

# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome to an innovative Coopworking World!

### Why StartToCoop?

Nurturing young people entrepreneurship competencies is becoming more and more important in Europe and across the world. But while most approaches look at teaching entrepreneurship from an individual point of view, we believe that **shared entrepreneurship** is a powerful and more educative option.

Do you know? There are about 35.000 enterprises in Europe organised as worker cooperatives and 12.000 as social cooperatives. In these types of cooperative, workers can be members and owners and democratically decide on how to run their enterprise .

We created #Cooplab – The Coopworking experiment as a methodology to support trainers, educators and teachers that want to guide a learning journey to start an educational project to work in a cooperative mood with young people.

## What will participants learn?

During the journey the participants will:

1. Learn to work as a team.
2. Understand the human, social and economic values rooted in cooperative entrepreneurship and their practical impact in the world.
3. Experience all the steps that lead from the choice of a collective idea to the design and the start up of a worker/social coop.
4. Learn the cooperative principles and put them in place in the functioning of your own worker/social coop.
5. Experience the thrill of running your own worker/social coop organisation, measuring its results and its impact in your environment.

## How can you facilitate the journey?

Learning by doing, that's the point!

Our methodology aims to provide **real life learning experiences** to participants and to make them experience what they learn and learn from what they experience.

**Three factors** distinguish our approach:

1. **Practice**: leads the theory: participants are first called to act and then to reflect on their learning. We provide the minimum theory needed and the maximum tools to put it into practice.
2. **Team learning**: participants are called to decide, act and reflect collectively. One of the most important outcomes is learning about how we feel, behave and develop in teams.
3. **Real-life fun**: participants do not limit to simulate or imagine their worker coop project; they are called to run it in the real world.

So, are you ready to Coop?

## What will you find in this interactive guide?

- Indications to run the 5 steps of the StartToCoop itinerary:  
[www.cooplab.eu/en/content/start](http://www.cooplab.eu/en/content/start)
- 1. Identify a coop project that is relevant to your group and can produce an impact.
- 2. Design a coop strategy for it.
- 3. Define how the coop organisation will work.
- 4. Run the work coop organisation and implement the project.
- 5. Evaluate its outcomes in terms of results, knowledge and personal/team growth.

  

- Fact-sheets and infographics to support the learning by doing process
- Dynamics and visual design tools to go through the team activities of the StartToCoop itinerary.
- PlayCoop: a quiz to assess participants' learning while having a lot of fun.
- Resources and links to deepen your knowledge about worker and social coops.

## Warning: How can you use StartToCoop?

The short answer is "in whatever way you want and need".

We will suggest you a complete itinerary for the journey towards starting a **cooperative educational project**, including fact-sheets, activities, tools and resources, but you will be in the driver's seat. You can decide which path to follow, according to your needs, objectives and the time you want dedicate to the journey.

Our approach aims at to being modular and flexible, that means you can take the full journey or just follow us in some of its steps, you can go more in depth into some steps and pass through others: StartToCoop is thought to fit to your needs!

You can download all the materials and resources that you find useful, reproduce, share, modify and develop them, etc... The whole StartToCoop is based on a Creative Commons Licence that authorise you to do so provided you grant credits of the authorship to our website or eventually to the authors of specific resources.

So please use all the tools you find useful and help us to share and develop them to disseminate StartToCoop initiative!

If you want to contact us for more info or give us your feedback, we will be pleased to answer to you : [www.cooplab.eu/en/content/contact-us](http://www.cooplab.eu/en/content/contact-us).



**Erasmus+**

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