

Description of the social enterprise – information sheet

Ecoopera cooperative enterprise



A. Identification data	
1. Name of the enterprise	Ecoopera
2. Location/Address of the enterprise	Sponda Trentina, 18 38121 TRENTO
3. Website of the enterprise	www.ecoopera.coop
4. Legal organisational form	Cooperative enterprise, labour sector
B. Good practice of the social enterprise	
Aspects that recommend the social enterprise as a good practice in the particular sector.	The fusion of 3 medium-size cooperative societies into a unified one gave the opportunity to create critical mass, thus widening the coverage on a bigger territory and gaining better leverage in public subcontracting. Ecoopera's offer benefited from a better and wider know-how, higher and stronger quality.
C. Context:	
1. Year of Founding	2013
2. Context of start-up – problem that the enterprise was set up to solve, economic social rationale	Ecoopera was born from the fusion of the 3 main cooperative societies operating on the region in the environment sector: Work-services Valsugana (since 1985), CET (since 1984) and Stork Services (since 1981). After the fusion, all services related to waste management, water treatment plants and environmental issues were centralized in a unique body, thus rationalizing the regional landscape of cooperative societies dealing with those issues.
3. What are the Main Activities of the entity?	Waste management cycle (urban hygiene, special and dangerous waste management, sewer inspections and cleaning), water works (inspections, maintenance, purification for civil and industrial purposes), analysis lab, consulting, training, reclamations.
4. Who are the Main stakeholders (i.e. members, clients, producers, etc.)?	Cooperatives, Institutions (local administrations), research centres, private enterprises.
5. Geographic coverage with respect to: i) to production of services and/or goods and ii) market/consumers or beneficiaries, clients, etc.	The whole region, both the Province of Trento and Bolzano, for a total surface of more than 13.600 km, and up to neighbouring regions of Veneto and Lombardia.
D. Ownership Structure	
1. What is the ownership structure of the entity: i.e., does the entity have shareholders, owners/members, donors, trustees, investors, etc.?	Members (both natural and legal subjects) own the cooperative.

2. If membership, is membership open or closed? Is exclusivity required?	Open to an unlimited number of working members.
3. Is a capital contribution required? If so, how much? Is equity capital unallocated or individualised?	Yes, there is a capital contribution. Each member signs up for his/her contribution, which can varies from 25€ to 100€. Equity capital is unallocated.
4. Describe in a few words the voting distribution (e.g. one member-one vote; proportional to equity contribution; proportional to use, etc.).	One member-one vote
5. Describe in a few words the main benefits for members or owners.	Creating job opportunity on favourable economic terms for members and employees, improving the quality of own job, flexibility and better solutions for family conciliation.
6. Indicate any main changes in ownership over the lifetime of the entity.	The fusion of 3 medium-size cooperative in only one big cooperative and therefore the enlargement of the membership.
E. Governance	
1. Describe the governance structure of the entity (board, management, committees, etc.), number of members and method of selection (appointed or elected and by whom).	Governance bodies are: General Assembly, board members, supervisory committee Board members are elected by the members' general meeting by relative majority. The board composition can vary between a minimum of 3 members (President, vice-president and a members) to a maximum of 9.
2. Is there an entity or process for oversight of the board?	Yes, there are 5 statutory auditors (3 effective and 2 deputies). Auditing functions are carried out by external auditors from the Auditing and Supervisory Department of Trentino Federation of Cooperation. Members have access of all the admin documentations and minutes.
3. Are there external independent board members?	There could be external, non-member board members, but members must be the majority.
4. Are there term limits for board members?	Board members are elected every 3 years and can be re-elected.
5. What is the gender composition of the board?	Out of 9 members of the board, there is only 1 woman.
6. Describe management and board salary/ compensation policies and how they are decided/determined?	The administrators and the statutory auditors' compensation are determined by the member's assembly. The board, with advice of the statutory auditors, determines the salary for administrators with special tasks.

F. Profit/ benefits/ surplus distribution policies	
1. Describe briefly the distribution policies and procedures for profits / benefits / surplus	The members Assembly can deliberate to assign a rebate to the working members, by mean of an increase in the salary or by a free of charge increase in the nominal value of their equity capital (in case of financing members).
2. Are members/owners liable for losses of entity? Describe how liability is shared.	Members are liable for losses only with their capital stock. Conditions are foreseen in the coop statute and Civil Code.
G. Strategy: highlight approaches adopted to address the identified challenges	
1. Describe briefly the business strategy looking at aspects like: main products/services, market niche, market share, quality and pricing/costs and <u>main changes</u> occurred in time.	Starting from 3 different cooperative societies, dealing with different issues, Ecoopera has brought their knowledge together, thus being able to offer a complete, total range of services in the environmental sector. Its main services are related to the entire waste management cycle, water treatment plants management and maintenance, a laboratory for bio and chemical analysis (waste, water, soil, foodstuff), and all consulting and training related to environment, security and risk evaluation. Recently, Ecoopera has won two more public subcontracts for purifiers outside the region, in Veneto and Lombardia.
2. Describe briefly the relation between the business strategy and the social mission of the enterprise.	Ecoopera's vision is at the roots of all its actions, which is: every citizen of our community would think about Ecoopera in order to find solutions to environmental problems, acknowledging its competences and values and helping to spread them in other territories. Thus, the mission indicates how the vision would become reality, starting from cooperative founding values like quality, environmental conservation, customer satisfaction and workers' wellness, development and professional and human growth.
3. Please describe briefly the strategic partners or alliances that the enterprise has.	Ecoopera has built partnership with the most relevant stakeholders at local and national level, both public (local administration) and private (research centres, industries, etc.). It has achieved national certification from the Ministry of Health for food certifications, and its lab is certified at national level for biological and chemical analysis
4. Please describe briefly the methods and practices of communication/relationships with Stakeholders (members, community, donors, NGOs, etc.),	Ecoopera has its own website with a dedicated 'news' section. All training courses have their online brochure and calendar. Ecoopera also has its own profile on Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn.
5. Innovation and key performance factors	Maintaining the members' job place in the current economic crisis. Increase the possibility to compete in the market by offering better skills and services

6. Human resources - personnel	
- No. of employees	283 employees
- No. of volunteers	
- No. of members	101 members
H. Outcomes: results achieved and lessons learned	
- Assets (raw numbers)	- 30.940.983 €
- Capital (raw numbers)	- 17,5 million €
- Production	- 26.251.000 €
- Turnover /sales	- 24.756.651 €
- Profit/loss	- 886.252€
Contact info	
Address	Sponda Trentina, 18 38121 TRENTO
Webpage	www.ecoopera.coop

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.