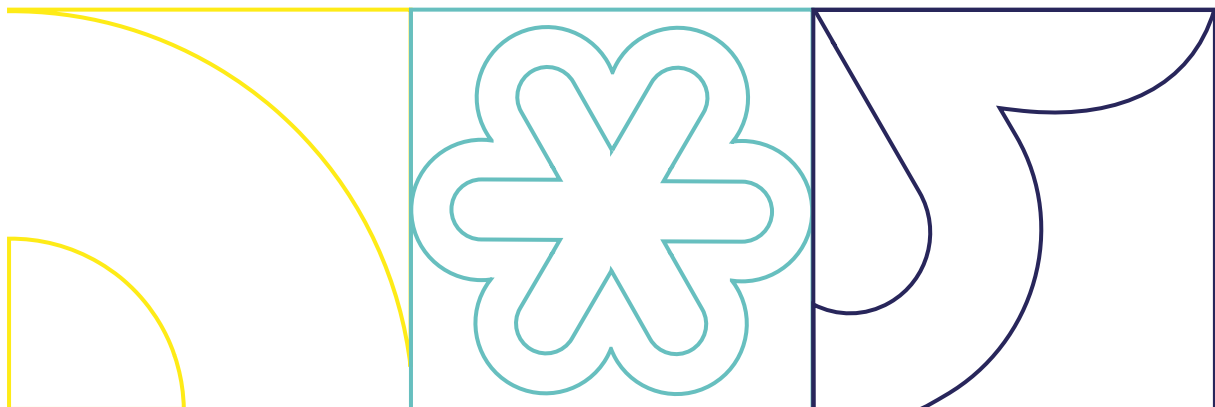


# ACTIVITIES ON COOPERATIVE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES.

Source: Cooperative College UK (<https://www.co-op.ac.uk/>)



*Note: at the end of the document you will find the cooperative values and principles cards to cut out.*



## Activity 1

Place the small values and principles cards (i.e. only those that indicate the name of the principle or value) in a bucket or hat.

Divide the participants into two teams.

Alternating, one person from each team takes out a values and principles card without showing it to the other people and has to describe it for the members of his or her team to guess.

The rule is that the person describing cannot use any of the words on the card describing the value or principle. If they say a word that is on the card (e.g. Democratic Member Control: "All members have control..."), then their team's turn is over and it goes to the next team immediately.

The aim of the game is for each team to take turns to guess as many values and principles as they can within the time limit (15- 20 seconds).

When the time runs out, the other team moves on and tries to describe as many values and principles as possible in another 15-20 seconds.

The teams alternate (and take turns describing the values/principles) until all the cards have been collected from the bucket.

The facilitator should check that the words on the cards are not used and keep a tally of how many cards each team has.

Depending on how much “fun” you want the game to be and how much time you have available, you can develop the activity by replacing all the cards and adding three more rounds:

1. Only one word is allowed to be used.
2. No words can be used at all.
3. Only facial expressions can be used.

## **Activity 2. Combine the cooperative principles cards with their definitions.**

Cut out the cooperative principles cards, separating each principle from its description. Mix up all the cards.

In groups, ask people to match each of the seven principles with its description.

Ask: Which do you think are the most important principles and why?

## **Activity 3. Combine the cooperative values cards with their definitions.**

Cut out the cooperative values cards, separating each value from its description. Mix up all the cards.

In groups, ask people to match each value with its description.

Ask: Which do you think are the most important values and why?

## Activity 4. Tableaux

Divide the group into smaller groups of 3-5 participants. Give each group a card with one of the cooperative principles on it.

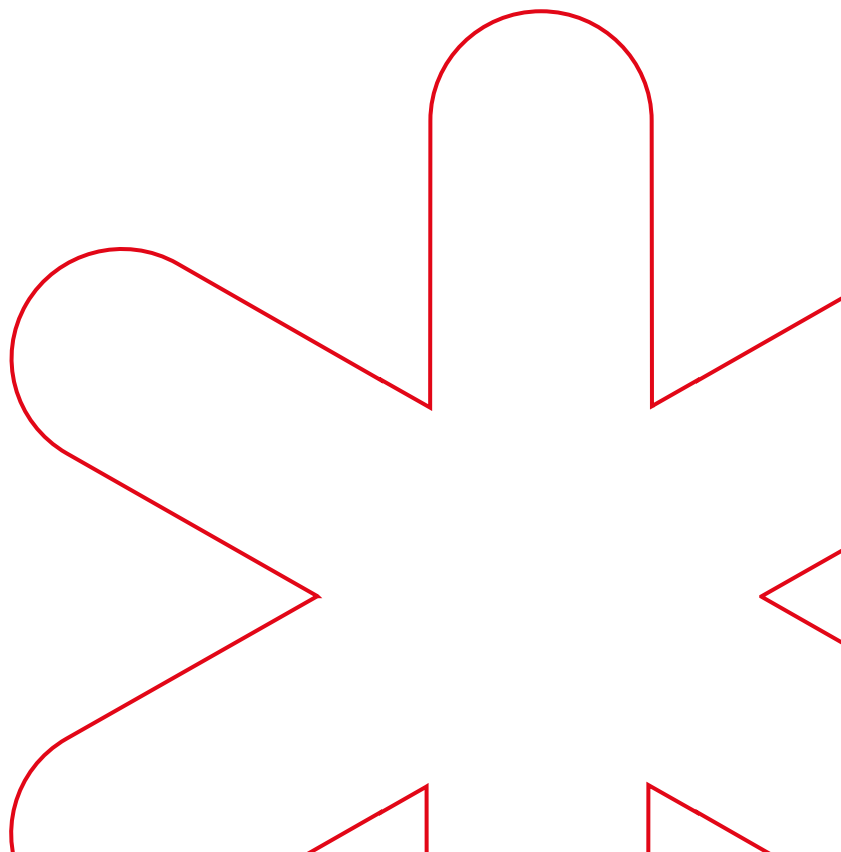
The groups have 5-10 minutes to prepare a picture (using their own bodies) to illustrate the principle.

We go around the groups asking each group to show their pictures.

The rest of the participants must try to guess which principle is being taught.

## Actividad 5. Charades

Each person takes turns to represent a value or principle to the rest of the group. Unlike the Human Squares game, they are allowed to move, but not to speak. You can give each person a card with a value/principle on it to represent or allow them to choose any value/principle they want. The person who guesses the correct answer is the next person to come up and represent another value/principle.



## Values – cut the cards out (option to remove the ethical values to make exercise shorter)

<b>Self-help</b>	Co-operatives help people to help themselves
<b>Self-responsibility</b>	Co-ops and their members take responsibility for, and answer to their actions
<b>Democracy</b>	Co-ops give their members a say in the way the business is run
<b>Equality</b>	No matter how much money a member invests in their share account, they still have one vote
<b>Equity</b>	Co-operatives aim to carry our business in a way that is fair and unbiased
<b>Solidarity</b>	Co-ops share interests and common purposes with their members and other co-operatives
<b>Ethical Value: Openness</b>	Co-operatives aim to operate openly and transparently where members have equal influence and are free to share their views
<b>Ethical Value: Honesty</b>	Co-ops aim to be honest about what they do and the way they do it to create an environment of trust
<b>Ethical Value: Social responsibility</b>	Co-ops encourage people to take responsibility for their own community, and work together to improve it
<b>Ethical Value: Caring for others</b>	The co-op movement promotes human rights and works to support both individuals and the local community

## Principles sort cards

<b>Voluntary and open membership</b>	Membership is open to everyone able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination
<b>Democratic member control</b>	All members have an equal voice in making policies and electing representatives
<b>Member economic participation</b>	All profits are controlled democratically by members and for their benefit
<b>Autonomy and independence</b>	Co-operatives are always independent, even when they enter into agreements with the government and other organisations
<b>Education, training and information</b>	Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives
<b>Co-operation amongst co-operatives</b>	Co-operatives work together with other co-operatives to strengthen the co-operative movement as a whole
<b>Concern for community</b>	Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members

