

7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same core principles and values. Listed below are the seven core cooperative principles that we follow for the greater good of our community, credit union, and members.



PRINCIPLE #1 Voluntary and Open Membership

We are a voluntary organization, open to all people able to use our services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.



PRINCIPLE #2 Democratic Member Control

We are a democratic organization controlled by our members—those who buy the goods or use our services—who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.



PRINCIPLE #3 Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of our credit union. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the credit union rather than on the capital invested.



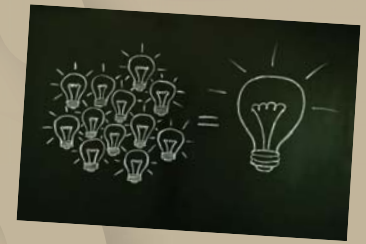
PRINCIPLE #4 Autonomy and Independence

We are autonomous, a self-help organization controlled by our members. If we enter into agreements with other organizations or raise capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintains the credit union's autonomy.



PRINCIPLE #5 Education, Training and Information

We provide education and training for our members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their credit union. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of credit unions.



PRINCIPLE #6 Cooperation among Cooperatives

We serve our members most effectively and strengthen the credit union movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.



PRINCIPLE #7 Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, we work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by our members.