Funding Strategies for Platform Coops

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1. COOPERATIVES FUND COOPERATIVES

MIGROS, Switzerland

https://www.migros.ch/de.html

Development fund Engagement Migros
Migros is the largest retail company in Switzerland, owned democratically by 2 Million people, or a quarter of the country's population.
It runs the largest adult education service in the country, with more than 400.000 course participants each year. It is also the largest fitness facility provider and second largest in Europe.

Development fund Engagement Migros
For instance, The VillageOffice cooperative
VillageOffice cooperative is bringing work back to where we live. This will reduce commuting, strengthen local communities and create working spaces in keeping with the times. With the support of the development fund Engagement Migros, the cooperative is building a Swiss-wide network of local coworking spaces that can be reached from home by public transport or bicycle in 15 minutes.

Mondragon: Corporate Responsibility Foundation
The Mondragon foundations promote social economy among the cooperatives that are part of the cooperative ecosystem of Mondragon.

Italian example: A law from 1985 that requires all large cooperatives to reinvest 3% of their turnover (or profit?) into a communal fund. (actual amount?)

Park Slope food cooperative in New York: funding programms for other coops.

Smart Belgium: Freelancer Coop also funds other coops

Austria: Gemeinwohlkonto Raiffeisenbank / nur zertifizierte Gemeinwohl-Organisationen.

Italy: Mutualitätsfonds für Genossenschaften (Quelle)

2. CROWDFUNDING

Real-world examples by Fairmondo and SuperCoop:

- Fairmondo raised 208.000 (1st campaign) and 146.000 (2nd campaign) in members shares (now +2000 people have signed up).
- SuperCoop raised 17.000 Euro in their first funding round & gained a lot of positive momentum.
- Sharetribe model (purpose-steward owned model): investor crowdfunding, they raised 1 Mio $. Offering shares with a buy-back option.
- Crowdinvestment / continuous crowdfunding: Solidargemeinschaften zur Gesundheitsvorsorge (Solidago z.B.)
- Crowdfunding platform for cooperatives only (in Austria): economy of the common good-based.
- Goteo in Spain.

Coop Crowdfuning Platform in Austria: https://crowdcoopfunding.at
In Germany Startnext works on making it possible to sell coop shares (Genossenschaftsanteile) via crowdfunding which was legally impossible for a while

3. COOP ACCELERATORS AND INCUBATORS

START.coop

Start.coop accelerates the growth and development of the next generation of co-operative entrepreneurs with the knowledge, tools, and financing necessary to build businesses that share prosperity among the many, not just the few.

THE WORKING WORLD

https://www.theworkingworld.org/us/

The Working World builds cooperative businesses in low-income communities, using a model that combines non-extractive finance with tailor-made business support.

They begin with businesses that are interested in both extending ownership to all their workers and democratizing their decision-making process. Their team, working hand-in-hand with these businesses, help design loan projects that can be implemented in small, sometimes even weekly, increments.

TWW couple this with a business curriculum that is carefully researched and built from the ground-up to be tailored to even the most inexperienced of entrepreneurs. After agreeing on a plan of action, they lend the capital necessary to turn good ideas into productive plans and successful companies.

Since 2004, *The Working World* has supported more than 800 projects with over 200 businesses–lending more than four million dollars and creating hundreds of jobs in the process.

SHARED CAPITAL COOPERATIVE
https://sharedcapital.coop/about/

Shared Capital Cooperative is a national loan fund and federally certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that provides financing to cooperative businesses and housing throughout the United States. Shared Capital's mission is to build a just, equitable and democratic economy by investing in cooperative enterprise with a focus on providing financing to co-ops to create wealth in low-income and economically disadvantaged communities.

Cooperatives UK
Matching fund.

Gründungsbonus IBB (Investitionsbank Berlin)
Microcredit offer.

Startnext
Matching Fund for Social Entrepreneurship.

4. COOPERATIVE ALLIANCES

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE
https://www.ica.coop/en
ICA-EU partnership: strengthening #coops4dev

The I**CA-EU partnership** (cooperation with the European Commission) aims to bring the cooperative model to the next level within international development policies and programs. It is built around activities focused on increasing **visibility**, enhancing **advocacy**, sharing **capacity building**, strengthening cooperative development **networking**, and supporting all these with evidence from exhaustive **research**.

Acting as partners, the regional and global offices of the ICA are driving the actions, in collaboration with members, civil society organisations, international institutions, and the EU.

PHONE CO-OP FOUNDATION FOR COOPERATIVE INNOVATIONhttps://www.uk.coop/directory/phone-co-op-foundation-innovation

The aim of the Phone Co-op Foundation for Co-operative Innovation is to create new opportunities for co-operatives to become established and to expand through supporting new models of co-operatives and helping establish infrastructure organisations such as secondary co-operatives.

The Foundation will carry out research and development work and support nascent co-operatives by providing management services and arranging finance.

STARTER COOP
http://starter.coop/wp/
Coopstarter project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
CoopStarter 2.0 project aims to mobilize the youth around cooperative entrepreneurship by bridging the knowledge and tool gap between youth organisations and cooperative associations. Building upon the previous CoopStarter project, the project will gather CoopMentors, youth workers, young ambassadors, trainers and EU-wide network representatives to be able to give the young the tools and opportunities to finally bring meaningful jobs and power over their own lives within reach.

COOPERATIVES EUROPE
https://coopseurope.coop/
Cooperatives Europe brings together 84 member organisations. We represent 176,000 cooperative enterprises from all sectors of economy, 141 million members and 4,7 million employees.

SCC: SHARING, COLLABORATION, COOPERATION

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplus-project-details/#project/2018-1-BE01-KA202-038599
Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices.
Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training

5. STATE FUNDING

GERMANY

SOCIAL IMPACT FUND des BMWi

Digitale und datengetriebene Geschäftsmodelle und Pionierlösungen (spätere Calls zu "Creative Industry" und "Social Impact"):
https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Artikel/Innovation/IGP/igp-mitmachen.html
https://www.vdivde-it.de/submission/bekanntmachungen/2002/pscall_view

SENATSVERWALTUNG FÜR STADTENTWICKLUNG UND WOHNEN
Das Land Berlin fördert zur Stärkung des Genossenschaftswesens in der Stadt Vorhaben von Wohnungsbaugenossenschaften, die sowohl den Neubau als auch den Bestandserwerb umfassen können.
https://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/wohnen/wohnungsbau/de/genossenschaftsfoerderung/

EXISTENZGRÜNDUNGSFINANZIERUNG
Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie

EXIST Förderungen
Für Ausgründungen aus Hochschulen
https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline/nutzungsbedingungen.jsf;jsessionid=6BE4C9B44FA941D8072354C0AF9A8D61?redirectFrom=/easyonline/easyOnline.jsf

BERATUNGS-FÖRDERUNG
Für Organisationsentwicklung, Strategien, Digitalisierung, Team-Entwicklung etc.
Für bereits gegründete Unternehmen (Hack für Neugründungen: auch Freelancer, die ihr Geschäftsfeld weiterentwickeln, können die Förderung nutzen)
https://www.bafa.de/DE/Wirtschafts_Mittelstandsfoerderung/Beratung_Finanzierung/Unternehmensberatung/unternehmensberatung_node.html
Am 3. April 2020 ist eine modifizierte Richtlinie zur Förderung unternehmerischen Know-hows für **Corona-betroffene** Unternehmen in Kraft getreten.
Ab sofort können Sie einen Antrag für Beratungen, die bis zu einem Beratungswert von 4.000,00 Euro für Corona-betroffene kleine und mittlere Unternehmen (KMU) einschließlich Freiberufler ohne Eigenanteil gefördert werden, beim BAFA stellen.

DLR Projektträger:

INVESTITIONSBANK BERLIN IBB
https://www.ibb.de/media/dokumente/publikationen/wirtschaft-in-berlin/foerderfibel/foerderfibel.pdf

GRW Netzwerkförderung
https://www.ibb.de/media/dokumente/foerderprogramme/wirtschaftsfoerderung/grw/grw_berliner foerderkriterien_rl.pdf

IMPACT FUNDING BMWi (until Feb. 28th)
https://www.vdivde-it.de/submission/bekanntmachungen/2002/pscall_view

Mikrokreditfonds **www.mikrokreditfonds.de**

Bei einem höheren Finanzierungsbedarf kann zum Beispiel der ERP-Gründerkredit - StartGeld genutzt werden. Informationen finden Sie hierzu auf der Internetseite der KfW unter **http://www.kfw.de/067**

Förderdatenbank
https://www.foerderdatenbank.de/FDB/DE/Home/home.html

European Solidarity Corps
- Not specifically for Coops but Solidarity Projects in general
- 5 applicants must be below 30
- https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/solidarity_projects_en

6. Others

Swiss association granting 3-5.000 CHF for projects and supporting the starting phase
https://stiftungfgb.ch

COMMUNITY SHARES
https://communityshares.org.uk/sites/default/files/community_shares_handbook.pdf

HACKING VENTURE CAPITAL

SELF-FUNDING MODELS

Coops pool funds for expansion and development.
Examples: Mondragon, Italian coops.

SALUS COOP

https://www.saluscoop.org/
Salus Coop aims to legitimize citizens' rights to control their own health records while facilitating data sharing to accelerate research innovation in healthcare.

https://www.civic.capital/

Our cities are brimming with civic assets. These are the resources from which our communities stand to derive many benefits regardless of 'ownership'. While focusing on ownership is helpful to bring order to our world, we believe (along with Nobel-prize winner Elinor Ostrom and others) it has led us on a path of false dichotomies and arbitrary demarcations. These assets, after all, do not exist in isolation; what gives them their value is the surrounding functioning of our environmental, economic and social systems – our natural assets and human activities that shape the resource.

https://goodmoney.com/
Good Money is the world's first digital banking platform that makes every customer an owner and allocates 50% of our profits to social and environmental impact. No greenwashing. NO BS.

DAOs (Decentralized Autonomous Organizations)
Rather collaborative decision-making tool
One token one vote, instead of one member one vote

Economic Space Agency (Akseli Virtanen, Pekko Koskinen etc.)

P2P Models: DAO infrastructure for platform coops

Lemonade Stand: list of potential funding streams

Books:
Postcapitalist entrepreneurship

Purchase of Gold and Silver (& Cryptocurrencies):
Gold, Silver and Cryptocurrencies are proving a good way to preserve purchasing power in times of economic uncertainty and increase government spending.

For more info, please check this series (over a weekend)
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE88E9ICdiphYjJkeeLL2O09eJoC8r7Dc

You can also drop an email at kpsoroula@hotmail.com if you need more information about this topic and find ways to fund your project.