



TORRES VERDRAS. PORTUGAL
27-28 OCTOBRE 2025

OCTOBER 2025 VERSION

FACING THE TIPPING POINTS WITH COOPERATIVE INNOVATION

Our global community is living through pivotal challenges, and cooperative enterprises can play an important role in facing these tipping points with innovative solutions. Standing on a foundation rooted in democratic participation, cooperatives and mutuals can take decisive actions to create a better world for everyone.

The aim to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 is approaching, and while it remains elusive for many, a path has been charted, showing us that we must adapt to thrive. To succeed, we must redouble our efforts to be agile and innovative in how we work, produce, and serve our members and communities. **Cooperative enterprises are well-positioned to empower people and create collaborative environments to drive the changes we need.**

Climate change has pushed us to many tipping points. To have the strength and ingenuity to overcome these challenges, it is more important now than ever to build, strengthen and maintain the trust with our members and communities. This is the time to put our cooperative principles into practice and demonstrate that prioritizing people over profit is the foundation to protect our planet for future generations.

We can't do this alone.

Whether it's teaming up across borders or just swapping ideas and good practices, collaboration is at the heart of intercooperation. It's how we push back against a divided global economy. Let's start building the foundations to share knowledge, tools, and solutions — and face our shared challenges with strength and resilience.

As we celebrate the International Year of Cooperatives, let's build a better world. Together, we can initiate local solutions that resonate globally. This program is our collective opportunity to make a difference.

We will do this by:

- **EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO ACT – ALIGNING WORDS AND ACTIONS**
- **BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER.**
- **CO-CREATING INCLUSIVE AND LASTING CHANGE**

OCTOBER 26, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Room:



WELCOME RECEPTION HOSTED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS
INVITATION ONLY

8:00 p.m.

END OF THE DAY

PLENARIES

9:00 a.m. Room: TBA Master of ceremony Speakers	OPENING REMARKS Luiz Branco, co-founder GICS, Director of the Board of International Cooperative Innovation Network (ICIN), CEO of WEX Business and the World Cooperative Management (WCM), Brazil  Dr. Manuel Guerreiro, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Caixa Agrícola Torres Vedras, Portugal • Giuseppe Guerini, President, Cooperatives Europe, Italy • Speakers to be announced
9:30 a.m. Room: TBA Speaker	NAVIGATING TURBULENCE: ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND DEMOCRATIC THREATS In a world shaken by open warfare, rising trade tensions, and the resurgence of anti-democratic forces, cooperatives and mutuals must show resilience and boldness. This concise overview of the global economic and political context will shed light on the conditions in which our movement is evolving, as well as the collective responsibilities it bears. Stéphane Bertrand, Economist, policy strategist, and President of the International Cooperative Innovation Network (ICIN), Canada
9:40 a.m. Room: TBA Speaker	THE TIPPING POINTS We are living in a time marked by tipping points—those critical thresholds where small changes can trigger rapid and irreversible transformations, whether in the climate, geopolitics, technology, or society. In the face of these major challenges, prevention and resilience must be our priorities. It is essential to adopt a proactive and collaborative approach to anticipate crises, mitigate their impacts, and build a sustainable future. Together, we have the responsibility to act before it is too late. Yuill Herbert, co-founder and principal of the Sustainability Solutions Group, Canada
10:00 a.m. Room: TBA	1: EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO ACT – ALIGNING WORDS AND ACTIONS This session will highlight the importance of "walking the talk" by empowering people to drive change. This will strengthen collective capital to build shared and lasting responsibility. It aims to equip individuals with tools to actively participate in the transition towards a more just future, while fostering innovation and cooperation within cooperatives. Through ethical and transparent practices, the discussion will focus on how cooperatives can build trust, engage stakeholders, and strengthen their ability to face today's challenges: social inequalities, precarious employment, exclusion of vulnerable populations, social fragmentation, access to healthcare, and collective responses to health crises, including pandemics. These efforts directly support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by placing cooperatives at the heart of global solutions. Key Themes: Shared responsibility, ethical practices, transparency, social inclusion, healthcare access, collective resilience, crisis management, sustainable development.

Moderator	Peter Westall , Chief Values Officer, Mid-Counties Coop, UK
Panelists	● Elena Badeanschi, International Projects Unit, Federazione Trentina della Cooperazione, Italy Trentino, Italy ● Ana Rita Antunes, Executive coordinator, Coopernico, Portugal ● Dr. Carlos Zarco, President of IHCO, member of the Board of Directors and CEO of the Fundación Espriu, board member of the Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Enterprises (CEPES), and board member of the Alliance for the Promotion of Health, Spain
11:00 a.m. Room: TBA	 NETWORKING BREAK SPONSORED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS
BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
INNOVATION FACTORY 1—EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO ACT	
11:30 a.m. Room: TBA	BUILDING A CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY This interactive co-creation exchange will explore practical strategies to foster a culture of accountability within cooperatives. Supported by a digital application, participants will identify actionable ideas to enhance ethical frameworks, promote transparency initiatives, and strengthen accountability at all levels of the organization. The emerging proposals will be collected and shared with the larger group to foster collective reflection and inspire concrete practices. Key Themes: Accountability systems, ethical frameworks, transparency, responsibility.
Moderator	Michel Séguin , Full Professor and Chairholder of the Guy-Bernier Chair of Cooperation, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)
Panelists	● Tom Skinner, Chief Operating Officer, Fair Tax Foundation, UK ● Mehdi El Fettami, Strategy Manager, Impact ON, Canada
WORKSHOP 1—EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO ACT	
11:30 a.m. Room: TBA	WORKSHOP 1.1: LEVERAGING HUMAN CAPITAL TO DRIVE INNOVATION In connection with the plenary session on “Empowering People to Act”, this workshop will explore how cooperatives can leverage their human capital to strengthen sustainable responsibility. Participants will examine how talent development, ethical leadership, and collaboration can serve as drivers of innovation. The workshop will focus on practical approaches that promote transparency, engagement, and trust, with the goal of generating ideas that support cooperative transformation in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key Themes: human capital, innovation, responsibility, collaboration, leadership, transparency, SDGs, mutualization.
Moderator	Cathy Statz , Outreach Specialist, International Centre for Co-operative Management, Saint Mary's University Cooperative Outreach Specialist, NCBA CLUSA
Panelists	● Ilana Gotz, Senior Project Manager at EURICSE, Secretariat of ICBEC, Italy ● Jenny Capuano, Head of Training and Cooperative Culture, Cooperazione Trentina, Italy

11:30 a.m. Room: TBA Moderator Panelists	WORKSHOP 1.2 (AI-RELATED): AI FOR EMPOWERMENT—DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING This workshop will explore how AI can empower human capital within cooperatives by providing data-driven insights to enhance decision-making processes. Participants will explore tools and strategies to leverage AI for transparency, ethical decision-making, and accountability. Key Themes: Artificial intelligence (AI), empowerment, decision-making, data-driven insights, transparency, ethical decision-making, accountability. David Beauchemin, Executive Director and AI Expert, Baseline, Canada ● Fillipo Ghermandi, CEO at Luz, Portugal ● Suha Mohamed, Innovation Director, Centre for Data Futures, King’s College London, UK
11:30 a.m. Room: TBA Moderator Panelists	WORKSHOP 1.3: ESG PRINCIPLES IN COOPERATIVES—FROM STRATEGY TO IMPACT This workshop will focus on concrete strategies to integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles at all levels of cooperative operations, fostering accountability and sustainable impact. Key Themes: ESG principles, strategy, cooperative operations, accountability, sustainable impact, governance. Alexandra Wilson, ICA’s Cooperative Identity Advisory Group, ICA, Canada ● Prof. Rui Moreira, Author of the book <i>Deveres da Corporate Governance – Representação de partes interessadas no Conselho de Administração</i> (on stakeholder representation in boards of directors), ISCTE-IUL, Portugal ● Siward Zomer, Chair of Energie Samen, Netherlands ● Pete Westall, Chief Value Officer, Midcounties Co-op, UK
1:00 p.m. Room: TBA	 NETWORKING LUNCH SPONSORED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS
PLENARIES	
2:00 p.m. Room: TBA Moderator Panelists	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE WORKSHOP—EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO ACT – ALIGNING WORDS AND ACTIONS Daniel Brunette, Senior Director, Co-operation and Engagement, CMC, Canada ● Michel Séguin, Full Professor and Chairholder of the Guy-Bernier Chair of Cooperation, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) ● Cathy Statz, Outreach Specialist, International Centre for Co-operative Management, Saint Mary’s University Cooperative Outreach Specialist, NCBA CLUSA ● David Beauchemin, Executive Director and AI Expert, Baseline, Canada ● Alexandra Wilson, chair of ICA’s Cooperative Identity Advisory Group, ICA, Canada

2:30 p.m. Room: TBA	2: BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER This session will explore how locally rooted cooperatives are expanding their impact globally by embracing both traditional forms of cooperation and new models of digital collaboration, including data cooperatives. Anchored in the 6th cooperative principle of international cooperation, the session highlights how cooperatives are pooling not only physical resources but also digital assets, such as data, knowledge, and digital infrastructure, to address interconnected environmental, social, and economic challenges. Key Themes: Cooperative partnerships, resource sharing, expanding impact. Moderator Olivier Clyti, Director of Strategy, CSR, Digital, InVivo, France
Panelists	• Giuseppe Guerini, President, Cooperatives Europe, Italy • J.Benoit Caron, General Director of the Consortium for Collective Enterprise Cooperation, Canada • Osamu Nakano, Vice Executive Director, Japan Workers' Co-operative Union (JWCU), Japan • Sarah Nicole, Policy & Research Manager, Project Liberty, France
3:30 p.m. Room: TBA	 NETWORKING BREAK SPONSORED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

INNOVATION FACTORY 2—BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER

4:00 p.m. Room: TBA	COOPERATIVES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND COLLECTIVE STRATEGIES In this interactive innovation lab, participants will explore together the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation for cooperatives and mutuals to build and strengthen trust with members, and within the cooperative and non-cooperative communities. Supported by the collaborative online tool <i>MurWeb</i>, this space will enable a smooth exchange of ideas between the audience, invited experts, and the facilitator. Starting from shared observations (platform centralization, data vulnerability, technological dependency), the session will invite participants to co-create cooperative strategies to preserve their digital autonomy, strengthen their resilience, and pool their efforts. Key emerging ideas will be synthesized and shared at the end of the activity to support ongoing reflection across the network. Key Themes: Responsible digitization, platform cooperatives, technological sovereignty, digital inter-cooperation, cybersecurity, digital inclusion, data governance, collaborative tools, ethical transformation.
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Moderator	Jacob Matthew Drum , Director, Member Engagement and Executive Support, The Consortium for Collective Enterprise Cooperation, Canada
Panelist	• Violetta Nafpaktiti, CEO, Dot Coop, UK • Olivier Clyti, Director of Strategy, CSR, Digital, InVivo, France

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS WITH PARTICIPANTS—BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER

4:00 p.m. Room: TBA	WORKSHOP 2.1: BUILDING IMPACTFUL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS This workshop will focus on creating strong international partnerships between cooperatives. Participants will explore best practices, tools, and strategies to promote collaboration across borders. The goal is to strengthen inter-cooperation to collectively tackle shared challenges, with an emphasis on strategic and sustainable partnerships that benefit all parties involved. Key Themes: International partnerships, inter-cooperation, cross-border collaboration, partnership strategies, sustainable development. Moderator Giuseppe Guerini, President, Cooperatives Europe, Italy Panelists • Anca Voinea, International Editor, Coop News, UK • Chanèle Boulet-Gauthier, Strategy and Development Director, SOCODEVI, Canada
4:00 p.m. Room: TBA	WORKSHOP 2.2: FINDING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES: CLIMATE, INEQUALITY, HEALTH AND RESOURCES This workshop will focus on the collaborative resolution of pressing global challenges, such as climate change, social inequality, healthcare and resource scarcity. Cooperatives will discuss how they can work together to develop sustainable and impactful solutions to these global crises. The focus will be on practical examples and collaborative strategies that can have a direct impact on the environment and society. Key Themes: Collaborative resolution, environmental challenges, social justice, climate change, sustainable solutions, healthcare. Moderator Yuill Herbert, co-founder and principal of the Sustainability Solutions Group, Canada Panelists • Stefania Pedrotti, European Project Manager, Cooperazione Trentina, Italy • Tam Tran, Director Customer Success, Impact On, Canada
4:00 p.m. Room: TBA	WORKSHOP 2.3: BUILDING A GLOBAL COOPERATIVE NETWORK—HARNESSING COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE IN THE AGE OF AI This workshop will explore how cooperatives can build or strengthen global networks to share knowledge and resources, especially in the context of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI). As AI transforms all sectors, cooperatives face new opportunities and risks. How can AI support their mission, improve collaboration, and build more resilient networks? What ethical and governance frameworks are needed to keep AI aligned with cooperative values? Participants will reflect together and share ideas on how to apply cooperative principles to AI — such as data cooperatives, fair data use, and support systems that promote ethical AI. The outcomes will contribute to the Summit’s final report and help guide cooperative strategies in the digital age.

	Key Themes: Global cooperative network, collective knowledge, AI technologies, ethical AI development, data cooperatives, resource sharing, resilience, collaborative strategies, governance frameworks.
Moderator	Samuel Vance-Law , Principal Researcher, Decentralization Research Center, Germany
Panelists	• Igor Calzada, Professor, Public Policy Department, University of the Basque Country, Spain • Suha Mohamed, Innovation Director, Centre for Data Futures, King's College London, UK
5:30 p.m.	MOVING TO PLENARY SESSIONS
PLENARIES	
5:45 p.m. Room: TBA	INTERVIEW WITH ICA—ENVISIONING A COOPERATIVE ECONOMY THAT PROMOTES INCLUSION AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO WEALTH
Moderator	Arthur Bruel , television host and journalist, United Kingdom.
Speaker	To be announced
6:00 p.m. Room: TBA	INSTRUCTION FOR DAY 2
Master of ceremony	Arthur Bruel , television host and journalist, United Kingdom.
6:15 p.m.	End of the day

OCTOBER 28, 2025

PLENARIES

8:30 a.m. Room: TBA	OPENING REMARKS Master of ceremony Arthur Bruel , television host and journalist, United Kingdom. Speaker • Jean-Louis Bancel, Treasurer, RICI, France • To be announced
9:15 a.m. Room: TBA	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE WORKSHOPS—BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER Moderator Daniel Brunette , Senior Director, Co-operation and Engagement, CMC, Canada Panelists • Jacob Matthew Drum, Director, Member Engagement and Executive Support, The Consortium for Collective Enterprise Cooperation, Canada • Giuseppe Guerini, President, Cooperatives Europe, Italy • Yuill Herbert, co-founder and principal of the Sustainability Solutions Group, Canada • Samuel Vance-Law, Principal Researcher, Decentralization Research Center, Germany
9:45 a.m. Room: TBA	3: CO-CREATING FOR INCLUSIVE AND LASTING CHANGE This session will highlight the essential role of cooperatives in transforming how we live and work through innovative practices rooted in collective values. It will explore how cooperatives foster meaningful work, organizational citizenship, and community resilience, while contributing to broader ecological and social transitions. By integrating environmentally responsible investments and people-centered governance, cooperatives can accelerate the shift toward a more sustainable and equitable future. The discussion will cover strategies to support the energy transition, develop sustainable investments, and strengthen the social fabric through inclusive work models and shared values. Key Themes: Energy transition, sustainable investment, organizational change, cooperative work culture, inclusive work models, renewable solutions, resource management, green growth strategies, community resilience, climate impact. Moderator Meredith Lobel , Co-Founder/Chief Product Officer, Principle 6, USA Panelists • Nikol Ostianová, Development Lead, Treevaluation & Chair Tech. Comm. at the International Platform for Insetting, Austria • Thomas Meyer, CEO, SOCAPS, France • Rebecca Savoie, Savoie Consulting and NCBA CLUSA, USA
10:45 a.m. Room: TBA	 NETWORKING BREAK SPONSORED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS WITH PARTICIPANTS—CO-CREATING FOR INCLUSIVE AND LASTING CHANGE

11:15 a.m. Room: TBA Moderator Panelists	WORKSHOP 3.1: ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS FOR COOPERATIVES—FROM VISION TO ACTION This workshop will explore how cooperatives can integrate concrete ecological solutions into their operations to enhance sustainability and responsibility. Participants will learn about initiatives such as renewable energy use, optimized resource management, and circular economy practices. Through discussions and case studies, they will work on practical actions to reduce waste, improve energy efficiency, and promote green mobility. Key Themes: Ecological solutions, sustainability, renewable energy, resource management, circular economy, eco-actions, waste reduction, energy efficiency, green mobility, cooperative sustainability. Asia Guerreschi, Data Analyst for the Italian Regional Clust-ER Innovate and Post Doctorate at the University of Ferrara, Italy • Thomas Meyer, CEO, SOCAPS, France • Assoc. Prof. Bakiye Kılıç Topuz, Ondokuz Mayıs University (OMÜ), Faculty of Agriculture, Türkiye
11:15 a.m. Room: TBA Moderator Panelists	WORKSHOP 3.2 (AI-RELATED): AI FOR ENERGY TRANSITION—OPTIMIZING, REPAIRING, AND INNOVATING This workshop will explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can support the energy transition by optimizing renewable energy solutions and promoting a regenerative approach for systems and communities. Participants will learn how AI can enhance energy efficiency, manage smart grids, and reduce waste. The session will also highlight how cooperatives can use these technologies to strengthen resilience against environmental and social challenges. Key Themes: Artificial intelligence (AI), energy transition, renewable solution optimization, energy efficiency, smart grid management, waste reduction, regenerative approach, cooperative resilience, environmental and social challenges. David Beauchemin, Executive Director and AI Expert, Baseline, Canada • Valter Caldeira, Lead Data Scientist, T4HD, Portugal • To be announced
11:15 a.m. Room: TBA	WORKSHOP 3.3: FROM RESILIENCE TO IMPACT—COOPERATIVES AS DRIVERS OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY This workshop will explore how cooperatives can move beyond resilience and become key drivers of the circular economy. Rather than simply reacting to environmental crises, cooperatives have the potential to lead systemic change by embedding sustainability into their core practices. Participants will examine concrete strategies to mobilize their members, implement circular and sustainable energy solutions, and develop collective projects rooted in resource efficiency and regeneration. The session will offer tools and inspiration to help cooperatives scale their impact and actively shape a more circular, sustainable, and resilient future.

	Key Themes: Circular economy, resilience, ecological transition, cooperative leadership, sustainable energy, resource efficiency, member mobilization, collective action, regenerative practices, systems change, measurable impact.
Moderator	Benoit André , Executive Director of CDF (Cooperative Development Foundation of Canada), Canada
Panelists	• Engr. Sobechukwu Micah Ifemeje, Specialist in IWRM, Climate, Environmental Management, Sustainability & Circular Economy, Nigeria • To be announced

12:45 p.m.
Room: TBA



NETWORKING LUNCH SPONSORED BY
CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS

PLENARIES

1:45 p.m. Room: TBA	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE WORKSHOPS—CO-CREATING FOR INCLUSIVE AND LASTING CHANGE Moderator Daniel Brunette, Senior Director, Co-operation and Engagement, CMC, Canada Panelists • Arthur Bruel, television host and journalist, United Kingdom • Asia Guerreschi, Data Analyst for the Italian Regional Clust-ER Innovate and Post Doctorate at the University of Ferrara, Italy • David Beauchemin, Executive Director and AI Expert, Baseline, Canada • Benoit André, Executive Director of CDF (Cooperative Development Foundation of Canada), Canada
2:15 p.m. Room: TBA	COOPERATE FOR THE FUTURE—FROM INNOVATION TO ACTION—BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE IMPACT Following the workshops and previous plenary sessions, this final thematic plenary will close the summit's core discussions by creating a space for collective reflection on the ideas shared and potential courses of action explored. Without claiming to provide all the answers, it aims to plant seeds of transformation, highlighting the essential role of cooperatives and mutuals in the transition toward a more sustainable future. This roundtable will help define the key takeaways for a summary report to be released in the weeks following the event, gathering the main insights, proposals, and commitments that emerged throughout the Summit. Moderator Agnès Mathis, General Director, Cooperatives Europe, Belgium Panelists • Osamu Nakano, Vice Executive Director, Japan Workers' Co-operative Union (JWCU), Japan • Siward Zomer, Chair of Energie Samen, Netherlands. • Ilana Gotz, Senior Project Manager at EURICSE, Secretariat of ICBEC, Italy

	• Robby Tulus, International Cooperative Expert Advisor, Global Affairs Canada's Technical Assistance Partnership (TAP), Indonesia
3:15 p.m. Room: TBA	COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD – OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO IMPACT The closing session of the Global Innovation Coop Summit is a meaningful moment of shared commitments. Participants are invited to reflect on key learnings, reaffirm cooperative values, and shape concrete pledges to extend the Summit's impact well beyond Torres Vedras. This symbolic closing may include a collective statement or shared gesture that seals our common will to act cooperatively for a fairer, more inclusive, and sustainable world. Moderator To be announced Speaker • To be announced • To be announced
3:45 p.m. Room: TBA	CLOSING REMARKS FROM GICS TEAM AND CO-HOST Speakers • Joanne Lechasseur, General Secretary, ICIN, Canada •  Dr. Manuel Guerreiro, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Caixa Agrícola Torres Vedras, Portugal
16:00	END GICS 2025

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