A Cooperative This is a team of interested parties coming together to form and run a business according to a set of values that include self-help, self-responsibility, democracy equality and solidarity. The business is jointly owned and democratically controlled. Co-operative members believe in ethical values of honesty openness, social responsibility and caring for others. Principles provide guidelines on how the business is run. Co-operatives can be registered as Industrial and Provident Society, a company limited by guarantee or a company limited by shares.