



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Montréal, September 27, 28, 29 2023

ACT NOW FOR A CIRCULAR AND DIGITAL FUTURE, THE COOPERATORS WAY

With the theme, “**Act Now for a circular and digital future, the cooperator's way,**” the Montréal event will focus on practical and realistic actions. Together, we will examine how we benefit our members and communities. Join us to have your say, and let's transform the way we do business in a circular economy and digital society.

SEPTEMBER 27	
18:00	Opening ceremony—Speech by distinguished guests
Master of ceremony	Karina Lehoux , Founder and President of Eklosion, Professional Facilitator, Canada
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federico Pasin, Director, HEC Montréal, Canada • Luc Rabouin, Executive committee member responsible for economic, commercial and design development, City of Montreal; Canada • Graciela Fernández Quintas, President of ICA Americas, Uruguay (vidéo) • Karine Awashish, co-founder, Coop Nitaskinan, Canada • Jean Nolet, CEO, Coop Carbone, Canada
19:00	Cocktail
20:00	End of the day

SEPTEMBER 28	
8:30	PLENARY SESSION - Opening remarks
Master of ceremony	Karina Lehoux , Founder and President of Eklosion, Professional Facilitator, Canada
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Kay, President of the Board of Directors, Cooperatives Mutuels Canada, Canada • Marie-Josée Paquette, General Director of Conseil Québécois de la Coopération et de la Mutualité, Canada

<p>9:00</p> <p>Interviewer</p> <p>Speaker</p>	<p>PLENARY SESSION – An interview with Coopoint – MC2M Solidarity Coop</p> <p>Opportunities and Challenges of Implementing Principle 6: Cooperatives Supporting Cooperatives on the International Level: In today's interconnected world, the global cooperative movement is recognizing the significance and impact of collaboration and mutual support. Principle 6, "Cooperation Among Cooperatives," emphasizes the importance of solidarity and cooperation within the cooperative sector. Cooperatives around the world have experienced growth, however, in most economic sectors their contribution to the global GNP has decreased, giving more power and control to transnational corporations. This presentation will explore opportunities and challenges on how to maximize on Principle #6, and areas for collaboration to grow the cooperative movement globally, and in all sectors.</p> <p>Stéphane Desjardins, Editor-in-Chief of CoopointCoop - MC2M Solidarity Coop, Canada</p> <p>Paul Cabaj, Aktika Sustainability Solutions, Canada</p>
<p>9:30</p> <p>Speaker</p>	<p>PLENARY SESSION - THE LIMITS TO GROWTH - A JUST TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY WITHIN PLANETARY BOUNDARIES</p> <p>Most Circular Economy projects and policies have focused on 'how' to produce circularly but not really on 'what', 'how much' or 'for whom' to produce. The 'what' question relates to issues of democracy, participation, gender and global justice that are in turn connected to the capacity of any society to reflect about what kind of technological futures its members desire. The success of a transition towards a sustainable Circular Economy does not merely depend on the development of new technologies – artefacts or processes – but also in the reconfiguration of the governance of productive processes into more democratic and participatory mechanisms of designing and managing technology. Not only the ecological transition that humanity needs to face environmental crises will need to take into account the physical limits of the planet, it will also have to be necessarily just, inclusive and democratic.</p> <p>Mario Pansera, Director and ERC Grantee Vigo's Post-Growth Innovation Lab, Spain</p>
<p>10:00</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Panelists</p>	<p>PLENARY SESSION - Let's get CIRCULAR</p> <p>We live in a world where our natural resources are overexploited and the fight against climate change is not getting easier. Our way of producing and consuming must be more sustainable and requires cross sector collaboration and systemic change in behavior and thinking. This session will explore what being circular really means, circularity strategies and innovative ways for all participants to act on their concern for communities. Together, we will explore pathways toward a circular and cooperative way of doing business. This panel will introduce the central circularity strategies and the policy and supporting ecosystem for cooperatives and their partners to advance circularity in practice. What are opportunities for cooperatives in the emerging circular economy policies? Are cooperatives acting on these opportunities, and are they equipped to do so? What cooperation between cooperatives but also with other actors is needed to advance circularity and transition to socially just and sustainable societies?</p> <p>Karina Lehoux, Founder and President of Eklosion, Professional Facilitator, Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pete Westall, Chief Values Officer at the Midcounties Co-Operative, United Kingdom • Nina Elomaa, Senior Vice President Sustainability at S-ryhmä / S Group SOK Corporation, Finland • Emmanuel Raufflet, Professeur HEC Montréal and co-holder, Circular Economy Research Network of Quebec, Canada • Paul Hazen, Executive Director OCDC, United-States • Antonella Noya, Head of the Unit on Social Economy and Innovation at the Center for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OCDC, France
<p>11:00</p>	<p>NETWORKING BREAK</p>

Let's get CIRCULAR Breakout sessions – INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS WITH PARTICIPANTS	
11:30	<p>Circular business models for cooperatives: This session reviews all circularity strategies and the business model of cooperatives in circular economy. Based on a pioneering research project in Quebec, we discuss the cartography of cooperative business models, and introduce tools for advancing circularity within a cooperative but also between cooperatives. How can these tools help cooperatives? How do they support inter-cooperation?</p> <p>Facilitator Rafael Ziegler, Ph. D. Director of the Alphonse and Dorimène Desjardins International Institute for Cooperatives, HEC Montréal, Canada</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaëlle Généreux, Project Manager TIESS, Canada • Cindy Vaucher, Co-founder of Retourzy - returnable containers sharing service for food service, Canada • Akinori Suzuki, Head of Environmental Promotion Group, Co-op Sapporo, Japan
11:30	<p>Community energy: While circular economy is often associated with recycling, an important leverage point for circular economy is more upstream: the choice of energy sources is a central first circularity choice at the level of rethinking production. It also leads to circularity options for reuse (for example biomethanisation). Energy is also central for achieving climate neutrality objectives. How can cooperatives empower, create wealth and sustainability together with their communities and municipalities? How can they transform their communities and economies? In what ways are cooperatives innovators in this space (social and organizational innovation in particular)? Is the cooperative model conducive to long term sustainable energy use? What are the challenges?</p> <p>Facilitator Zuraidah Hoffman, Award winning storyteller and producer, expert of communication and cooperative, United-States.</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michaela Cryer, Head of Yunity, Midcounties, United Kingdom • Dan Waddle, Senior VP, NRECA International, United-States • Thomas Bauwens, Assistant Professor of Collective action for Sustainability ERC grantee, Netherlands
11:30	<p>Circular housing the cooperative way: What is causing the global housing crisis and how can circular economics and cooperation help fix it? Adequate housing is a basic need and a human right, and yet nearly 1.5 billion people are affected by a global shortage of adequate and affordable housing. In most countries, the cost of housing is growing faster than incomes with over one hundred million people experiencing homelessness every day. Furthermore, construction practices and housing use contribute to carbon emissions and unsustainable resource extraction. Circular economics and cooperation can help address these challenges by promoting sustainable building practices, reducing waste, and increasing access to affordable housing. The panel aims to explore solutions to these obstacles through policy, finance, industry, and end-user perspectives. Stretch your thinking and join this robust dialogue on housing challenges, opportunities, and solutions.</p> <p>Facilitator Tim Ross, Executive Director, Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada)</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie LaPalme, Secretary-General, Cooperative Housing International, Belgium • Annie Levasseur, Professor at École de technologie supérieure; Chair holder of the Canada Research Chair in Measuring the Impact of Human Activities on Climate Change; Scientific Director of CIRIEC Canada • Nadine Leblanc, Senior Vice-President of Policy, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

11:30	<p>One Health - The positive circle: The Covid epidemic has demonstrated that human health is not limited to medical care in the event of illness. Experience shows that the state of health is influenced by external factors. There is their economic and financial situation (ecohealth) but also environmental factors such as interactions with animals or the quality of plant products consumed (one health). Based on examples, the workshop will aim to open avenues for reflection and action in the context of the circular economy so as not to neglect health issues.</p>
Facilitator	Jean-Pierre Girard , Expert-conseil international en entreprise collectives, Canada
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johanne Saint-Charles, Directrice Institut santé et Société, UQAM, Canada • Georges Ki-Zerbo, Director WHO Office to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa • Mathias Savignac, President, MGEN Group, France
13:00	LUNCH AND LEARN
	Why be One of a kind
Speaker	Alexandra Wilson , Chair of the ICA Cooperative Identity Committee
14:00	PLENARY SESSION - What we learned from the workshops Let's get CIRCULAR
Facilitator	Karina Lehoux , Founder and President of Eklosion, Professional Facilitator, Canada
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rafael Ziegler, Ph. D. Director of the Alphonse and Dorimène Desjardins International Institute for Cooperatives, HEC Montréal, Canada • Zuraidah Hoffman, Award winning storyteller and producer, expert of communication and cooperative, United-States. • Tim Ross, Executive Director, CHF Canada's Board of Directors • Jean-Pierre Girard, Expert-conseil international en entreprise collectives, Canada
14:30	PLENARY SESSION SPEAKER- Propel your leadership on the SDGs with UNRISD's Sustainable Development Performance Indicators (SDPIs)
Speaker	Sonja Novkovic , International Centre for Co-operative Management, Saint Mary's University, Canada
15:00	NETWORKING BREAK
15:30	PLENARY SESSION - Propel your leadership on the SDGs with UNRISD's Sustainable Development Performance Indicators (SDPIs)
Facilitator	Zuraidah Hoffman , Award winning storyteller and producer, expert of communication and cooperative, United-States.
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonja Novkovic, International Centre for Co-operative Management, Saint Mary's University, Canada • Marguerite (Margie) Mendell, Professor Emerita, School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA), Concordia University, Canada • Ilcheong Yi, Senior Research Coordinator in the Social Policy and Development Programme and in the Social Dimensions of Sustainable Development Programme at UNRISD. • Ibon Zugasti, Managing Director, Propektiker, Spain
16:30	PLENARY SESSION SPECIAL GUEST - A New Age of Impactful Cooperative Collaboration
	<p>In today's rapidly evolving landscape, cooperatives face immense challenges from larger corporations with vast resources. However, the strength of cooperatives lies in their foundational principle: Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Cooperative leader Howard Brodsky advocates for the creation of "Cooperatives of Cooperatives," where entities with shared objectives unite to achieve common goals, such as enhancing member communications. To actualize this vision, leaders within the cooperative ecosystem must be</p>

	empowered, and online platforms can serve as a starting point to connect and collaborate. The future of cooperatives hinges on this intra-cooperative growth, unlocking the potential to address global challenges through collective action.
Speaker	Howard Brodsky , Co-founder & CEO, CCA Global Partners Global Leader of Cooperatives
17:00	PLENARY SESSION Global Innovation Coop Summit - Communities of practice
Speaker	Jean-Louis Bancel , Co-founder of Global Innovation Coop Summit
17:15	INSTRUCTION OF DAY 2
Master of ceremony	Karina Lehoux , Founder and President of Eklosion, Professional Facilitator, Canada
17:30	End of the day

SEPTEMBER 29

8:30	PLENARY SESSION - Opening remarks
Master of ceremony	Karina Lehoux , Founder and President of Eklosion, Professional Facilitator, Canada
8:45	How digitization and AI are transforming our lives and businesses — a leap into the immediate future.
Speaker	Laurent Charlin , principal member at MILA, associate professor at HEC Montréal and holder of a Canada-CIFAR Chair in Artificial Intelligence.
Speaker	Guy Cormier , President and CEO of Desjardins Group, Canada
9:15	PLENARY SESSION - Living DIGITAL For decades prior to the pandemic, the world experienced rapid shifts toward a more digital lifestyle, from how we share information, communicate with each other, work together and purchase goods. The pandemic pointed to the need for cooperatives not just to transform their way of thinking behind how to make digital tools and technology more efficient for their members, but also to address the critical need for the digitalization of cooperative operations, and at times removing or reducing the physical presence of an enterprise. This subtheme will explore ideas on how cooperatives can effectively improve their services and increase their engagement with their communities, move in parallel with digital trends, and learn from cooperatives of all sizes, who are leaders in this arena.
Facilitator	Aaron Stewart , General Counsel, VME Coop, United Kingdom
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pascal Houle, Chief Operating Officer, Sollio Cooperative Group, Canada • Ana Aguirre, Co-Founder and Worker-Owner, Tazebaez Co-op, President of ICA Youth Committee, Spain • Laurent Charlin, principal member at MILA, associate professor at HEC Montréal and holder of a Canada-CIFAR Chair in Artificial Intelligence, Canada. • Guy Cormier, President and CEO of Desjardins Group, Canada
10:15	NETWORKING BREAK

Living DIGITAL
Breakout sessions — INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS WITH PARTICIPANTS

10:45	Digital Coop Governance: this session discusses the relationships and tensions between established cooperative governance models, and emerging governance models relying on digital technologies. Collaborative governance, blockchain-based DAOs and open source collectives offer inspiring models of collective organization, relatively emancipated from traditional organization structures, and which generally emerge beyond the cooperative movement’s boundaries. What are the similarities and differences between
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<p>Facilitator</p> <p>Panelists</p>	<p>emerging, digital-based governance models and established cooperative governance models? What are the perceived or verified areas of complementarities and tensions among both streams? How could cooperative governance benefit from such experimentations, and vice versa?</p> <p>Myriam Michaud, PhD, management & gouvernance; coopératives & économie sociale, TELUQ, Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morshed Mannan, Research Fellow, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, Italy • Nadine Groux, President of the board Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité, Director of the Board of Desjardins Group, Canada • One more panelist to be confirmed
<p>10:45</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Panelists</p>	<p>Digital Coop Sustainability: this session discusses whether and how digital technologies can help cooperatives in performing sustainability transitions aligned with their identity. While digital solutions facilitate inter-organizational collaboration, they also come with their own limitations and challenges, such as questionable extractive data management, high energy consumption, and standardization of behaviors. Are the concepts of “digital” and “cooperative sustainability” exclusive, or can we make them work together? Which transitions bottlenecks could be overcome through a better use of digital tools? What digital technologies and tools, if any, are specifically relevant for a cooperative sustainability transition?</p> <p>Martin Van Den Borre, Communautiq et Fad City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Thomas, General Manager at Open Food Network Canada, Canada • Sara Horowitz, Founder and Executive director of Freelancers Union and CEO of Freelancer Insurance Company (FIC), United-States • Igor Calzada, MBA, Principal Investigator/Research Fellow, Ikerbasque, University of the Basque Country, and Cardiff University
<p>10:45</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Panelists</p>	<p>Digital intercooperation: this session addresses principle 6, cooperation among cooperatives, in light of potential benefits offered by digital solutions. While the cooperative movement is characterized by a long-established network of cooperative associations, federations, and second-level cooperatives, online collaboration among cooperatives is still experienced as a hurdle by most practitioners. From citizens' point of view, simple information such as how many cooperatives operate in my region and which services/products they offer is still hardly possible to find online. Why are cooperative networks so hard to replicate online? Can cooperative associations better capitalize on digital technologies to improve collaboration with and among their members? How can interoperable technologies, such as Solid and Web3, help the cooperative movement to untap the potential of its principle 6?</p> <p>Louis Cousin, Director of Operations, Startin'blox, France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Lussier, Director, Canadian Agri-Food Data Initiative, Canada • Agathe Lehel, Coordonnatrice de projets structurants at Synchronex, Canada • Shaun Fensom, Secretary, Cooperative network Infrastructure, United-Kingdom • Philippe Labrecque, Development Officer, Social Economy Center of the Longueuil Agglomeration, Canada
<p>10:45</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Panelists</p>	<p>Digital Coop Education: this session looks at how cooperatives could use digital solutions to mainstream cooperative education. Looking at past and existing digital initiatives, we will attempt to identify promising levers facilitating the diffusion of cooperative knowledge, as well as the shortfalls preventing our model to go mainstream across various educational frameworks. Is cooperative education more accessible thanks to digital solutions, or does it tend to be buried among the mass of (not-so-cooperative) information? How do we learn to cooperate through existing digital learning spaces? And, more generally, should cooperative education tend to go online, or should it rather focus on physical, in-person experiences?</p> <p>Tom Ivey, Community Development Manager, Identity.coop, United Kingdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ilana Gotz, EURICE and ICBEC coordinator, Italy • John Kay, CEO and Senior Instructor, Live Learning Labs, RealizeU, Canada • Janielle Maxwell, Project Coordinator, JEDDI Business Conversion Project, Canada

12:15	LUNCH AND LEARN
Speaker	Le Consortium: an intercooperation success story J. Benoit Caron , General Director, Consortium de ressource et d'expertises coopératives, Canada

13:15	<p>PLENARY SESSION - What we learned from the workshops Living Digital</p> <p>Facilitator Karina Lehoux, Founder and President of Eklosion, Professional Facilitator, Canada</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myriam Michaud, PhD, TELUQ, Canada • Martin Van Den Borre, Communautiq et Fad City • Louis Cousin, Director of Operations, Startin'blox, France • Tom Ivey, Community Development Manager, Identity.coop, United Kingdom
13:45	<p>PLENARY SESSION - Together we LEAD</p> <p>Together we lead is exemplified through the cooperative superpower Principle #6, Cooperation among cooperatives. Many global cooperatives extend their reach and create bigger impacts with their combined knowledge and shared expertise, and cooperatives of all sizes intercooperate to reinforce their ability to make social and economic changes. However, the true potential for cooperative transformation to address global issues has not been realized. This theme will define, exemplify, and explore a diverse range of inter-cooperation among cooperatives and beyond, taking particular interest in how leading organizations cooperate and collaborate with each other to collectively achieve their respective goals and move us all toward a co-operative economy and society.</p> <p>Facilitator Karen Miner, Managing Director, International Centre for Co-operative Management, Saint Mary's University, Canada</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Benoit Caron, General Director, Consortium de ressource et d'expertises coopératives, Canada • Agnes Matis, Director of Cooperatives Europe, Brussels • Balu Lyer, ICA-AP Director general, Inde • Andrea Harris, VP of Impact of Strategies, Vancity
14:45	MOVING TO PARALLEL SESSIONS
<p>Together we LEAD Breakout sessions — INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS WITH PARTICIPANTS</p>	
15:00	<p>Organizing collectively to transform</p> <p>As we grapple with widespread systemic challenges across environmental, economic, and social systems, the need for transformation has never felt more relevant. This workshop is an opportunity to move from ideas to understanding purpose-driven examples. Let's discuss the tough questions: Does organizing collectively accelerate transformation? What are the difficulties, contributions?</p> <p>Facilitator Justine Ballon, Assistant professor, Department of management, HEC Montréal, Canada</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luc Audebrand, Professeur titulaire, Université de Laval, Canada • Sokchiveneath Taing Choan, Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec, Canada • One more panelist to be confirmed
15:00	<p>Co-operation throughout the supply chain</p> <p>Co-operation among co-operatives throughout a supply chain results in a powerful contribution to a more just and equitable economy and society. This workshop will delve into examples of successful strategies to build co-op to co-op business, often featuring collectivity through secondary co-ops and groups.</p> <p>Facilitator Patrice Gauthier, General Director, Écono Coop, Canada</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerardo Almaguer, President and CEO at Développement international Desjardins • Tyler Paturel, General director, Cheticamp Co-operative Ltd, Canada • LuAnn Werner, Deputy director OCDC, United States

<p>15:00</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Panelists</p>	<p>Multistakeholder cooperative governance</p> <p>Cooperatives can engage multiple types of members to address complex societal challenges through jointly owned and controlled enterprises. Workers, consumers, producers and community members participate in setting the strategic direction of cooperatives and their networks to address multiple issues: from social integration to circular design, ethical finance to environmental impact.</p> <p>Martine Vézina, HEC Montréal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goran Jeras, Manager and Founder, Cooperative for Ethical Financing, Croatia • Jean Nolet, General Director, Coop Carbone, Canada • Jean R. Soublière, General Directo, MC2M, Canada
<p>15:00</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Panelists</p>	<p>Networking among co-ops and non-co-ops for local empowerment</p> <p>Co-operatives are only one of the ingredients in the robust and diverse ecosystem required to support a vibrant co-operative and broader social and solidarity economy. This workshop explores the range of ingredients, roles, and organizations that have resulted in regional hot spots for cooperation.</p> <p>Jessica Cabana, Youth Cooperative Entrepreneurship Advisor at CQCM, Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Nirlungayuk, Vice President, Corporate Services, Arctic Coops, Canada • Elena Badeanschi, Federazione Trentina della Cooperazione, Italy's • Hazel Corcoran, Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation, Executive Director, Canada • Claude-André Guillotte, Director of IRECUS, Institut de recherche et d'éducation pour les coopératives et les mutuelles de l'Université de Sherbrooke, Canada
<p>16:30</p>	<p>NETWORKING BREAK</p>
<p>17:00</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Panelists</p>	<p>PLENARY SESSION - What we learned from the workshops Together we LEAD</p> <p>Karina Lehoux, Founder and President of Eklosion, Professional Facilitator, Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justine Ballon, Assistant professor, Department of management, HEC Montréal, Canada • Patrice Gauthier, Directeur général, Écono Ccoop, Canada • Martine Vézina, HEC Montréal, Canada • Jessica Cabana, Jessica Cabana, Youth Cooperative Entrepreneurship Advisor at CQCM, Canada
<p>17:30</p>	<p>PLENARY SESSION—COOPERATIVE PLEDGE: ACT NOW TO LEAD A CIRCULAR AND DIGITAL FUTURE THE COOPERATIVE WAY</p>
<p>18:00</p>	<p>END GICS 2023</p>