



LEGACOOP LOMBARDIA

MANIFESTO 21

For the recovery of cooperation

www.legacooplombardia.it



The pandemic emergency is not over yet, and its social and economic implications are deepening their impact on communities and within cooperation.

Cooperatives have shown extraordinary efforts in serving the community and an equal ability to qualitatively create production and lifestyles which enhance the area.

Lombardy is the place where - over the last two centuries - cooperation was born and has developed in a constant dialogue with its founding values and people's needs, engaging - more than anywhere else - with the dynamics of national, and more recently, international capitalism.

New economic models will only be possible by involving people and communities which act locally, producing and engaging in relations.

It is this **cooperation economy** enhancing employment, social cohesion and advantages for members and citizens, which we intend to support and promote - with a view to a common vision: fair, sustainable and lasting recovery. From here begins our Manifesto for 2021; another way for cooperation.



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FAIR & SUSTAINABLE

Fair because it leaves no-one behind, addresses rifts, and values diversity. Sustainable because it respects the dignity and legality of labour, the quality of common goods and the environment, and the meaning of own action.

It should be stressed that respect for labour, preservation of its continuity and a healthy work-life balance all underpin good quality cooperation. These concepts go hand in hand with respect for legality and combating spurious forms of enterprise.

The cooperative recovery we have set as our goal is the product of a new paradigm which does not focus solely on the market but is able to embrace multiple interrelated visions where cooperation is primarily action.

Within a business, a community, an area, and an economic, social and civil system.

A daily routine which becomes a cooperative culture, a way of living on earth, an enduring habit.



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MULTIPLE & COMPLEX

Multiple because it is inclusive and intergenerational, able to embrace different skills and knowledge, in partnership with science hubs and universities to design new cooperation and strengthen established experience. Complex because it is able to tackle change - both climatic and digital - while linking wellbeing and sustainability.

In order to reach young people and remoter communities, cooperation will need to be based in research and testing facilities, where new entrepreneurship can originate and create value, fostering new industries - all cooperative - for the preservation of values. Through discussion, listening, the ability to create links, mediate conflict and maximize relations, for a cooperation economy which links production and commercial features with social and community ones.



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LOCAL & LINKED

Local because the specific features of the area determine the needs, priorities and practices to enhance. Linked because it has to keep resources, people and industries together, widening the field to new agreements and relations.

In order to build recovery together there is an urgent need for a radical transformation of the public administration and the creation of new partnerships with economic actors having a social role.

Cooperation must actively contribute to achieving common sustainable development goals by promoting innovative models and ecosystems of sustainable, responsible enterprises. Likewise for digital transformation activities, as a driver of innovation which is effective only if replicable, accessible to everyone and able to help people. This is one of the core tasks of cooperation: to respond to needs and strengthen local welfare which is attentive to fragility and able to unite users and operators in a single entity, both economic and social.

Because where there is cooperation there is care.



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