

**CORK
STUDENT
HOUSING
CO-OPERATIVE**



**Vision Document
2021**

Vision Document of the Cork Student Housing Co-Operative

Introduction

We serve our members with the intention to promote the co-operative housing model within Ireland, and provide students with on-hand experience of living and working for a co-operative.

With the cost of rent on the rise, unacceptable living conditions becoming the norm across rented accommodations, and the increase of multinational profit-hungry student accommodation services across the city of Cork; the students are ready to take matters into their own hands.

Mission

We aim to provide affordable, ethical, democratically run and not-for-profit accommodation for all students struggling with living in mainstream student accommodation or rented accommodation in Cork City.

We aim to introduce students to the Cooperative housing model whilst giving them a true hands-on experience of living cooperatively.

Vision

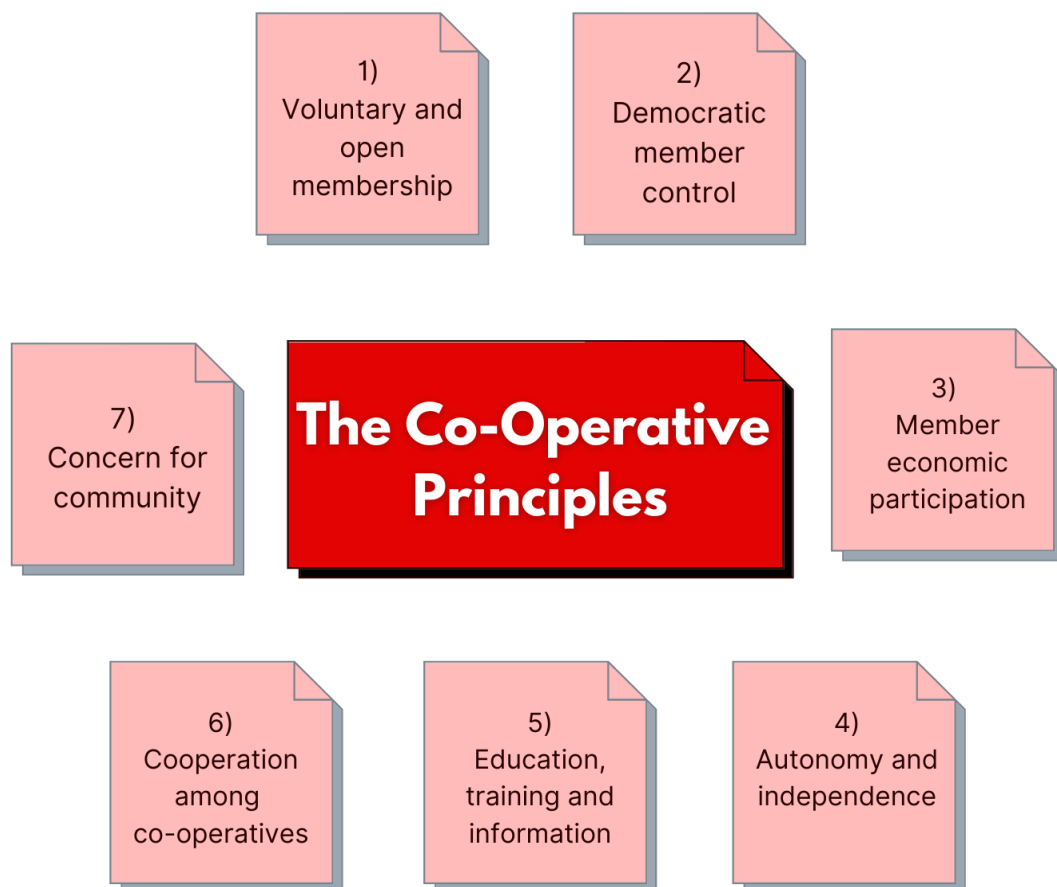
Our vision is to provide student controlled and run accommodation, so that it may become a viable and prevalent option for students when choosing accommodation in Cork City and beyond, as opposed to the privately owned, for-profit accommodation that is currently the most dominant option available to them in Ireland.

We strive to be free from landlords and corporate entities composed of private shareholders.



Values

- Upholding the 7 co-operative principles
 1. Voluntary and open membership.
 2. Democratic member control.
 3. Member economic participation.
 4. Autonomy and independence.
 5. Education, training and information.
 6. Cooperation among cooperatives.
 7. Concern for community.



- Honesty, respect and full accountability regarding all decisions and communications.
- Spearheading the provision of students with an ethical form of housing.
- Fostering dedicated and motivated members who wish to upkeep the co-ops reputation and mission.

What the co-op provides:

- Safe, friendly and open accommodation
- Control over their living space (Section 2)
- Fairly priced and ethical service (Section 3)

What the co-op needs:

- Contribution to the upkeep of the living quarters (Section 2)
- Attendance at weekly/monthly meetings (Section 3)
- Commitment to the contribution and promotion of the cooperative (Section 3)
- A monetary joining fee (could be €1) + monthly rent (for maintenance + services purposes) (Section 3)

Who do we serve?

- Third-level students of Cork City Institutions, including, but not limited to:
 - City North College of Further Education
 - Coláiste an Spioráid Naoimh
 - College of Commerce
 - Munster Technological University Cork (including Crawford College and Cork School of Music)
 - St John's Central College
 - University College Cork

Section 1 - Membership: The Co-operative seeks to establish student housing occupied and run by a membership of students in local third-level educational institutions. We will be guided by the logic of compassion and collaboration. We reject the dominant economic logic of accumulation and commit to living according to a spirit of openness and generosity. This entails a rejection of all forms of oppression, including but not limited to those based on class, race, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religion and disability (physical or mental). We will work to avoid



reproducing patterns of domination within our community and to act in solidarity with those struggling against oppression in Ireland and internationally.

Section 2 - Control of the co-operative: Control of the co-operative must lie in the hands of its resident students through direct democracy, to ensure and foster a culture of self-organised and radical student alternatives whereby students and the co-op are self-sufficient; economically, individually and collectively. This control extends to agency in the living space with regards to the students' individual freedom to decorate their living spaces as they see fit, and freedom to maintain and improve the infrastructure of the building.

Section 3 - Finances: The co-operative is financially supported by its membership and held in trust for all future membership. This is done by having a once-off organisational membership fee for all members and a monthly rent to be used for maintenance and upkeep of living quarters. Using this, we can ensure that we provide an ethical and fairly priced service for students of Cork.

Section 4 - Autonomy and independence: The democracy of the co-op must be protected to ensure that the project remains for students and by students. Students must be in a position to run the affairs of the co-op themselves, from an administrative point of view and in so far as is reasonable, a maintenance point of view.

Section 5: Education, training, and information: The Co-op aims to provide a home for education in all its forms as well as provide training and information in the core values listed in this document, through the sharing and improvement of skills and knowledge between students and across the community.

Section 6 - Cooperation among cooperatives: The Co-op hopes to actively engage with co-operatives in Ireland and abroad whose values align with the ethos outlined in this document. We aim to do this by being an active member of the



co-operative movement in Ireland. We can do this through providing education around co-operatives and social justice movements, and we also work with other co-operatives to help promote them and encourage members to shop locally with allied co-ops.

Section 7 - Concern for the community & environment - Supporting community development projects, being considerate neighbours, and working to maintain friendly relations with our wider community. Giving back to the community through fundraisers, providing a space for community projects - potentially working towards projects such as setting up a Maker Space allowing for community DIY projects, collaborating with Tidy Towns and getting involved with community Arts.

We recognise our interdependence with both society and the surrounding ecosystem. This includes the students, neighbouring residents, and all animal and plant life we have the privilege to share this place with. Accordingly, we endeavour to take no more than is our due and to give back what we can. To this end, we will live within our means in a sustainable fashion with regards to what we eat and any resources we use.

Additional Information

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