



The Development of Agricultural and Forestry Cooperation in Latvia

Latvian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives

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2021



The beginning of cooperation in Latvia

1. Who?

2. What?

3. When?

4. Where?

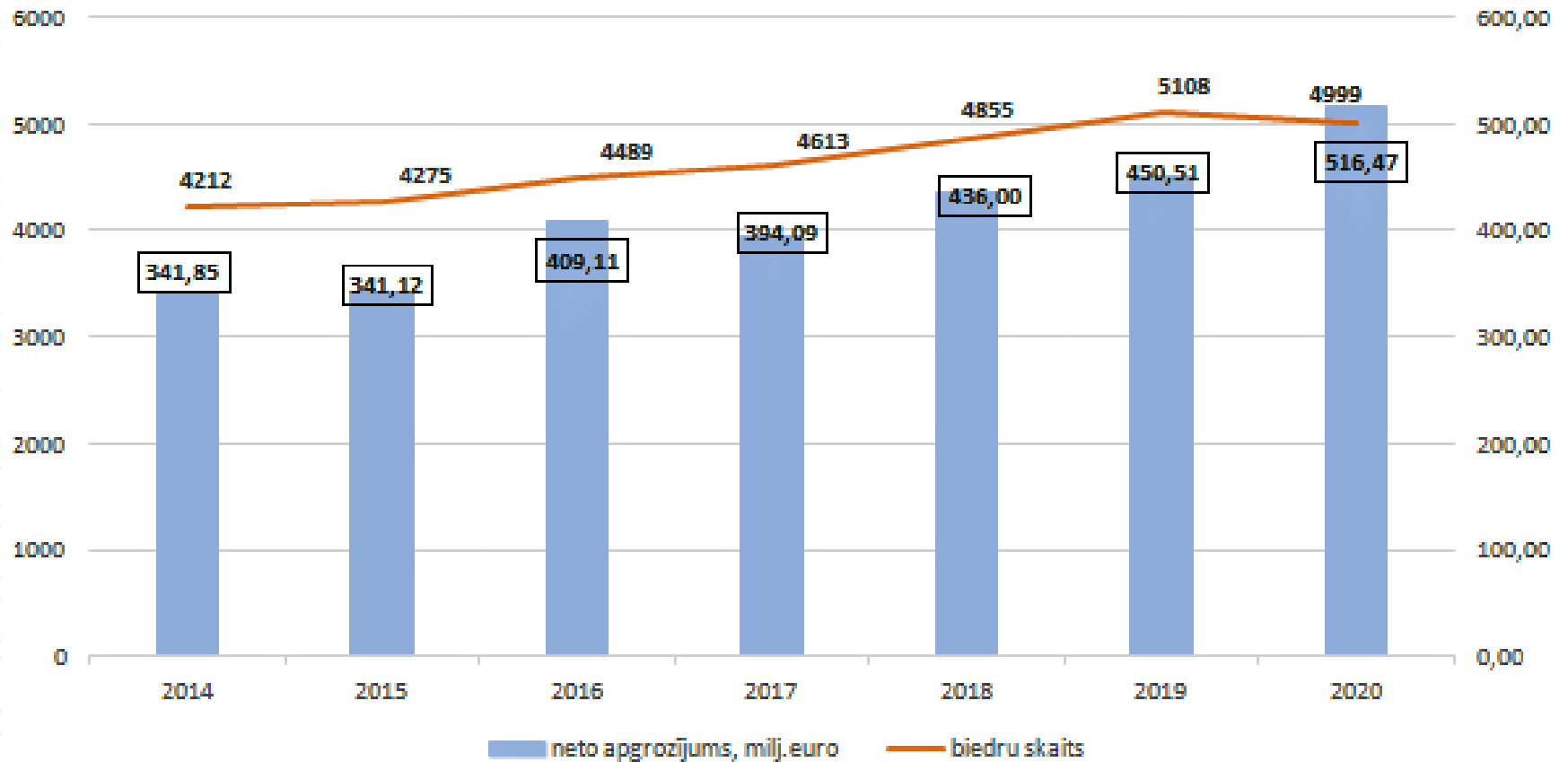
5. Why?

Timeline and main events

- **1993** – first agriculture cooperatives are founded after Latvia regains independence
- **2002** – the foundation of Latvian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives
- **2002-2012** – new cooperatives are founded at a fast pace, industries diversify
- **2010** – LAAC starts annual certification process for cooperatives
- **2012** – first forestry cooperative joins LAAC
- **2018** – The foundation of first 2nd level cooperative (9 members, one from Lithuania)
- **2019** – A new Cooperation law enters into force (previously – 1988)
- **2020** – first European cooperative starts operating in Latvia

Statistics

Kopējais atbilstīgs apgrozījums un biedru skaits 2014. -2020.gadā





Latvian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives

Basic information

Latvian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives (LLKA)

Founded:	2002
Founders:	4 grain cooperatives 2 dairy cooperatives
Number of members:	51 agricultural and forestry cooperatives
Goals:	<p>As per the Articles of Association the main goals of LLKA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To create and maintain a favourable environment for the growth and development of agricultural and forestry cooperatives;• To fortify the stability and further the modernization of agriculture by using cooperation as a platform of advancement;• To improve the understanding of society about the necessity and benefits that cooperation offers not only to farmers, but also to the general public;• To represent the members of LLKA in international (Including EU), state, local and non-governmental authorities, as well as private sector (where applicable).

Members

Currently LLKA has **over 50 members** that are cooperatives working in **7 different sectors**.

- Grain cooperatives – 15
- Dairy cooperatives – 20
- Fruit and vegetable cooperatives – 7
- Forestry cooperatives – 3
- Agricultural service cooperatives – 2
- Meat and poultry cooperatives – 3
- Cooperative of handicraftsman – 1

In 2020 LLKA accepted its **first European cooperative** as a member - Piiratud Vastutusega SCE E-Piim

7 members of LLKA have joined together with another 2 cooperatives to create a **second-degree cooperative**.

Structure

- **Main decision-making authority** – General assembly of Members
- **Board** – 9 representatives of members
 - Elected by General assembly of Members every 3 years
 - 3 members representing grain cooperatives
 - 3 members representing dairy cooperatives
 - 1 member representing fruit and vegetable cooperatives
 - 1 member representing meet, poultry and handicraftsmen cooperatives
 - 1 member representing forestry cooperatives
- **Current Chairman of the board** – Mr. Indulis Jansons
- **Administrative body** – LLKA office

Lines of action

Representation

- LLKA regularly **participates in international, state and local government meetings, assemblies and other events to represent** the cooperative point of view and oversee the inclusion of agriculture and forestry **cooperation as an important pillar of shaping the further development** of agriculture and forestry industries in Latvia and EU.
- LLKA regularly **represents its members** in State authorities, non-governmental organizations and private sector **to mediate and find solutions for their concerns**, as well as **to shape agricultural policies** to be logical, understandable and industry-appropriate guidelines and provision for farmers.

Lines of action

Education

- **Themed training sessions** for LLKA members
 - Annual accountant seminar
 - Seminar on effective organization and execution of Zoom meetings
 - Public speech
 - Etc.
- **Educational courses, as well as experience and expertise exchange** for LLKA members
 - National
 - International
- **Education of the students** of Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU) and other educational institutions specialising in agriculture and forestry
 - Scholarship for LLU students writing their Masters research thesis on cooperation
 - Cooperative managers as guest lecturers
 - Seminars and practical exercises with cooperative specialists
 - Etc.

Lines of action

Marketing and publicity

- **Regular press releases** popularising the idea of cooperation, outlining problematic issues in agriculture and forestry from cooperative point of view, promoting members and informing the public of actualities in cooperation
- **Marketing campaign** in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia
 - 12 articles
 - 2 press releases
 - 5 videos
 - Radio jingle
 - Info-graphic and Info-page
- **Social Media presence** – web page, Facebook, Twitter
 - Contests popularising products of LLKA members
 - Information of actualities in cooperation and agriculture in general

Lines of action

Additional Activities

- Regular preparation, submission and implementation of **projects of different profiles**
 - The creation of a system that allows the digitalization of cooperative operation, facilitates the information exchange amongst LLKA, cooperatives and cooperative members
 - Experience exchange for cooperative managers and specialists with other cooperatives both nationally and internationally
 - Discussing cooperatives as part of solution for Climate change with the next generation
 - Ect.
- Organizing of annual agricultural contest “Sējējs” in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture
 - Nomination – “The Most Successful Cooperation of the Year”
- Regular participation in COPA/COGECA events as a member of the organization


Partnerships

- **LLKA is the main partner of Ministry of Agriculture** in shaping agriculture and forestry policies, as well as solving issues and matters in regards to cooperation.
- **LLKA closely cooperates with other agricultural and forestry organizations** (Latvian Agricultural Organization Cooperation Council (LOSP), Farmers Parliament (ZSA), and others)
- **Other partners**
 - Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU)
 - Rural Support Service (LAD)
 - Ministry of Justice
 - Agricultural Data center
 - Ministry of Welfare
 - State Revenue Service (VID)
 - Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
 - Etc.

Contacts


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Thank you!