

WHAT IS THE INTEGRATED CATALAN COOPERATIVE?

It's a transitional initiative which promotes networking and self management in all aspects of life, the reclaiming and development of relationships based on trust and mutual support, the protection of people before banks, the state and all the other capitalist structures.

The **CIC** started its journey in May 2010, with the first council, and defines itself like this:

Cooperative like a project which practices political and economic self management with the equal participation of all members and which uses the cooperative's legal body strategically to protect these practices.

Integrated because it encompasses all the basic elements of an economic system: production, consumption, funding and social currency, and also, because it wants to integrate all the areas necessary to live and reproduce life.

Catalan because it is organized and operates within the Catalan territorial boundaries.

WHICH ARE ITS OBJECTIVES?

To build a fabric of economic relations which are cooperative and supportive between people, of social enterprise projects which are outside the rules of the current market and which are not controlled by the state.

To provide a space to promote and develop new projects which are responding to real needs as well as products and services which are local and environmental.

To operate through self management, networking with other projects and learning from experience in order to become a seed for a different society, cooperative and communal, which will develop in a parallel way to the current capitalist system.

As short term objectives, we come together collectively to:

- Reduce our expenses in and extend our mutual support, help build an economic system based on communal economy, exchange transactions through social currencies and a shared management of the resources.
- Provide instruments to favour self employment and stimulate unemployed people or who want to change their occupation.
- Facilitate a collective alternative for those who, by choice or necessity, want to live outside of state and banks' control.
- Promote the self management of the territory, extending networking and facilitating the creation of local hubs.
- To give impulse to and promote the generation and consolidation of communities aimed at self sufficiency.
- To implement a public cooperative system, through which we can cover our basic needs in a progressive and self managed way.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

- Interest in the common good and the importance of our own well being.
- Letting go of materialism.
- Cooperation and solidarity in social transformation.
- Transition based on day to day practice in order to advance and make utopia a reality.
- Direct relationship between practical action and its theoretical basis.
- To create an inclusive and networking cooperative for all society.

SOCIETY

- Social justice and equity.
- Equality in difference.
- Self realisation and mutual support.
- Commitment and self evaluation.
- Sharing our practices with all levels of society.

ECONOMY

- Attend to the needs of people before whatever else interest, and each one according to his/her means.
- Money is a measure of exchange between people and communities, and its accumulation is excluded.
- We will promote other means of exchange without money: free/gift economy, direct barter and communal economy.
- Establish fair economical relations between producer and consumers. The Cooperative will orient the calculation of a fair price on the basis of cost, the needs of the producer and the consumers.
- The Cooperative will inform producers of the consumers needs in order to orient production.
- Ecocoops (a social currency of the Cooperative), are never redeemable in and will not accrue any type of interest on their transaction.

ECOLOGY

- Ecology and Permaculture.
- De growth and Sustainability.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

- Direct democracy, participatory and inclusive.
- Self management and de-centralization.
- Transparency.
- From local to global.
- Assemblerism (Council of equals).

Besides our general principles, we are also responding to the call for an integrated revolution which we see as a historic process for the construction of a new society based on values such as autonomy and self management and outside of the current paradigm of state control, capitalism and all that which stands in the way of respectful relationships amongst people and the environment. This implies a conscientious activism, individual and collective, for the betterment and the restoration of qualities and values that can enable us to live together. This also implies the construction of new forms and organizational structures in all areas of life which can guarantee equality in decision making and equanimity in satisfying everyone's vital needs.

Principles of the Integrated Revolution: integrarevolucio.net/en/revolucio-integrallbases



**cooperativa
integral
catalana**

MORE INFORMATION

- Web: cooperativa.cat
- Self managed social network: cooperativa.ecoxarxes.cat
- E-mail: info@cooperativaintegral.cat
- Tel.: **935 535 611**
- Social currency: www.ces.org.za | integralces.net
- To become a member: alta.cooperativaintegral.cat
- Donations: cooperativa.cat/donacions

HOW THE COOPERATIVE WORKS

In coordinating a common economy, we facilitate the autonomous operation of productive processes which can contribute to the common good each according to its productive strength.

We can be insolvent and unemployed as individuals, according to the system and the current juridical framework, but at the same time we can live a self regulated life through the establishment of relationships of mutual support and without having to worry about our past debts.

Within the cooperative we can shelter each other and protect ourselves legally establishing a relationship of reciprocity towards a common good.

SELF MANAGEMENT AND DECISION MAKING

We promote decentralized and autonomous decision making processes. Our assemblies (general councils) are totally open, decisions are taken by consensus and all previous decisions are revocable. All issues that affect the common areas of the Cooperative are debated, reflected upon, deliberated and decided together during the permanent assembly, which gathers every 2 weeks, and at the monthly assembly days which are itinerant and take place in different areas of Catalunya. jornades.cooperativaintegral.cat

We keep an interdependent balance and an ongoing communication between the Cooperative's assemblies and the working groups which carry the day to day tasks in an autonomous manner, with their own assemblies and within the general principles commonly agreed upon. The function of the working groups is to develop the common good objectives and to endure that decisions are acted upon and taken to their completion.

COMMON SERVICES

These are those projects which are funded collectively because they are of collective interest. Community services can be self funded through fund raising, but generally they depend on the general budget. Some of these services are computer, telephone and media, infrastructures, and all those offered by the people who participate.

TOWARDS A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC SYSTEM

We organize collectively to generate initiatives which can cover the basic needs of all involved, to recover that which is public, like the common good, neither from the state or the private sector. These tasks are carried through by the various "offices" (working groups) in the areas of food distribution, health, education, housing, transport, science and technology, art and culture, etc.

- The collective provision of food is organized through the **Central d'Abastiment Catalana (CAC)**, which looks after the transport, manages the stock and distributes to the various warehouses, which are local hubs for the storage of local produce. abastiment@cooperativaintegral.cat
- In the area of health, we are working on the construction of a **Cooperative Public System** (Sistema de Salut Pública Cooperativista, SSPC). salut.cooperativa.cat
- As far as land and **housing**, we are reclaiming farms and properties which are not in use or with mortgage problems etc. To develop collective projects and housing on a lease basis, from a perspective that goes beyond private propriety. habitatge.cooperativa.cat
- On the theme of **education**, we give support and initiate the creation, consolidation and networking of educational projects which work with "educació viva" (living education). educacio@cooperativaintegral.cat
- We also include **science and technology**: xctit.cooperativa.cat
- And **transport**: transport.cooperativa.cat

TERRITORIAL NETWORK

The cooperative operates within the catalan territory through the local hubs of self organized projects. They operate autonomously and can be linked to the network or not.

The **ecoxarxes (eco networks)** are bioregional networks which operate together to create alternative economical forums, opportunities for learning and mutual support on the basis of sustainability, proximity and solidarity. Its most distinctive characteristic is the use of a social currency, which allows a system of reciprocal exchange within the territory, bypassing the use of official currencies. ecoxarxes.cat

Each hub operates through assemblies, it is self governed and autonomous, can freely choose which collective tools wants to use and with which it wants to associate with.

We also are part of the network without borders of all the integrated cooperatives, which are distributed all around and of which we are promoters.

integralkooperativoj.net

AUTONOMY IN THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM

We start from a transitional strategy. We promote the use of economies which are based in mutual trust, in the art of sharing such as communal economies. We also encourage direct barter or exchange, the use of local currencies in order to diminish the use of conventional money and our dependency on a central banking system.

The social currencies which are used within the cooperative are some of the currencies which are being used within the Catalan territory. For those who don't live in areas where there is a local currency, the **ECOcoop** allows the exchange of goods and services between people from different "ecoxarxes".

SELF EMPLOYMENT AND COOPERATIVE WORK.

Any productive project which accepts the general principles of the cooperative can make use of all the legal tools which the cooperative has developed and in this way protect its activity from the economic traps and the state's bureaucracy.

The **work bursary** is a tool in order to channel job offers and requests of individuals, groups and cooperatives in order to support people who are out of work or who want to acquire new skills through one off jobs or regular tasks.

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SELF FUNDING

CASX (Cooperativa d'autofinançament social en xarxa) (Cooperative network of social self funding) is a financing cooperative without interest, self managed and horizontal. It's an alternative to traditional banking, based upon debt, where we can entrust that our savings and look for funding for our projects. casx.cat

Coopfunding is a crowdfunding cooperative platform which promotes self-management and facilitates fund raising for cooperativ projects.

coopfunding.net

ECONOMIC DESOBEDIENCE

Is part of the strategy we promote in order to stop giving our resources to the state and redistribute them instead amongst communal causes. The manual for economic disobedience provides information on how to act individually and collectively. derechoderebelion.net

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS

There are different ways to be part of the cooperative:

- **Cooperative members.** They want to be part of and support the cooperative, network with other projects and use our social currency.
- **Productive members.** They carry out productive activity and want to offer it to and access the Cooperative's network.
- **Self employed members.** They need the legal tools of the cooperative in order to protect their productive activity which is generally carried out through and offered to society at large.
- **Sympathizing members.** In order to support the cooperative and their own activity they register as members without having any rights within the cooperative, and therefore they don't pay any fees.

Members can be individuals or collective, the fees are the same for both.

FEES AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

The initial fee will be preferably in or social currency, either ECOcoops or any other territorial network's, as long as the member is not in debt to the system. There is also the option to give a contribution in work towards communal tasks, the value of this is 5 monetary units per hour.

In general terms, we speak of monetary units (UM) referring to either or social currencies.

- Productive membership: initial fee + quarterly fee.
- Self employed members: initial fee + a variable quarterly fee which will depend on the level of economic activity according to defined criteria.

Cooperative member	Euro	Eco	Time for the commons
Individual	30 EUR	30 ECO	6 h.
Collective	60 EUR	60 ECO	12 h.

BY WAY OF CONCLUSION

The **Cooperativa Integral Catalana** is a holistic proposal which opens up a new way of doing things, a collective experience where we can be the protagonists of our own life. We have the opportunity to organize ourselves in a free and conscious way, acting together with determination. The first step is the desire and willingness to take personal choices.

We are a network in the process of being woven, a network of people and projects directed towards self management and emancipation. At the same time we are a tool for transition, of disobedience and self management, a grass root movement which spans all areas of life and integrates them, recovering human relationships based in trust and proximity.

The Cooperative aims to propose solutions to our reality without getting lost in bureaucracy's labyrinths and state politics. It is an environment which gives special attention to conscientiousness in order to arrive at a really free and individual identity. We want to grow and so we sow seeds, we want to love and so we dance, we want to dream and so we play.