



TORRES VERDRAS. PORTUGAL
27-28 OCTOBRE 2025

FACING TIPPING POINTS THROUGH COOPERATIVE INNOVATION

Our global community is living through pivotal challenges, and cooperative enterprises can play an important role to face 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**
- **BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER.**
- **CO-CREATING INCLUSIVE AND LASTING CHANGE**

OCTOBER 26 2025

6 p.m.




**WELCOME COCKTAIL HOSTED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS:
REMARKS FROM GUESTS OF HONOR**

8 p.m.

END OF THE DAY

OCTOBER 27, 2025

PLENARIES


9:00	OPENING REMARKS
9:30	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.
9:40	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.
10:00	1: EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO ACT 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.
11:00 Room:	 NETWORKING BREAK SPONSORED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

INNOVATION FACTORY 1—EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO ACT

11:30	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.
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WORKSHOP 1—EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO ACT

11:30	<p>WORKSHOP 1.1: LEVERAGING HUMAN CAPITAL TO DRIVE INNOVATION</p> <p>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).</p>
11:30	<p>WORKSHOP 1.2 (AI-RELATED): AI FOR EMPOWERMENT—DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING</p> <p>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.</p>
11:30	<p>WORKSHOP 1.3: ESG PRINCIPLES IN COOPERATIVES—FROM STRATEGY TO IMPACT</p> <p>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.</p>
1 p.m.	<div>  <p>NETWORKING LUNCH SPONSORED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS</p> </div>
PLENARIES	
2 p.m.	<p>WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE WORKSHOPS—EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO ACT</p>
2:30 p.m.	<p>2: BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
3 p.m.	<div>  <p>NETWORKING BREAK SPONSORED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS</p> </div>

BREAKOUT SESSIONS


INNOVATION FACTORY 2—BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER

3:30 p.m.	<p>COOPERATIVES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND COLLECTIVE STRATEGIES</p> <p>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>MureWeb</i>, this space will enable a smooth exchange of ideas between the audience, invited experts, and the facilitator.</p> <p>Starting from shared observations, 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.</p>
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INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS WITH PARTICIPANTS—BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER


3:30 p.m.	<p>WORKSHOP 2.1: BUILDING IMPACTFUL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>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.</p>
3:30 p.m.	<p>WORKSHOP 2.2: FINDING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES: CLIMATE, INEQUALITY, HEALTH AND RESOURCES</p> <p>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, including innovative financial instruments (such as complementary currencies and public-private crowdfunding initiatives) and new organizational models for expanding financial services in rural and remote areas.</p>
3:30 p.m.	<p>WORKSHOP 2.3: BUILDING A GLOBAL COOPERATIVE NETWORK—HARNESSING COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE IN THE AGE OF AI</p> <p>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.</p>

5 p.m.	MOVING TO PLENARY SESSIONS
PLENARIES	
5:15 p.m.	INTERVIEW WITH ICA—ENVISIONING A COOPERATIVE ECONOMY THAT PROMOTES INCLUSION AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO WEALTH
5:45 p.m.	INSTRUCTION FOR DAY 2
6 p.m.	END OF THE DAY

OCTOBER 28, 2025	
PLENARIES	
9:00	OPENING REMARKS
9:15	WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE WORKSHOPS—BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER
9:45	3: CO-CREATING INCLUSIVE AND LASTING CHANGE <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
10:45	 NETWORKING BREAK SPONSORED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
INNOVATION FACTORY 3—CO-CREATING INCLUSIVE AND LASTING CHANGE	
11:15	INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE—FROM EXTRACTIVE FINANCE TO RESTORATIVE FINANCE <p>This interactive co-creation exchange, involving participants, the facilitator, and the speaker, supported by a digital application, will explore the transition from extractive finance to restorative finance and the essential role of cooperatives in this shift. Together, participants will identify possible actions to adopt sustainable investment strategies, align financial activities with environmental and social goals, and support the ecological transition. The discussions will also cover financial instruments such as impact investing and green bonds. Emerging ideas will be collected and shared with the whole group to foster collective reflection and inspire concrete practices.</p>

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

11:15	<p>WORKSHOP 3.1: ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS FOR COOPERATIVES—FROM VISION TO ACTION</p> <p>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.</p>
11:15	<p>WORKSHOP 3.2 (AI-RELATED): AI FOR ENERGY TRANSITION—OPTIMIZING, REPAIRING, AND INNOVATING</p> <p>This workshop will explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can support 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.</p>
11:15	<p>WORKSHOP 3.3: FROM RESILIENCE TO IMPACT—COOPERATIVES AS DRIVERS OF THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION</p> <p>This workshop will explore how cooperatives can shift from merely adapting to environmental crises to proactively accelerating the ecological transition. Participants will examine concrete strategies to mobilize their members, adopt sustainable energy solutions, and develop collective projects. The session will provide tools and ideas to transform cooperatives into key drivers of change while measuring and amplifying their positive impact on a sustainable and resilient future.</p>
12:45	<div>  <p>NETWORKING LUNCH SPONSORED BY CAIXA AGRÍCOLA DE TORRES VEDRAS</p> </div>
PLENARIES	
1:45 p.m.	<p>WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE WORKSHOPS— CO-CREATING INCLUSIVE AND LASTING CHANGE</p>
2:15 p.m.	<p>COOPERATE FOR THE FUTURE—FROM INNOVATION TO ACTION—BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE IMPACT</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

3:15 p.m.	<p>INNOVATING TOGETHER TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD — A COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT FOR LASTING IMPACT</p> <p>The closing session of the Global Innovation Coop Summit is a meaningful moment of shared commitment. Participants are invited to reflect on key learning, reaffirm cooperative values, and shape concrete pledges to extend the Summit’s impact well beyond Torres Vedras.</p> <p>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.</p>
3:45 p.m.	CLOSING REMARKS FROM GICS TEAM AND CO-HOST
4 p.m.	END GICS 2025