

About Mutuality

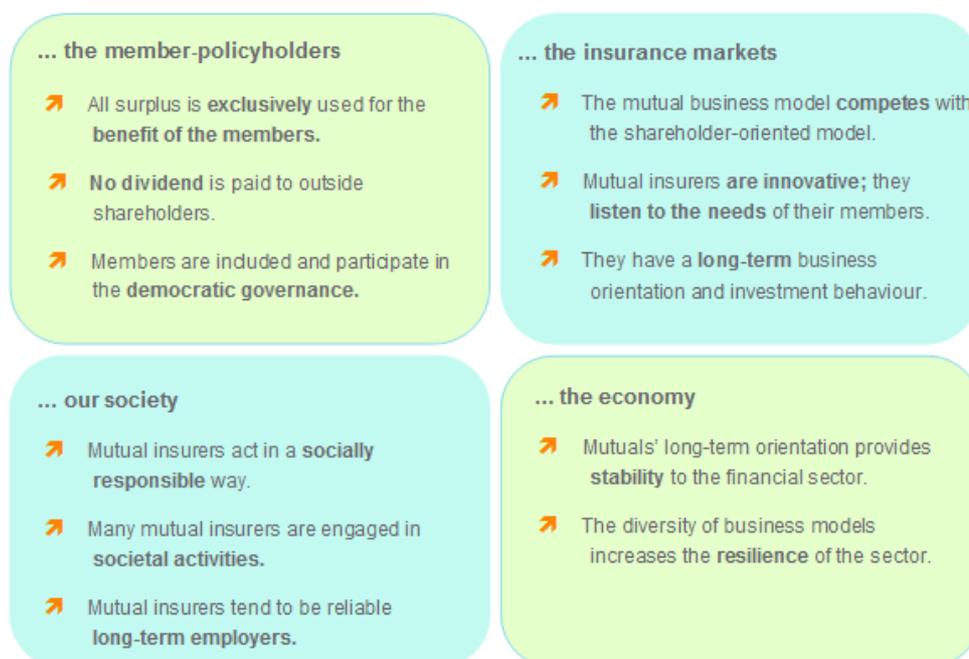
Mutuality today

What is mutual insurance?

A mutual insurer is an insurer that is **controlled and owned by its members** = customers
It follows the principles of **solidarity and sustainability**.

A mutual insurer is an insurance undertaking which is collectively owned by its members who are at the same time its clients (policyholders). As member-policyholders, the members of a mutual insurance company directly or indirectly determine corporate policy through many different points of interaction. The congruence of ownership/control and being a customer makes it possible and necessary for the mutual undertaking to establish a balance between maximising profits (generally an interest of owners) and delivering optimal high-quality services (an interest of clients).

Mutual insurance benefits ...



[Read more on mutuality](#)

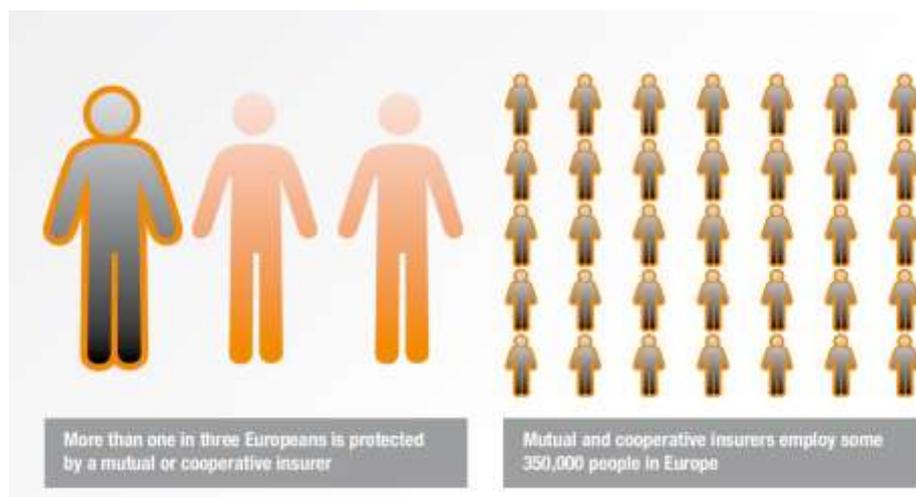
Facts & figures

Mutual and cooperative insurance is provided by societies that are formed and governed and, in most cases, owned by their members for their members. It follows the principles of solidarity and sustainability.

The business model of mutual and cooperative insurance focuses on using surpluses exclusively for the benefit of policyholder-members and of society. It is the original form of insurance and remains a more natural choice than today's widespread shareholder-driven model.

The mutual insurance sector in Europe plays a significant role in the economy of the EU. It represents some 400 billion euro in insurance premiums and employs some 350,000 people. Of the roughly 6,000 insurance undertakings in Europe, half are mutuals or cooperatives or their subsidiaries.

Mutual and cooperative insurers provide cover for over 200 million citizens in Europe.

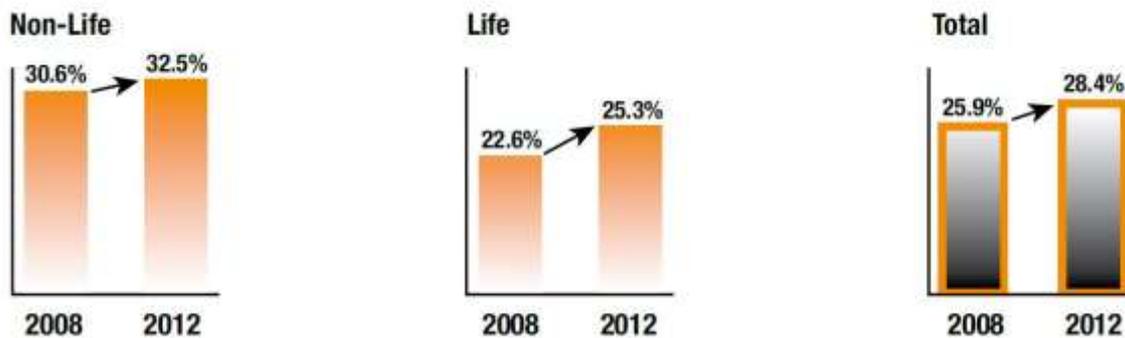


Market share in Europe

The total market share of our sector amounts to 28.4% (Source: ICMIF-AMICE MarketInsights Europe 2012).

Traditionally, the mutual and cooperative market share in insurance is higher in non-life insurance (including health) than in life insurance. In both sectors, it has substantially increased over the past years and stands now (2012) at 32.5% in non-life insurance and 25.3% in life insurance.

Market share of mutual and cooperative insurance in Europe



Source: [Mutual Statistics AMICE-ICMIF Market InSight 2012](#)

Mutual and cooperative insurance is present in practically all markets in Europe, either through mutual or cooperative insurers established there or (mainly in the countries of central and Eastern Europe) through subsidiaries of foreign mutuals.

In five countries of the EU, the mutual or cooperative form is not allowed for insurance undertakings, in three more, the legal possibility is there but no such insurer exists. In two more countries, their activity is restricted to only certain lines (life or non-life).

The table and map of mutual/cooperative market share in Europe includes the market shares of a few large “hybrid mutuals” (insurers whose dominant shareholder is a mutual or foundation) as well as the market share of establishments of foreign (incoming) mutuals. The countries with the highest market share of domestically established insurers in the form of a mutual and cooperative (including their subsidiaries) are Germany, France, Sweden, and Denmark. The Netherlands and Spain are other markets with a large number of often quite small mutuals.

Mutual insurance market share (in descending order)

High > 40%	Moderate 20%-40%	Low 10%-20%	0 - 10%
Austria ¹	Hungary ^{2 3}	Luxembourg ²	United Kingdom
Netherlands ¹	Czech Republic ^{2 3}	Latvia ^{2 3}	Estonia ^{2 3}
Slovakia ^{2 3}	Sweden	Greece ²	Malta ³
Denmark	Spain ¹	Slovenia ²	Ireland
Germany	Finland ⁴	Belgium	Cyprus ³
Romania ^{2 3}	Poland ²	Croatia ^{2 3}	
France	Bulgaria ^{2 3}	Portugal	
(Norway) ¹	Italy	Lithuania ^{2 3}	
	(Serbia) ^{2 3}	(Turkey) ^{★ 2}	
		(Switzerland) [★]	

1) includes the significant market share of so-called hybrid mutuals

2) includes the market share of establishments of foreign mutuals

3) (practically) no domestic insurance mutuals/cooperatives

4) exclusive of statutory pension insurance

★ country outside the EU with AMICE members

⊕ country outside the EU without AMICE members

Source: ICMIF Global Mutual Market Share 2012, AMICE Statistics



Structure of the mutual and cooperative insurance market

There are mutuals of all sizes: some smaller catering for the needs of special groups, some very large being market leaders in their field. But one thing is true: mutual and cooperative insurers are typically small or medium-sized undertakings and, vice versa, most of the small and medium-sized insurers in Europe have a mutual or cooperative structure. This is why AMICE puts a particular focus in its work on serving smaller members, through advocating strongly for adequate and proportionate regulation, through assisting SMEs with seminars and workshops to achieve business success, and through promoting diversity in the provision of insurance services.

Among AMICE's members, the median size in terms of Gross Premium Written (GPW) is 200 million euro – the business volume of half of the association's members is below this amount. In addition, AMICE represents additional hundreds of mostly small mutual insurers indirectly as their national and regional associations are themselves AMICE member

Publications



The joint publication by ICMIF and AMICE, [MarketInsights Europe 2012](#) – The European Market Share as held by Mutual and Cooperative Insurers (produced by ICMIF) gives an overview of the market share of mutual and cooperative insurers in Europe and in the national markets, the growth of the sector since 2007, and a list of the 30 largest mutual or cooperative insurers in Europe



In 2011, AMICE published its own [Facts and Figures – Mutual and cooperative insurance in Europe](#), a 200-page study, based on 2008 figures and on country-by-country analysis provided by Lieve Lowet, owner of Lowet & Co and partner of ICODA European Affairs. The Executive Summary of this study including graphs and tables can be downloaded in five languages (see the links on the right). To obtain the full study, please contact the Secretariat

The social economy

What is the “social economy?”

Social economy enterprises and organisations are economic and social actors present in all sectors of society, which are set up in order to meet citizens’ needs. Driven by values such as solidarity, social responsibility and democracy, social economy enterprises present another form of entrepreneurship. Former President of the European Commission Romano Prodi once said that “they are competitive enterprises based on a solidarity that goes beyond the limits of the market and extends to social reality.”

The concept of “social economy” encompasses a great diversity of companies within the EU, but whilst it may differ from one Member State to another according to national legislation, for economic or historical reasons, it is commonly accepted to comprise cooperatives, mutuals, associations and foundations. Within the social economy sector, these four “families” are represented by AMICE and [AIM](#) for the mutual sector, [Cooperatives Europe](#) for the cooperatives, [CEDAG](#) for the associations and [EFC](#) for the foundations.

SOCIAL ECONOMY IN EUROPE

represents

10% Of EU Companies



employing more than

11
million 

= about **6%**
of employment

Source: [European Commission](#).

Social economy and the European institutions

At the European level, back in 1989 Commission President Jacques Delors set up a unit entirely dedicated to the Social Economy within the **European Commission's** Directorate General for Enterprise. Today, the continued existence of the [Entrepreneurship and Social Economy](#) unit shows that the European Commission continues to be aware of the importance of the sector.

Among the projects undertaken by the Social Economy Unit, one strove to improve the communication between the existing representative bodies and enhance relations within a somewhat uncoordinated sector. Created in 1998 and after undergoing several changes of name and structure, the EU-level representative umbrella organisation for the social economy sector is today [Social Economy Europe](#) (SEE).

Within the **European Parliament**, the Social Economy Intergroup, created in 1990, has established an impressive track record as a platform and facilitator of the inter-parliamentary dialogue and as a linking pin between the social economy sector and MEPs. The European Parliament has adopted many texts supporting the social economy and calling for its recognition in recent years, for example the [resolution](#) of 19 February 2009 or the [report](#) (authored by MEP Patrizia Toia) on the contribution of cooperatives to overcoming the financial and economic crisis.

The **European Economic and Social Committee** ([EESC](#)), as mentioned in its different opinions related to the issue, is convinced that social enterprise is a key element of the European social model which, through its social innovation, will provide solutions to address societal challenges and be a factor in overcoming the crisis.

In 2012, the EESC commissioned [CIRIEC](#), the International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy, to deliver an updated [report](#) on the social economy in the EU.

Following on from this report, the Various Interests Group organised a conference at the EESC on 'Social Enterprises and the Europe 2020 Strategy: innovative solutions for a sustainable Europe'. Within the general framework of the 2012 UN International Year of Cooperatives, the objective of the event was to actively support social enterprises as significant actors in the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and of the Single Market.

In 2014, the EESC set up a working group of nine members interested in the social entrepreneurship agenda who will be joined by Commission representatives and experts with the aim of implementing a set of concrete and tangible actions stemming from the [Strasbourg Declaration](#). A public [hearing](#) and a [conference](#) in the autumn of 2014 have taken this important issue forward.

An international [conference](#) "Unlocking the potential of the social economy for EU growth" is being prepared by the Italian Presidency of the **Council** for November 2014 in Rome.

Mutuality worldwide

AMICE cooperates with a number of organizations representing mutuals and cooperatives worldwide including:



The International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation - [ICMIF](#)
Global Partner



The National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies - [NAMIC](#)
USA



The Canadian Association of Mutual Insurance Companies - [CAMIC](#)
Canada



The Association Internationale de la Mutualité - [AIM](#)
Representing health insurance and social protection bodies worldwide