

Study Visit to Emilia-Romagna

11th – 15th March 2024

Introduction

Join us on our Study Visit and delve deeper into the Italian region of Emilia-Romagna to understand more about what a cooperative region looks like. Emilia-Romagna is a northern Italy region extending from the Apennine Mountains to the Po River in the north. The capital, Bologna, is a vibrant city with an 11th-century university and arched porticos lining the streets and squares of its medieval core.

Emilia-Romagna is special because of its dense network of cooperatives that create 30% of the region's GDP and involve 2/3rds of the population as members. Cooperatives there span most sectors of the economy, especially retail, agribusiness and social services, but also with a significant presence in financial services, insurance, transportation and more.

In Emilia Romagna, the cooperative movement is more a networked ecosystem than a single, overarching corporation – a different approach to Mondragon. This has key advantages. In Italy, the cooperative movement is not a single company, but a whole interwoven fabric of horizontal, vertical, and complementary networks that support each other financially.

Dates

The visit will take place w/b 11th March 2024.

Travelling out Monday 11th.

Study Visit Tuesday 12th – Thursday 14th March.

Returning Friday 15th March.

Details of Study Visit to be confirmed.

The closest airport is Bologna. Other local airports are Rimini and Parma.

Programme

The visit will involve a combination of classroom-based, on-site, and cultural activities, including:

- Understanding the role that local authorities have played in developing the coop economy and the benefits of Marcora Law (support to creating new cooperatives including worker cooperatives)
- Health and social care cooperatives including children and young people
- Transport cooperatives
- Regional Cooperative Banking and financial systems (<https://www.emilbanca.it/> and <https://www.cafs.it/wordpress/>)
- Urban Regeneration - exploring the impact of the city's 'Regulation of the Urban Commons' which enshrines the right to citizen participation in the care and regeneration of public and private spaces
- University of Bologna - looking at the role of the university in supporting and growing cooperative practices and culture
- Walking tour of the city centre

Hosts:

Simona Casselli - Presidente Granlatte Soc. Coop.; Capo Affari Europei Legacoop Agroalimentare; Presidente CRPA; Presidente AREFLH

Davide Pieri – Agricultural Official - Confcooperative

Mario Montanari - Former International Relations Manager at the regional authority.

Essential background reading:

- <https://thenextsystem.org/learning-from-emilia-romagna>
- <http://makecommoningwork.fed.wiki/view/bologna-regulation>
- <https://www.yesmagazine.org/economy/2016/07/05/the-italian-place-where-co-ops-drive-the-economy-and-most-people-are-members>
- <https://www.uk.coop/get-involved/influencing-policy/search-policy-activity/why-we-back-marcora-legislation-uk>

The CCIN will fund:

- The lecture/tour/host costs
- Refreshments/meals on the Study Days
- Bed and Breakfast on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
- Group Dinners on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Who can attend:

Only those who have fully paid their membership fees will be eligible to participate, and places will be allocated on a 'first-come-first-served' basis.

Anyone who would like to join us for this year's Study Visit to Emilia-Romagna must complete our online certified training programmes – an **Induction Programme** and **Key Themes for Co-operative Councils**. This ensures that everyone understands what the Network is and our Cooperative Difference. This should be done BEFORE you apply. <https://www.councils.coop/training/ccin-training/>.

- The visit will be for 20 – 25 participants, depending on budget.
- Maximum of two funded places per Full Council Member and one funded place for Associate Members. Additional places can be booked, and councils will be invoiced for the additional accommodation costs.
- Affiliate Members are welcome to participate and will be invoiced for accommodation costs.
- The CCIN will meet the cost of group meals.
- A reserve list will be created for any member wishing to send additional delegates. These places will be allocated by 15th January 2024.

Next steps

Once your place is confirmed, delegates should make their own travel arrangements from the UK to Bologna, and transfer to the conference hotel. As of 1 December, the hotel will likely be Starhotels Excelsior Bologna ****.

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Booking form- Please complete it for each participant.

I have read and agree to the terms of the CCIN study visit to Emilia-Romagna taking place from 11 – 15 March 2023.

Full Name and title:

Job Title:

Council / Organisation:

Contact email:

Mobile number (for WhatsApp Group)

Dietary requirements:

Accessibility requirements:

I agree:

1. To attend the **full three days of the visit (12 – 14 March)**
2. To participate in the whole experience, including the Group dinners from **11 to 14 March**.
3. If I don't attend the full visit, I will reimburse the CCIN for any costs incurred, including management and admin fees.
4. To arrange and pay for my travel arrangements from the UK to the Group Hotel in Emilia-Romagna.
5. To be responsible for any meals excluded from the CCIN group booking.
6. To participate in a dedicated WhatsApp Group for the visit.
7. To share the learning from the visit with other CCIN members, including, but not limited to, attending the CCIN Annual Conference to report back.
8. The CCIN will not be responsible for the availability of flights once a place has been confirmed.

Details of **anyone else** you would like to add to the contact list (PA, diary secretary etc):

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SIGNED

Please sign and complete the booking form and return it to:

Nicola Huckerby - Operations Lead

Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network | Email: comms@councils.coop | Mobile: 07813 687 292