

Memorandum of Understanding

Promoting and Advancing the Practice and Research concerning Cooperative Law Globally

Between International Cooperative Alliance AISBL, Belgium, through its President
Dr. Ariel GuarcoFirst Party

And Ius Cooperativum Association, Schifflange, Luxembourg, through its
President Prof. David Hiez.....Second Party

PART – A

- I. Whereas the International Cooperative Alliance (Hereinafter “ICA”), established in 1895 and currently incorporated under the laws of the Kingdom of Belgium is the global representative union of cooperatives worldwide,
- II. Whereas, the ICA, through its Thematic Committee on Cooperative Law viz. ICA-Cooperative Law Committee, provides independent advice to the ICA on cooperative law, which it broadly defines to include all legal rules and practices that shape the cooperative institution and regulate its operations,
- III. Whereas the ICA, through the ICA-CLC works with the ICA Board’s Identity Committee, develops proposals for contemporary legal interpretation of the definition of cooperatives and of the cooperative values and principles and the translation of these into legal principles; develops proposals to translate the legal principles into cooperative law, securing the cooperative identity; elaborates, where warranted, suggestions for the harmonisation of cooperative laws; assesses, advises on, proposes and monitors changes in cooperative policy at national regional, international and global level as they affect cooperative law; participates in the establishment of implementation mechanisms, such as cooperative registration, monitoring and auditing; promotes the elaboration of such resources as law commentaries, glossaries, handbooks on drafting bylaws and model bylaws, proposals for government regulation and research on and teaching of cooperative law; liaises and coordinates with the other thematic committees, sectoral organisations, regional organisations and any organs of the ICA as appropriate; considers specific legal issues that are referred to it from other thematic committees, sectoral organisations, regional organisations and any organs of the ICA through its Global Board
- IV. Whereas Ius Cooperativum Association (Hereinafter the “Association”), established in 2019 under the law of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, establishes a world-wide community of lawyers interested in cooperative law, and
- V. Whereas the Association promotes cooperative law and the development of its knowledge at national and international level, as far as research, teaching and logistics are concerned, and undertakes any activity which contributes to the realisation of its object, and notably publishing or editing, itself or in collaboration with others, books and journals on cooperative law; organising, itself or in collaboration with others, teaching of cooperative law; organising, itself or in collaboration with others, colloquia or any other scientific event on cooperative law; conducting studies for private or public law persons the content of which relates at least to a significant extent to cooperative

law; and, in general, any exercise any activity which is likely to improve the knowledge of, the dissemination of, the teaching of and the research on cooperative law,

- VI. Whereas the ICA and the Association have expressed interest in collaborating with each other and harnessing the intellectual resources of one another to promote and advance the practice and research on cooperative law, globally, and to that end give upon themselves this Memorandum of Understanding dated 20 February 2023 and the related provisions in Part B. The duration of this MoU is 2 years from the date of signatures of the representatives of the parties and is renewable at the written and mutual consent of the parties.

PART – B

The parties hereby agree to cooperate and achieve the following joint aspirations concerning cooperative law:

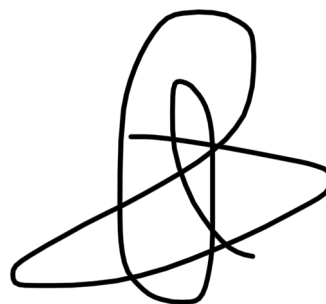
- A. Cooperate by sharing intellectual resources and other resources as warranted, to promote and advance the practice and research.
- B. Collaborate by harnessing their respective networks to advance the knowledge, information, and dialogue.
- C. Extend support where possible and warranted to co-organize events, workshops and similar, to promote and advance cooperative law
- D. Offer assistance where possible and warranted to develop joint opinions and papers which defend the Identity of cooperatives.
- E. Initiate mutual dialogues on the legal relevance of the ICA Statement on the Cooperative Identity, and its contemporary application.
- F. Undertake any activities related to the object of this MoU and which would mutually benefit the parties.

PART - C

Parties agree to act in good faith and resolve any disputes arising out of this MoU by binding mediation governed by the laws of the Kingdom of Belgium.



Ariel Guarco
President ICA



David Hiez
President, Ius Cooperativum
Association