



**International Health  
Co-operative Organisation**

Sector of the International  
Cooperative Alliance

# Cooperative contribution to healthcare

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International Health Cooperative Organisation, President

# Global overview

- 100 million households worldwide enjoy access to healthcare through cooperatives
- Health cooperatives are present in 76 countries
- More than 3,300 cooperatives worldwide
- Global turnover 15 billion USD



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# Global overview

- Cooperatives bring together health professionals & users
- Cooperatives have a long-term perspective, seeking social and economic sustainability
- Cooperatives have a huge capacity to adapt to different socio-economic contexts



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# Cooperative healthcare within health systems



- Regulation, financing mechanisms, and public coverage extension determine the environment for cooperative development
- Cooperatives are better positioned to overcome market and government failures in the health sector



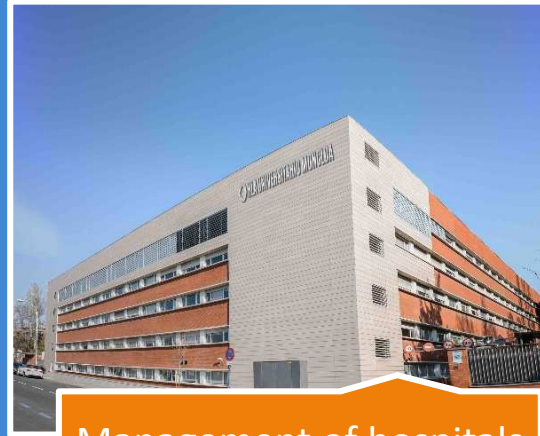
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# Sectors of activity of health cooperatives



Primary & specialised care



Management of hospitals & health facilities



Health insurance



Socio-healthcare services



Prevention & Health literacy



Pharmacies



# A suitable structure for every need

Generate jobs, enhance working and economic conditions and ensure freedom of professional judgment

Worker cooperatives



Cooperative pharmacies ensure high-quality medicines supply at a fair and affordable price

Production cooperatives



Response to a lack of health provision, difficulties in access healthcare or failure to care for certain groups of population

User cooperatives



Cooperatives involving different groups of interest

Multi-stakeholder cooperatives



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# The benefits of cooperatives in health

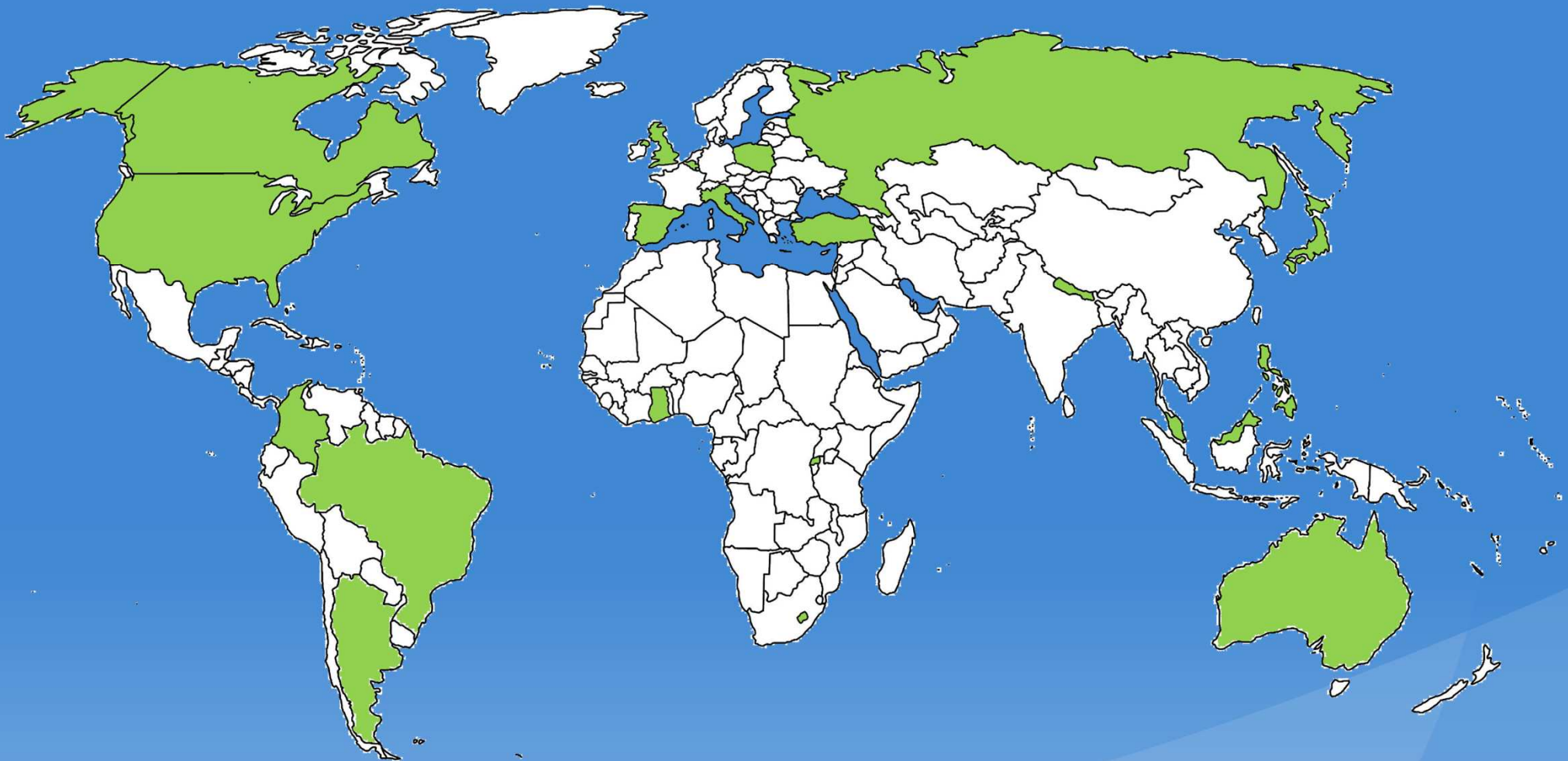
- Improvements in healthcare provision can be reached if resources are pooled and health professionals enjoy better working conditions
- Cooperatives are good at combining professionals' skills and financial resources to respond to healthcare market failures
- Cooperatives are a rational alternative in health sector to investor-owned companies
- Cooperatives' growth has been a reaction to increasing demand for health services and the growing difficulties faced by governments to manage rising healthcare expenditure
- Cooperatives address specific groups' needs, that otherwise might be unattended
- Cooperatives easily adapt to changing economic, social and political conditions



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# Worldwide examples



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# Health cooperatives in Spain



Fundació • Fundación  
**ESPRIU**  
30  
anys • años



Dr Josep Espriu's vision:

- Social medicine
- Relationship of trust between doctor and patient
- Patients should be free to choose their doctor
- Doctors should enjoy the necessary independence to practise their profession



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# Health cooperatives in Spain

- Non-profit, benefits are reinvested
- All stakeholders participate in decision-making processes
- Willing to collaborate with public healthcare
- Strong commitment to the community and society



**Lavinia, S. Coop.**



**ASISA** 

# Thank you



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