



KINGDOM OF MOROCCO
MINISTRY OF TOURISM, AIR TRANSPORT,
HANDICRAFTS AND SOCIAL ECONOMY



Press release

Co-operative Development Conference For The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) | Feb 4-6, 2019 | Marrakech, Morocco

Under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI may God glorify him and assist him, the Ministry of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicrafts, Social Economy and the office of Cooperation Development is organizing a Co-operative Development Conference for the Middle East and North Africa in Marrakesh from 4th to 6th February 2019. The conference was organized in partnership with the two regional arms of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA); ICA- Africa and ICA Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), with the support from the [ICA-EU Partnership](#) on Co-operatives in Development: People centred Businesses in Action. Under the theme: *"Encouraging partnership between co-operatives and strengthening collective actions to achieve the objectives of sustainable development,"* the overall objectives of the Conference are: to identify the reality of co-operatives in the Middle East and North Africa, to define a common vision and strategy for the development of co-operatives in this region and to promote economic exchanges and experiences between them.

The Conference is expected to bring together nearly 200 participants from the ICA regions, representatives of development organizations and agencies, co-operatives and civil society networks of 14 countries. The Conference will witness high-level speeches by Mr. Mohamed Sajid, Minister of Tourism and Air Transport, Handicrafts and Social Economy, and the President of the Union of Arab Cooperatives.

Participants will discuss the institutional and legal environment for co-operatives in the MENA region, the current business climate, as well as their role in delivering the Sustainable Development Agenda. The recommendations of this international forum is expected to create a roadmap for the development of co-operative movement in the Middle East, North Africa region.



Co-funded
by the
European Union