



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“Empresa Joven Europea” (EJE)



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1. How many hours a week?

At least 2 lessons a week.

2. Why a cooperative?

Cooperatives are ruled according to a set of principles underpinning very important values such as democratic decision-making, team-work and autonomy. Profit-making is not the only driver of cooperatives. Social and cultural development of the cooperative members as well as community engagement are prominent features in this kind of companies.

3. How many students in each cooperative?

As a rule of thumb 12-15 students.

4. Are student cooperatives legally registered?

No. Student cooperatives within EJE project serve primarily an educational purpose.

5. Do they use real money?

Yes, the project wants to be as close to reality as possible. However, no large sums of money are managed.

6. What is the start-up capital?

Cooperative members should agree on the amount. Normally speaking every member contributes 10 €. Please note national differences may apply.

7. How can we contact a partner company abroad?

Coordination team will provide contact details once you have uploaded a set of deliverables on the project website.

8. Deliverables... what do you mean?

Cooperatives will produce different documents and information. Some of these documents will be uploaded on the website as a proof of progress. The most important ones to start with are: logo, presentation text, group photo, organization chart, articles of association. Later on catalogue of products will complete the list.



9. OK... we got our partner contact details. What should we do now?

Send your partner an e-mail with a short introduction about your company, school and country. Include a short paragraph explaining what are your expectations.

10. Can we use some other communication tools?

Of course, MSN, Facebook, phone, videoconferences, chat rooms, anything will do as long as communication does not stop. But keep this in mind: quality is more important than quantity.

11. What about communication between teachers?

Teachers on both sides of the partnership should also stay in touch. It's a win-win situation. You can exchange opinions and ideas, agree on deadlines and share resources.

12. How many products should be included in the catalogue?

Product portfolio does normally contain 8 references at least.

13. Are products made or bought?

Both options are possible but most cooperatives choose to buy and export products from local suppliers.

14. What kind of products?

Anything will do as long as it is legal. Do bear in mind products will be shipped to a different country so factors such as culture, consumer preferences, weight, fragility should be taken into account.

15. Are products shipped for real?

Yes, indeed. Cooperatives should arrange shipment and send the products within the expected deadlines.

16. Ok, we have received the parcel from our partner company abroad. What should we do?

Find customers in your local area and try to sell them. There are several selling opportunities: school, local marketplace, special events, etc. Ask for the necessary permits.

17. We want to clear payments with our partner company. How?

A bank transfer will be the easiest option if both partners have a bank account. Remember to include IBAN and SWIFT codes. Ask your local branch for further info.



18. What about tax?

Profits are far below the minimum amount that should be declared. However it is advisable to contact your national tax office for advice.

19. Should we do anything special with profits?

Because of the particular nature of cooperatives it is very interesting to invest a certain percentage of profits in some sort of community project. It is recommended that all members sign an agreement on this particular issue at the very beginning of the project.

20. Whom should I contact if I have any questions or problems?

Your national/regional coordinator will be available to answer your questions.

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