

# Regional associations of consumer cooperatives in the world

## Their role and how they work

Chiara Tomalino, Food Policy Adviser

II Cooperative Summit of the Americas  
Panama City, 30 May 2012

# Outline

1. Consumer cooperatives worldwide: an overview
2. Cooperation among consumer cooperatives
  1. Euro Coop
  2. Asia-Pacific Consumer Committee
3. Points for discussion



# Consumer cooperatives worldwide: an overview

- Consumer co-operatives in Europe
  - Large diversity in terms of market relevance; types of stores; social activities; member coverage; etc.
  - Common thread: co-operative values and principles

# Consumer cooperatives worldwide: an overview

- Consumer co-operatives in Europe – some examples
  - **The United Kingdom** - Food retail, banking, legal services, farms, funerals, etc.
  - Relevance of ethical issues: largest assortment of Fair Trade products
  - **Italy**
    - Market leaders; €13 billion turnover
    - 9 big regional co-operatives with strong integration (Coop Italia)
    - ...“COOP” the most loved brand in Italy!



# Consumer cooperatives worldwide: an overview

- Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW)
  - CCW gathers consumer co-operatives from around the world
  - It's a part of ICA; the sectoral organisation for consumer co-operatives
  - Consumer co-operatives have a relevant presence in Canada, US, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, and other countries
  - Euro Coop secretariat also manages CCW



# Euro Coop – Some figures

- General figures:
  - 18 members across Europe;
  - 4,500 regional and local societies;
  - 35,000 points of sale
  - 450.000 employees;
  - more than 30 million consumer-members;
  - €75 billion annual turnover



# Euro Coop – Our objectives

- European association of consumer cooperatives
- Representing the interests of its national members to the EU institutions → Defending the interests of consumer-members and the general public
- Informing its members of the latest EU policy developments
- Facilitating exchange and coordination between its members



# Euro Coop – Our structure

- Governing Bodies: General Assembly and Board
- EURO COOP Secretariat: daily management and coordination
- Three Working Groups (WG): Food & Retail, Sustainability, Co-operative Identity



# Euro Coop – WGs functioning

- Gather experts from members
- Discussion and adoption of common position
- Common initiatives
- Exchange of best practices
- Periodic meetings and constant e-mail exchange
- Coordinated and managed by policy advisors



# ICA-AP Consumer Committee

- ICA Regional office for the Asia and Pacific
- 22 member organisations → national organisations and primary cooperatives from 13 countries

# ICA-AP Consumer Committee

- Main activities
  - Training programs for managers of consumer cooperatives (Japan)
  - Regional workshop for managers on management of consumer cooperatives (Singapore)
  - Workshop on development of consumer cooperatives (sub-regional, member countries)
  - Meeting of consumer committee
  - Research and data collection



# Points for discussion

- What are your expectations in terms of:



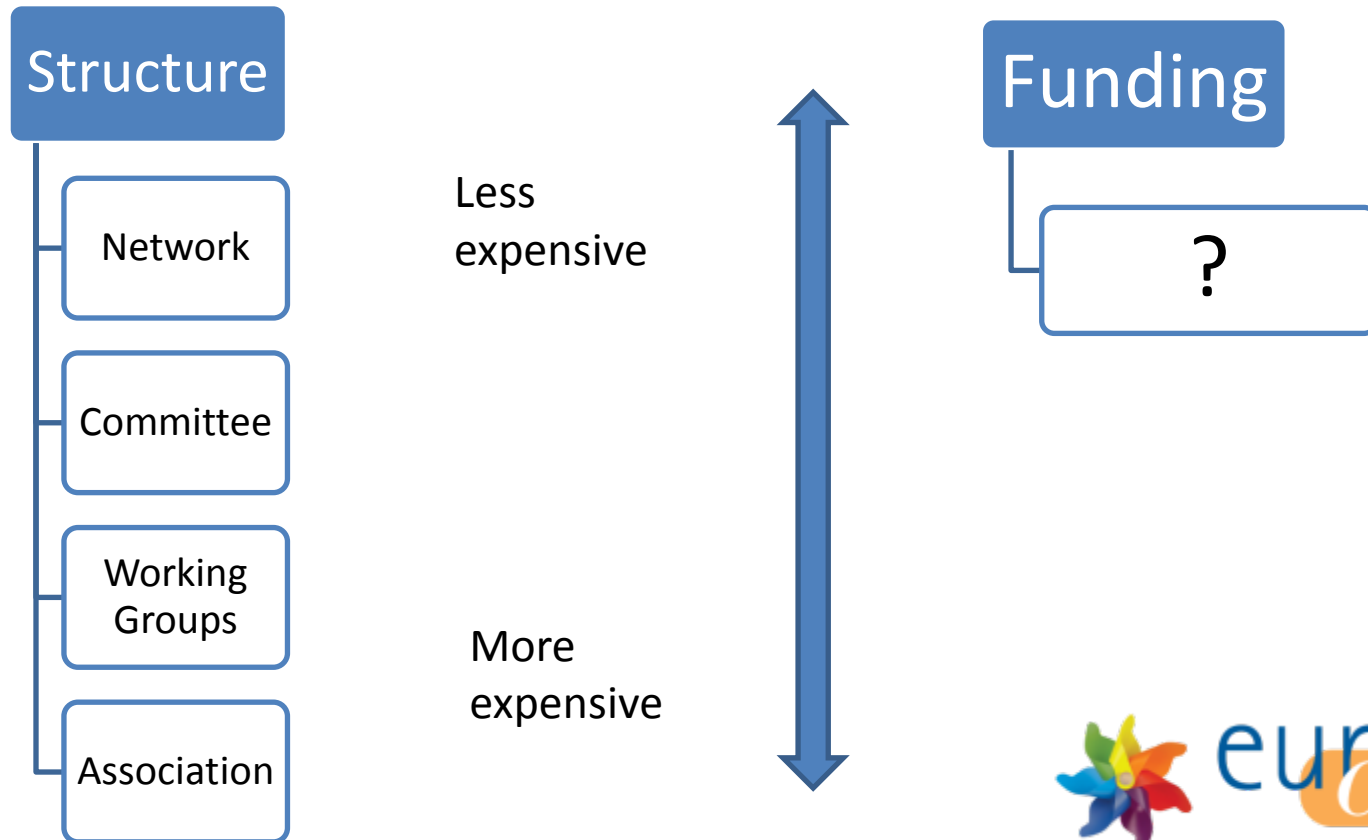
# Points for discussion

- What are your expectations in terms of:



# Points for discussion

- What are your expectations in terms of:



Thank you for your attention!

[ctomalino@eurocoop.coop](mailto:ctomalino@eurocoop.coop)

