

The Rochdale Principles are a set of seven values that govern how cooperatives operate, based on the success of the [Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers](#) in 1844. They include: voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, member economic participation, autonomy and independence, education and training, cooperation among co-operatives, and concern for community. These principles provide the foundation for the modern global cooperative movement.

The seven Rochdale principles

- [Voluntary and Open Membership](#): Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all people who are able to use their services and are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.
- [Democratic Member Control](#): Members control their cooperative through a democratic system of one member, one vote.
- [Member Economic Participation](#): Members contribute to the capital of their cooperative and benefit from it, typically in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative.
- [Autonomy and Independence](#): Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- [Education, Training, and Information](#): Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees to help them contribute effectively.
- [Co-operation among Co-operatives](#): Cooperatives work together to serve their members and strengthen the cooperative movement by cooperating through local, regional, national, and international structures.
- [Concern for Community](#): Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.