



Co-operative Housing International  
A Sector of the International  
Co-operative Alliance

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# Cooperatives as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage and Cooperative Housing International (CHI)

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# Cooperatives as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage



- On the 30th of November 2016 the cooperative idea was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- This decision was announced by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO in Addis Abeba.
- The **‘idea and practice of organizing shared interests in cooperatives’** had been submitted in March 2015 as the first german nomination to the Representative List. The Representative List illustrates the diversity of living cultural expressions from all over the world and is an important testimonial of human creativity.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# Cooperatives as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

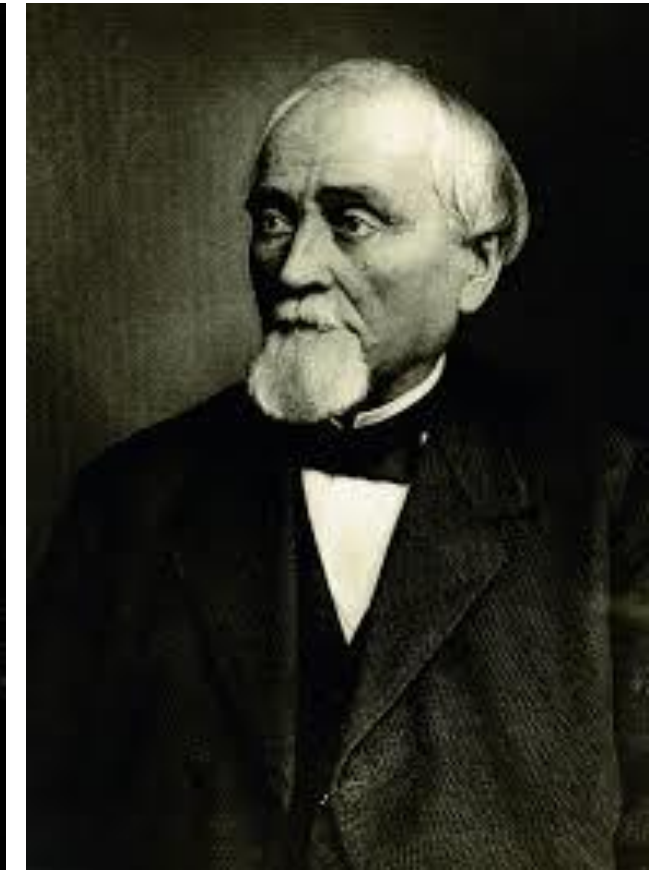
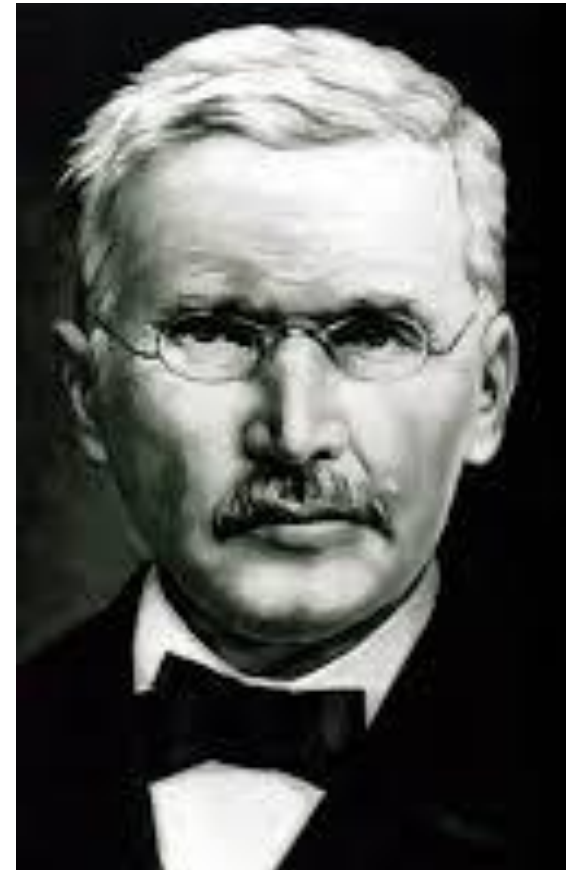


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- The inscription of the cooperative idea is supposed to enhance its visibility and contribute to a growing awareness of its global significance.
- The decision of UNESCO is an important signal as well as an acknowledgement for the dedication of many people, who are working in cooperatives all over the world. The housing cooperatives organized in the member organisations of GdW in Germany are a part of this, which we can be proud of.





# Cooperative Housing International (CHI)

Is the Sectoral Organization of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Founded in 1895, it is one of the oldest and one of the largest ones measured by the number of people represented: **more than one billion cooperative members on the planet.**

CHI was established to promote the development of cooperative housing in all countries, and in particular developing countries, as an economic and social contribution to the problem of providing shelter.



## housing co-operatives: people first!

Housing co-operatives around the world take many forms: rental, ownership and co-ownership. Co-ops are controlled by their members who have a vote in decisions about their housing. It is not just another place to stay; it is home.

### collective ownership means:

- AFFORDABILITY** – Fair, decent and viable rents.
- DECENT PLACE TO LIVE** – members balance their priorities and the co-operative's budget.
- SECURITY** – The management structure of co-operatives gives members the possibility to address security issues and implement solutions for the benefit of all.
- TRANSPARENCY** – Major decisions must receive the approval of the members, a good way to ensure efficient and proper management.
- COMMITMENT TOWARDS SOCIAL GOALS** – Through the co-operative, members become aware of social issues and decide together to act.
- PERSONAL GROWTH** – Housing co-operative members acquire knowledge and skills to deal with finances, buildings and people.

### numbers:

<b>Egypt</b> 1/3 of Egyptians are members of housing co-operatives	<b>Canada</b> 250,000 people live in housing co-operatives	<b>Chile</b> 946 housing co-ops	<b>Pakistan</b> 2,686 housing co-operatives represent 12% of the total housing stock.	<b>Sweden</b> 1,6 million people live in housing co-operatives
<b>Germany</b> 4,6 million people living in housing co-operatives	<b>USA</b> 6,400 housing co-operatives with 1,200,000 dwellings	<b>Austria</b> 15% of the total multi-stock and housing co-operatives	<b>Norway</b> 15% of total housing stock is cooperative housing	<b>Poland</b> 11 million people live in cooperative housing

## Vision

Through our efforts, cooperative housing will win recognition and respect throughout the world for its unlimited potential and practical achievement in providing secure, affordable shelter controlled by those who call it home.

## Mission

Cooperative Housing International (CHI) unites, represents, promotes and serves the international cooperative housing movement.

## Mandate

We promote, encourage and help in the establishment of housing cooperatives everywhere. We strengthen and encourage good governance principles and foster an inclusive cooperative culture. And we join with the broader cooperative movement to promote cooperatives as the people-centered form of business enterprise.

# The Cooperative World



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CHI Membership: 29 members



# Membership



# Cooperative Principles



1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Co-operation among Co-operatives
7. Concern for Community



# Transferability of the Cooperative Model



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Could the co-operative experience be a model for community-led housing all over the world?

The number of new housing co-ops is still very small but momentum is growing.

Cooperative housing can be the **solution** not the **problem**.







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Die Wohnungswirtschaft  
Deutschland



Thank you for listening!