

30 November 2020.

Subject: The ICA - EU Framework Partnership Agreement

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is an international non-profit organisation established in 1895 to promote the co-operative model worldwide. The ICA represents over 300 co-operative federations and organisations across more than 100 countries.

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The members of ICA are mostly national level co-operative federations, but also individual co-operative organisations and government offices dealing with co-operatives. Operating from a global office in Brussels, Belgium, ICA is organized in four Regional Offices: Europe, Americas, Africa and Asia-Pacific.

In March 2016, the International Co-operative Alliance entered into a political agreement, a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the European Commission ushering in a new phase of collaboration on strengthening co-operatives as development actors. The Partnership is part of the EU's commitment to support the Civil Society Organisations.

The objectives of the ICA-EU Partnership “Co-operatives in Development” are in line with the European Consensus on Development adopted in May 2017. This document highlights the importance of co-operatives as key actors in the implementation of the SDGs and recognizes co-operatives being “instrumental partners in reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized people”, as well as

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promoting “better productivity of family farms” and boosting “the provision of local services as well as inclusive and green business models”.¹

As one of the political and strategic priorities of the ICA-EU Partnership focuses on building relations between EU Delegations and our member organisations, we would like to express our support in this matter.

For further information on the ICA-EU Partnership, please contact one of the ICA offices.

Yours faithfully,



Ariel Guarco
President

¹ Cf. European Consensus on Development:
https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf

EU DELEGATIONS GUIDELINE

A GUIDELINE FOR MEMBERS ABOUT HOW TO BETTER ADVOCATE TOWARDS EU DELEGATIONS



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ENTRY POINT

GUIDE FOR DELEGATION (EUD) ENGAGEMENT

2030 AGENDA

The Cooperatives share common agenda points with the EU and they are working toward similar goals.

The EU has a policy framework to interpret the global agenda (the new European Consensus on Development) which enshrines its commitment to partnership with civil society (and builds on the Communication: “The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with civil society in external relations (COM(2012)0492).”

Your knowledge and experience should shape the policies that are implemented by the EU and projects should be designed to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.



PROGRAM CYCLE OF THE EU

The cycle of program cycle development gives you entry points for engagement. Cooperatives are a key stakeholder in the policy dialogue that takes place throughout the cycle.

FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

ICA global and regional offices are signatories and therefore privileged development partners of the European Commission

CSO ROADMAP

This tool for improving impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions aims to develop a common strategic framework for EUD's and Member States' engagement with civil society at country level. CSOs, including cooperatives, should be consulted during the development of this document.

1

ANALYSE EU STRATEGY

3

MEET THE EUD

2

PLAN YOUR ACTION

4

MAINTAIN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

OVERVIEW

5

MONITOR YOUR PROGRESS


WHAT

Understanding the current priorities of the EU at country level and how the work of cooperatives already does or can support these priorities.

WHY

The EU upholds the principles of development effectiveness and therefore commits to: working toward country priorities; working with other donors via joint programming; and working in partnership with multiple actors at national level, notably civil society.

HOW

1. **Identify priorities (including sectors), funding and timelines of EU work.**
 2. **Compare the EU priorities to the cooperatives' strategy and priorities in country.**
 3. **Determine where there are potential opportunities to engage.**
 4. **Make sure you exchange with the Policy Officer of the ICA Regional Office.**
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KEY QUESTIONS



- What priorities is the EU focusing on in your country?
- Where is your added-value?
- What experience do you have that they should know about or could benefit from?
- Where can you support the work of the EU?
- Is the EUD roadmap available? If so, does it mention civil society and the COM 2012?

SUPPORT

ICA HQ
Policy Officers at the ICA Regional Offices

TOOLS

- EU country strategy papers
- Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP)
- Multi Annual Action Plan (MAAP)
- Capacity4dev page on Roadmaps
- EU Country Roadmaps for Engagement with Civil Society
- EUDs website (when available)



PLAN YOUR ACTION

WHAT

Determine what you would like to accomplish with the EUDs in terms of policy, programming and networking, by when and with whom.

WHY

It is important to have a strategy for engaging with the EUD, so that you can be prepared in your interactions and monitor your progress.

HOW

1. **Prioritize your potential areas of engagement (from analysis in step 1).**
2. **Work in a coalition with the Federation(s) within your country.**
3. **Describe your approach to monitor your plan (Action Plan).**
4. **Prepare the information you need into a “pitch” or short, focused presentation, which explains who you are, what you bring and any questions you would like to ask.**
5. **Make sure you exchange with the Policy Officer of the ICA Regional Office, and ask for proper EUD contacts.**





KEY QUESTIONS



Are there concrete actions within policy and/or programming, formulated from past work, that may be of interest to the EUD and can be shared

SUPPORT

Policy Officers at the ICA Regional Offices

3 MEET THE EUD

WHAT

Interaction with the EUD (first meeting or one of a regularly scheduled meeting)

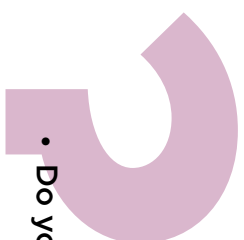
WHY

You are building a relationship that should be ongoing.

HOW

1. **Make sure you are introduced to the EUD by the ICA Regional Office**
2. **Ask for face to face meeting to introduce cooperatives or update on work.**
3. **Take your “pitch” and any relevant materials to share your knowledge.**
4. **Ask about opportunities for engagement.**
5. **Take notes and share your meeting minutes with your EUD contact(s) and with the Regional Policy Officer of ICA for further comments.**
6. **Invite EUD contact to relevant events**





KEY QUESTIONS to be addressed to the EUDs:

- Do you have questions about the work of cooperatives?
- What consultations or events can I engage in? (consultations , budgeting and programming exercises, events, etc.)
- Where/how can we best share our work with you?
- Are there upcoming funding opportunities in this area?



TOOLS

- ICA Political Support Letter of introduction
- Visibility brochure
- Your pitch/presentation
- Relevant material on Cooperatives' work or lessons learned (from your Federation and/or the ICA Regional Office)

4 MAINTAIN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

WHAT

Regularly keep in contact with the EUD.

WHY

To maintain and strengthening the relationship.

HOW

1. **Keep updated contacts.**
2. **Keep in touch via meetings or information sharing regularly. Invitations, visits, etc. should be ongoing.**
3. **Invite your EUD contacts for a project visit or to events and use the ICA Regional Office to push for follow up/other entry points.**





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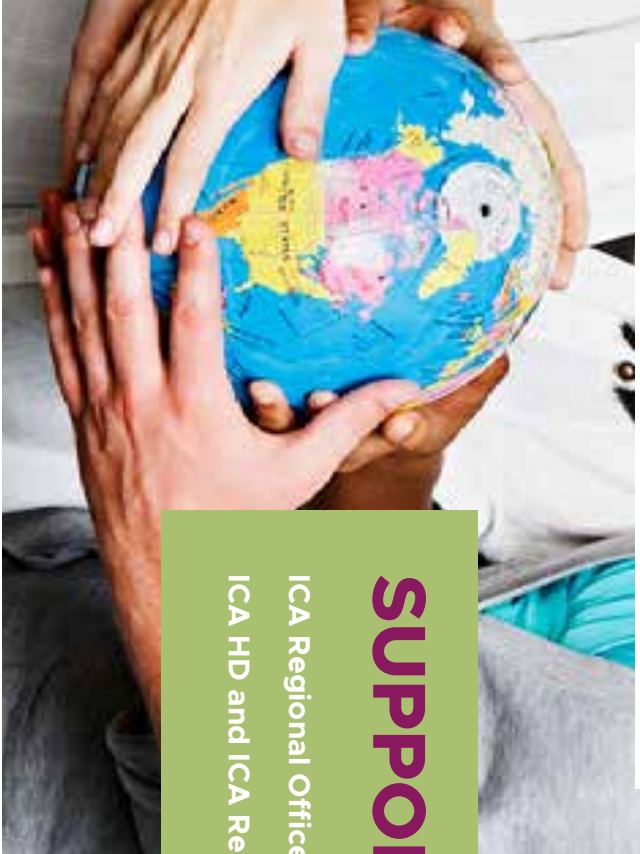


- Did you follow up on the agreements taken during the first meeting?
- Have you contacted the EUD in the last two months?
- Have your priorities of work or main point of contact changed?
- Do you have new information to share with your contacts?
- Do you need updated information from the EUD?

KEY QUESTIONS

SUPPORT

ICA Regional Office support in getting information, discussing strategy or contacting individuals
ICA HD and ICA Regional Office support for event invitations



5 MONITOR YOUR PROGRESS

WHAT

Regularly review your progress in collaboration with the EUD and adapt as needed.

WHY

It is important to understand if your collaboration is moving forward in terms of policy, projects and event engagement.

HOW

1. Update your Action Plan (2 x year)
2. Update the Coop EUD Monitor Sheet (every 3 months)



KEY QUESTIONS

- Have you developed new relationships with EUD staff?
- Were you invited to general meetings/ workshops in the EUD?
- Has the EUD become more attentive to the work of cooperatives?



TOOLS

- Progress reports from trainings
- Action Plan
- Coop EUD Monitor Sheet



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