatives such as **LABORAL KUTXA** lead initiatives within the financial world towards compliance with the 2030 Agenda. Laboral Kutxa is one of 130 banks that have signed and founded the United National responsible banking principles, which seek to define the commitment and responsibilities of the financial system towards contributing to a sustainable future, in line with the SDGs and the Paris Agreements on Climate Change.

Social Economy provides “another perspective” to the financial world by including sustainable development as a core issue of its portfolio, with financial institutions that reinvest in projects that focus on assisting people and their surroundings, that are in line with the SDGs.

## **BCC - GRUPO COOPERATIVO CAJAMAR** **A financial institution that commits to innovation at the service of the territory**

CAJAMAR is a reference financial group of co-operative banking in Spain, with 3.5 million customers and 1.4 million members, which provides financial services in the rural areas, also in towns with a population of less than 1,500 people. CAJAMAR is present in 46 of the 52 Spanish provinces. The co-operative group CAJAMAR is considered by the European Banking Union as one of the 12 most significant institutions in the Spanish financial market by size and volume of assets.

<sup>16</sup> <https://coop57.coop/es/informacion/qui%C3%A9nes-somos>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.fiarebancaetica.coop/quienes-somos>





Since its inception, CAJAMAR's activity has stood out for providing value to the rural environment through a commitment to social economy, technological development and innovation in key sectors such as the agrifood industry. CAJAMAR encompasses a number of co-operative financial institutions that aim to support families and local productive systems, as well as the Social Economy, based on three basic pillars: people, ideas and territories. Its commitment to the local sphere means that it reinvests its profits at local level, favouring job creation and avoiding depopulation.

- CAJAMAR offers local banking by presenting financial services in rural areas with problems to access such services and, thus, avoiding financial exclusion. CAJAMAR is present in 348 towns with a population of under 5,000 people.
- CAJAMAR boasts a wide range of financial products for projects that improve the sustainable efficiency of the agrifood industry, promoting socially-responsible investment and green investment.
- CAJAMAR is deeply committed to the environment. It boasts an environmental management system whereby 100% of the energy it consumes is green and it compensates 100% of its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The Office for Climate Change of the Ministry of Ecological Transition has once again awarded the “Calculo + Reduzco” seal of the Carbon Footprint Register to CAJAMAR. This seal aims to honour organisations that calculate their carbon footprint and deploy a plan to reduce these previously-calculated emissions.

- CAJAMAR signed on to the United Nations Global Compact in 2006. Its ethical system involves the will not to establish any relations with persons who carry out illegal or ethically questionable activities.  
100% of its certified suppliers have signed a commitment to comply with the principles of the Global Compact and are appraised in regard to their human rights and labour practices as well as their environmental commitment.
- CAJAMAR carries out R&D&i projects in the fields of agro-sustainability, food and health, bio-economy and greenhouse technology. The results of these projects are transferred to companies, farmers, professionals and researches through its experimentation centres.
- This cooperative group boasts a policy and processes that guarantee equal rights and opportunities, and non-discrimination.

The Ministry of the Presidency, Parliamentary Relations and Equality awarded CAJAMAR the seal “Equal Company” in recognition for its excellence in implementing and developing measures to guarantee equal opportunities in the sphere of equality plans and policies in companies.

- CAJAMAR supports the digitalisation processes of lowly-populated towns and effective measures to fight financial and technological exclusion by means of training programmes for the entire population.
- CAJAMAR has been honoured by the RED CROSS ORGANISATION for its commitment to the labour integration of vulnerable persons.
- CAJAMAR boasts corporate volunteer programmes to support development activities in local communities and actions to finance solidarity projects.

+ Info: <https://www.grupocooperativocajamar.es/recursos-entidades/es/pdf/informacion-corporativa/responsabilidad-social-corporativa/compromiso-sostenibilidad.pdf>



# R&D&i for a more inclusive and sustainable industrialisation



Besides providing social innovations, social economy also develops cutting-edge technological solutions that contribute to a more sustainable development of business activities:

→ **MONDRAGÓN CORPORATION** is an industrial and R&D&i leader in the Basque Country region. 15.2% of industrial investments and 12% of resources allocated to research and development in the Basque Country are promoted by MONDRAGÓN. Since its inception, its strong commitment to training and research of MONDRAGÓN has set the pace of its business development. The Corporation has 14 technological centres, 2,000 researchers and a university fully committed to R&D, which means MONDRAGÓN and its member cooperatives and enterprises take part in several projects and areas of research and knowledge with other cutting-edge companies, such as **KREAN GROUP**. This is a renowned national and international reference in the sphere of architecture and engineering, in regard to the design and development of work spaces devised considering the physical, mental and emotional well-being of workers and reduced environmental impact, committing to a more sustainable development in line with adaptation policies to mitigate climate change.

Similarly, **KREAN** has taken part with the Basque Department of Energy in the solar energy park “EKIAN”, the largest in the Basque Country with 67.000 solar panels. The power it generates is double the solar power that installed in the Basque Country until it was built. It generates 40,000 million watts per year, which is equivalent to the annual power consumption of 15,000 families.

+ Info: <https://youtu.be/BGIm1rk-uYY>

→ **GRUPO SOCIAL ONCE** carries out several initiatives in the sphere of R&D&i, as the way to promote universal accessibility and design for everyone.

- The promotion of universal accessibility is one of the goals of ONCE Foundation, dedicating approximately 40% of its budget to this goal every year.
- **ONCE** works in research, development and innovation in the field of support technology for blind people, and in research involving eyesight, and related investments, with the goal to facilitate access to people who are visually impaired.



- **ILUNION**, the business project of Grupo Social ONCE, with more than 38,000 jobs (40.5% of which are undertaken by persons with disabilities), is developing business lines in technological innovation, focusing especially on those sectors that entail job opportunities for people with disabilities and those offering services to public and private institutions to achieve more inclusive products, services and environments.

+ Info (in Spanish): <https://www.iluniontecnologiayaccesibilidad.com/>

→ **CONSUM** cooperative has prepared a “Route Planner” with the Computing Technological Institute of the Polytechnic University of Valencia to optimise transport routes to the points of sale. This improves the level of occupation of the vehicles, decreases the kilometres driven and maintains the timeliness of the service. This initiative is part of other technologies included in this distribution system, into which artificial intelligence and machine learning are being introduced to forecast demand or transfer part of the stock distribution activity to the night shift, aiming to reduce distances driven and emissions. Thanks to these measures a 20% reduction in the number of journeys and kilometres driven was achieved, which has contributed to reducing carbon footprint.

→ **KOOPERA** has led a research project into circular economy in collaboration with companies specialising in building and manufacturing non-textile materials, managing to recover 600 tonnes of cotton textiles, post-use, in 5 years, giving them a second life in the form of insulation panels that work well for thermal and acoustic insulation. Work is being carried out to improve its fire resistance. This project makes it possible to make the most of textile residue after its use, instead of ending in a landfill or incinerator.

→ **CAJAMAR** promotes economic, social and environmental sustainability in the agrifood sector through incorporating technology, professional skilling and sustainable practices. It boasts experimental centres, located in Almería and Valencia, where they address applied research projects and develop new production technologies, paying specially attention to disseminating the results obtained, making a series of tools available to companies, farmers, professionals and researchers towards the generation of knowledge, transfer of innovation and technical and academic training. Priority is given to research in the field of efficient fertiliser, water and energy use, pest control, development of new variants, food and health, bioeconomy and greenhouse technology.

Furthermore, CAJAMAR has launched among a huge number of activities in this area a high-technology business incubator project in Almería specialising in technological innovation and sustainable management in regard to water. This incubator, with the support of the European Regional Development Fund, will bring together entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises to develop projects and new initiatives in regard to technological innovation and sustainable management in regard to water. It is expected to support 150 national and international companies, fostering the creation of a further 39 companies, hoping to create jobs for more than 260 people. Its goal is to improve competitiveness, foster entrepreneurship and the creation of new companies, especially by improving access to financing and advanced support services.

+ Info (in Spanish): <https://www.grupocooperativocajamar.es/es/agroalimentario/innovacion/investigacion/>



# Transforming the world through solidarity



The “values” on the base of the Social Economy makes these enterprises and organisations to commitment themselves to third-party countries with fewer opportunities. This will to change is channelled through solidarity-based activities such as those mentioned in previous chapters in regard to fair trade. Similarly, Social Economy enterprises carry out other relevant initiatives that contribute to the objectives of fighting poverty and the international development cooperation. The following are some examples of this:

→ **GREDO SAN DIEGO (GSD)** has launched an educational solidarity project, creating a school GSD Cameroon. The aim is to ensure access to education to children in a region of Cameroon with low levels of school attendance. Two foundations took part in the project - Abriendo Caminos and Fundación GSD - which provide the economic resources to finance the project. The GSD co-operative is in charge of the educational and administrative management of the school, training local teachers in the area and transferring GSD's educational project based on educational quality and social values. Each of the foundations contributed 50,000€ in the school year 2018/2019, which were used to grant scholarships to students, financing a variety of running and equipment costs, and more specifically the teachers' wages. The goal is to reach 600 students in the nursery, primary and secondary levels. The result of the first year (school year 2018/2019) was that 86 children went to school in nursery and primary education, and 15 local jobs were created for teachers, and staff in administration and general services.

+ Info (in Spanish): <https://www.gsdeducacion.com/noticias.aspx?id=326>

→ **ONCE Foundation for solidarity with blind people in Latin America (FOAL)** is an institution created in 1998 at the initiative of ONCE, working to promote full educational, social and labour integration of people with visual impairment in Latin America.

FOAL contributes to visually impaired people fully exercising their human rights and essential freedoms in equal conditions by means of international development cooperation instruments, on the basis of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It fosters visually impaired people achieving personal autonomy, full social integration and citizen rights, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, minimising the impact of their blindness or severe visual impairment on their lives. These goals are carried out in 19 Spanish-speaking countries





and in Brazil, by means of labour, educational and social integration, and through the institutional strengthening of public and private organisations and civil society. FOAL also promotes actions to improve the rehabilitation of visually-impaired people, and recreational and sporting activities, as well as research and implementation of new technologies in the field of visual disability and, in general, social activities whose aim is to comply with the main goal sought by the Foundation.

FOAL mainly finances its activities through ONCE's funds thanks to the income obtained from selling responsible gaming products, which is carried out daily by people with disabilities across Spain.

+ Info: <https://www.foal.es/es>





## Appendix I. List of enterprises and organisations consulted for the report

Nombre empresa	+ Info
ACES CANTABRIA	<a href="http://acescantabria.com/">http://acescantabria.com/</a>
ACTIVANDO SUEÑOS DE INSERCIÓN SL	<a href="http://xn--activandosueos-1nb.es/">http://xn--activandosueos-1nb.es/</a>
ADVOCARE S. COOP. AND.	<a href="http://www.advocareabogados.com">www.advocareabogados.com</a>
AERESS	<a href="https://www.aeress.org/">https://www.aeress.org/</a>
AGIANTZA ELKARTEA	<a href="http://www.agiantza.org/home.html">http://www.agiantza.org/home.html</a>
ALMAZARRÓN SOC. COOP.	<a href="http://colegiosigloxxi.com/">http://colegiosigloxxi.com/</a>
ALTERNATIVA 3 S.COOP.	<a href="https://alternativa3.com/">https://alternativa3.com/</a>
AMUSAL	<a href="https://www.amusal.es/">https://www.amusal.es/</a>
ASOCIACIÓN EL RASTRELL	<a href="https://rastrell.org/">https://rastrell.org/</a>
BCC-GRUPO COOPERATIVO CAJAMAR	<a href="https://www.bcc.es/es/">https://www.bcc.es/es/</a>
BUSCÁNDOME LAS HABICHUELAS S.L.U	<a href="https://redanagos.org/entidad/buscandome-las-habichuelas-s-l-u/">https://redanagos.org/entidad/buscandome-las-habichuelas-s-l-u/</a>
CIDADANIA SOC. COOP. GALEGA	<a href="https://ciudadania.coop/es/">https://ciudadania.coop/es/</a>
CIDE	<a href="http://www.cide.es/">http://www.cide.es/</a>
CONSUM S COOP V	<a href="https://www.consum.es/">https://www.consum.es/</a>
COOP DE PTRES DEL CAMPO DE CAPELA	<a href="https://www.campocapela.com/">https://www.campocapela.com/</a>
COOPERATIVA DE ENSEÑANZA JOSÉ RAMÓN OTERO	<a href="https://www.jrotero.com/">https://www.jrotero.com/</a>
COOPERATIVA VITIVINÍCOLA AROUSANA S.C.G	<a href="https://doriasbaixas.com/bodegas/cooperativa-vitivinicola-arousana-scg">https://doriasbaixas.com/bodegas/cooperativa-vitivinicola-arousana-scg</a>
COOPERATIVAS LÁCTEAS UNIDAS CLUN S.C.G.	<a href="https://clun.es/">https://clun.es/</a>
COSSIO SOCIEDAD COOPERATIVA MADRILEÑA	<a href="https://www.colegiombccossio.es/">https://www.colegiombccossio.es/</a>
COVIRÁN	<a href="https://www.coviran.es/">https://www.coviran.es/</a>
DEIXALLES SERVEIS AMBIENTALS EI, SL	<a href="https://www.deixalles.org/es/servicios/serveis-ambientals">https://www.deixalles.org/es/servicios/serveis-ambientals</a>
E.I ISORA INTEGRAL S.L.U	<a href="https://www.guiadeisora.org/corp/e-m-isora-integra/">https://www.guiadeisora.org/corp/e-m-isora-integra/</a>
EIS AILA DEPENDENCIA SL	<a href="https://www.ailacuidadoresadomicilio.com/es/">https://www.ailacuidadoresadomicilio.com/es/</a>
EIS ILUNDAIN EMPRESA DE INSERCIÓN SLU	<a href="https://fundacion-ilundain.com/eis-ilundain/">https://fundacion-ilundain.com/eis-ilundain/</a>
ELKARTENET	<a href="https://www.txikilinux.eus/es/elkartenet/">https://www.txikilinux.eus/es/elkartenet/</a>
ESCOLA LES CAROLINES COOPERATIVA VALENCIANA	<a href="https://www.lescarolines.com/">https://www.lescarolines.com/</a>
JOSENEA	<a href="https://www.josenea.bio/">https://www.josenea.bio/</a>
FUNDACIO TOTS UNITS-KOOPERA	<a href="http://totsunits.org/">http://totsunits.org/</a>
FUNDACIÓN GIZAKIA HERRITAR	<a href="https://www.paris365.org/es/fundacion-gizakia-herritar">https://www.paris365.org/es/fundacion-gizakia-herritar</a>
FUNDACIÓN ISABEL MARTÍN	<a href="https://fundacionisabelmartin.es/proyectos/">https://fundacionisabelmartin.es/proyectos/</a>
FUNDACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO SOCIAL	<a href="http://fundaciondesarrollosocial.blogspot.com/">http://fundaciondesarrollosocial.blogspot.com/</a>
FUNDACIÓN VICENTE FERRER	<a href="https://fundacionvicenteferrer.org/es/">https://fundacionvicenteferrer.org/es/</a>
GOILURRA	<a href="https://goilurra.org/">https://goilurra.org/</a>
GRUPO SOCIAL ONCE (ONCE, FUNDACIÓN ONCE E ILUNION)	<a href="https://www.once.es/conocenos/decidir-en-las-urnas/asi-es-el-grupo-social-once-1">https://www.once.es/conocenos/decidir-en-las-urnas/asi-es-el-grupo-social-once-1</a>
GRUPO SOROLLA EDUCACIÓN	<a href="https://www.gruposorolla.es/">https://www.gruposorolla.es/</a>
GSD	<a href="https://www.gsdeduccion.com/">https://www.gsdeduccion.com/</a>
KINEMA SOC. COOP. MAD.	<a href="https://cooperativakinema.es/">https://cooperativakinema.es/</a>
KOOPERA	<a href="https://www.koopera.org/">https://www.koopera.org/</a>



LOPE DE VEGA SCDAD COOP DE C-LM	<a href="https://www.colegiolopedevega.es/">https://www.colegiolopedevega.es/</a>
MEDICUS MUNDI ALAVA	<a href="https://medicmundi.es/es/quienes-somos/asi-nos-organizamos/asociaciones/12/alava-araba">https://medicmundi.es/es/quienes-somos/asi-nos-organizamos/asociaciones/12/alava-araba</a>
MOMENTU IMPULSO EMPRESARIAL S COOP DE INICIATIVA SOCIAL	<a href="https://momentu.es/">https://momentu.es/</a>
MONDRAGON	<a href="https://www.mondragon-corporation.com/es/">https://www.mondragon-corporation.com/es/</a>
PLENA INCLUSION ASTURIAS	<a href="https://www.plenainclusionasturias.org/">https://www.plenainclusionasturias.org/</a>
PROYDE	<a href="https://www.proyde.org/">https://www.proyde.org/</a>
REAS RED DE REDES DE ECONOMÍA ALTERNATIVA Y SOLIDARIA	<a href="https://www.reasred.org/">https://www.reasred.org/</a>
RED DE ECONOMÍA ALTERNATIVA SOLIDARIA DE ARAGÓN	<a href="https://reasaragon.net/">https://reasaragon.net/</a>
SCE SAGRADA FAMILIA	<a href="https://www.csagradafamilia.es/">https://www.csagradafamilia.es/</a>
TRANSFORMA CUIDAMOS PERSONAS S.L	<a href="http://www.cuidamospersonas.es/">http://www.cuidamospersonas.es/</a>
TRAPEROS RECICLA, S. L EMPRESA DE INSERCIÓN	<a href="https://traperos-recicla-sl-empresa-de.negocio.site/?utm_source=gmb&amp;utm_medium=referral">https://traperos-recicla-sl-empresa-de.negocio.site/?utm_source=gmb&amp;utm_medium=referral</a>

## Appendix II. References to sustainability reports

27% of the social economy enterprises and organisations that have provided information to prepare this report have stated they prepare sustainability reports in accordance with the SDGs.

Similarly, the social economy enterprises and organisations that have taken part in this document state that:

- 50% of them have adopted measures to avoid any form of violence at the workplace and prevent sexual harassment
- 52% of them have eliminated all barriers for at-risk collectives and persons with disabilities
- 56% of them implement protocols to promote the participation of women in top management positions
- 34% of them implement measures to eliminate child labour and slave labour

Below are links to access the CSR reports and non-financial information provided or identified thanks to the information provided by the social economy enterprises and organisations consulted to prepare this report:

### CAJAMAR

<https://www.bcc.es/storage/documents/informe-integrado-Of5f5.pdf>

Other relevant information of CAJAMAR:

→ CAJAMAR commitment to sustainability::

<https://www.grupocooperativocajamar.es/recursos-entidades/es/pdf/informacion-corporativa/responsabilidad-social-corporativa/compromiso-sostenibilidad.pdf>

<https://www.bcc.es/es/informacion-corporativa/responsabilidad-corporativa>

→ Environmental policy:

<https://www.bcc.es/es/pdf/responsabilidad-corporativa/politica-medioambiental-bcc.pdf>

### CLUN - CODE OF CONDUCT AND BEST CORPORATE PRACTICES

<https://storage.googleapis.com/mfsgic-clun/enlaces-publicos/Codigo-conduta-CLUN.pdf>

### CONSUM

<https://decirhaciendo.consum.es/wp-content/uploads/memorias/2019/mobile/index.html>



## **GRUPO SOCIAL ONCE**

- Shared Value Report 2019 - Grupo Social ONCE  
<https://www.once.es/comunicacion/publicaciones/documentos-publicaciones/informe-de-valor-compartido-grupo-social-once-2019-castellano/view>
- Shared Value Report 2019 - Fundación ONCE:  
<https://biblioteca.fundaciononce.es/publicaciones/colecciones-propias/memoria-de-actividades/shared-value-report-fundacion-once-2019>
- Shared Value Report 2019 - ILUNION::  
[https://www.ilunion.com/sites/default/files/ilunion\\_valor-compartido2019.pdf](https://www.ilunion.com/sites/default/files/ilunion_valor-compartido2019.pdf)
- Non-Financial and Diversity Information Report 2019 / Social Responsibility Report - ONCE::  
<https://www.once.es/conocenos/organigrama-cooperacion/cuentas-anuales-1/estado-de-informacion-no-financiera-y-diversidad-2018/download>
- Non-Financial and Diversity Information Consolidated Report 2019 - ONCE:  
<https://www.once.es/conocenos/organigrama-cooperacion/cuentas-anuales-1/estado-de-informacion-no-financiera-2018-consolidado/download>
- Non-Financial and Diversity Information Consolidated Report 2019 - Fundación ONCE:  
[https://www.fundaciononce.es/sites/default/files/fonce\\_einf\\_180520\\_infverif\\_incl\\_org.pdf](https://www.fundaciononce.es/sites/default/files/fonce_einf_180520_infverif_incl_org.pdf)

## **AUSOLAN (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

<https://www.ausolan.com/files/informe-gestion-no-financiera.pdf>  
<https://www.ausolan.com/rsc/estrategia/>

## **BATZ (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

[https://www.batz.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Informe-no-financiero-BATZ-Group\\_2018.pdf](https://www.batz.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Informe-no-financiero-BATZ-Group_2018.pdf)

## **CIKAUTXO (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

<https://www.cikautxo.es/downloads/Informe%20No%20Financiero%20-%20Cikautxo%20S%20Coop%202018.pdf>

## **COPRECI (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

[https://www.copreci.com/download/catalogos/Memoria\\_No\\_Financiera\\_2019.pdf](https://www.copreci.com/download/catalogos/Memoria_No_Financiera_2019.pdf)

## **DANOBAT (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

<https://info.danobatgroup.com/einf/einf-2018-con-firmas.pdf>

## **EROSKI (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

<https://corporativo.eroski.es/memoria-2019/>

## **FAGOR AUTOMATION (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

[https://www.fagorautomation.com/downloads/informacion-no-financiera/Estado%20Informaci%C3%B3n%20no%20financiera\\_firmado\\_C.pdf](https://www.fagorautomation.com/downloads/informacion-no-financiera/Estado%20Informaci%C3%B3n%20no%20financiera_firmado_C.pdf)

## **FAGOR EDERLAN (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

<https://www.slideshare.net/FagorEderlan/fagor-ederlan-einf-y-memoria-de-sostenibilidad-2019>

## **FAGOR ELECTRÓNICA (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

<https://www.slideshare.net/FagorEderlan/>



**LABORAL KUTXA (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

<https://corporativa.laboralkutxa.com/responsabilidad/>

**LKS NEXT (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

[https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ungc-production/attachments/cop\\_2020/482448/original/2019\\_Informe\\_de\\_Responsabilidad\\_Social\\_Empresarial\\_%28RSE%29-LKS\\_S.\\_Coop..pdf?1579620448](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ungc-production/attachments/cop_2020/482448/original/2019_Informe_de_Responsabilidad_Social_Empresarial_%28RSE%29-LKS_S._Coop..pdf?1579620448)

**ORONA (cooperative member of MODRAGON CORPORATION)**

[https://www.orona-group.com/upload/publicaciones/documentos/20200402\\_RSC%202019%20ES.pdf](https://www.orona-group.com/upload/publicaciones/documentos/20200402_RSC%202019%20ES.pdf)

**GREDO SAN DIEGO**

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/participation/report/cop/create-and-submit/detail/439054>

**GRUPO SOROLLA EDUCACIÓN**

<https://www.rse.gruposorolla.es/>

**KOOPERA**

<https://www.koopera.org/memoria2019/>

**MUTUALIDAD DE LA ABOGACÍA**

<http://informersc.mutualidadabogacia.com/docs/memoria-rsc-2019.pdf>



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