



## Association for the Promotion of Cooperatives Approaches

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## OUR ASSOCIATIVE PROJECT

***“The only path that offers any hope for a better future for all humanity is that of cooperation and partnership.”***

Kofi ANNAN, former Secretary-General of the United Nations

## SHARED VALUES THAT GUIDE OUR ACTION

Considering that cooperative approaches and partnership have invaluable scope and effectiveness for facilitating learning and the dissemination of knowledge, solving complex problems, managing collective projects, improving the social, economic and cultural conditions of populations, building community, and promoting a world of greater conviviality, it is urgent for us to help new generations discover—and to apply ourselves—critical thinking, dialogue, experiential learning, and the values of mutual assistance, autonomy, solidarity and democracy, rather than continuing down the dead-end path of individualism, competition, or even domination .

As an actor in non-formal education, the association wishes to share its resources and network with those who engage with it. This choice does not exclude formal education, whose actors may also benefit from it, as the association acts in the service of education for all.

To do so, the Association for the Promotion of Cooperative Approaches (APAC) draws its foundations from cooperative values, associative values, and the values of popular education.

### Cooperative Values :

An autonomous association of people who voluntarily unite to meet common economic, social and cultural needs, a cooperative bases its existence and action on the following values :

- **Mutual aid**  
as a cooperative is a voluntary organization open to all who may need its services.

- **Responsibility**  
since all members, whether associates or elected representatives, are responsible for the cooperative.
- **Democracy**  
with each member participating in policy development, decision-making, and oversight of implementation.
- **Equality**  
as each member enjoys the same voting rights.
- **Equity**  
ensuring fair, equal and reasonable treatment for all.
- **Autonomy**  
the ability to accomplish things independently, to find and manage one's own resources, and to seek help when needed; it also means knowing that cooperation enables greater achievements.
- **Solidarity**  
as members support one another and the community by contributing to sustainable development in the current context of climate change.

### **Associative Values :**

As defined in France by the law of July 1st, 1901, an association is a “contract by which two or more people permanently pool their knowledge or activity for a purpose other than sharing profits” .

An association is a contract between people with equal rights and duties for all.

It is a place where democracy is awakened, offering a space for citizen expression in which participatory and representative democracy combine and enrich one another.

An association strengthens social bonds by giving all citizens the capacity to dialogue and act collectively for a fairer and more united society, where everyone—from the local to the global level—can find their place.

### **Values of Popular Education :**

*“Popular education contributes to the ongoing transformation of society by helping to build educational, economic, social and political alternatives in which individuals are co-authors of their own future. The fundamental values it defends and which underpin its action are emancipation, cooperation, solidarity and justice.”* (Excerpt from the CNAJEP charter).

Access to culture and knowledge for the greatest number is inseparable from the exercise of Citizenship.

Actors of popular education share a common value rooted in the fundamental idea of human beings as capable individuals, recognized as such.

## WHAT WE WANT TO DO TOGETHER

The Association for the Promotion of Cooperative Approaches (APAC) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote methodologies developed by the behavioral and educational sciences to exchange, dialogue, solve problems, and learn together .

APAC seeks to contribute to the promotion of a different kind of society, based on partnership, cooperation, social justice and shared governance—a society in which different communities and human groups live together while maintaining relations of neighborliness, harmony and exchange; a society founded on conviviality.

APAC aims to create a think tank with its member associations to collectively build a resource base of associative and cooperative practices and experiences from an international perspective: to enrich it, promote it, share it, and make it available.

To this end, member associations will be invited to participate in an orientation council that will meet annually to identify work and publication projects.

## IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS

### **A quarterly digital journal :**

Each issue is built around a specific theme and includes an editorial, stories, analyses, interviews, a short story, and a methodological dossier.

Every registered user automatically becomes a subscriber. They are informed of each new issue and can download it from the website.

The journal is also published in English.

### **Special issues :**

True digital books, they provide analytical and practical tools to promote cooperative approaches in businesses, public administrations and associations.

The library of books and brochures offered by APAC grows month after month.

The main themes addressed include youth education, adult training, and organizational management.

Titles in English and Spanish are also available.

## Training Tools :

These tools are designed as visual presentations and videos to share knowledge, stimulate reflection, foster creativity and the emergence of new ideas, and develop transparency, trust and a collaborative spirit .

## Webinars :

APAC also offers webinars to exchange experiences, analyze cases, learn to use cooperative tools, and become better able to foster collective intelligence.

## MUTUAL COMMITMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS MEMBERS

Committed to the quality of human relationships and to the founding principles of associative and cooperative life, APAC affirms the need for a demanding democratic functioning that enables each member to :

- find their rightful place within the association;
- express opinions on choices and contribute to decisions that shape the association's future;
- be informed, as transparently as possible, about the association's activities, management and decisions;
- ensure that democratically made decisions are effectively implemented;
- verify that the rules set out in the founding texts (associative project, statutes) are respected.

These collective commitments are matched by each member's responsibility to:

- participate in the life and activities of the association;
- accept and uphold democratically made decisions;
- contribute to the implementation of projects;
- respect the association's statutes as well as the values and principles stated in this associative project;
- disseminate the association's practices and ideals within their spheres of influence, notably by promoting the quarterly journal (encouraging new subscriptions) and the special issues.

**Associative project adopted unanimously by the General Assembly held via videoconference on September 27, 2023 .**

*Translated on 2026, March the 31<sup>st</sup>*