



frequently asked questions!

what is the food coop?

The food coop is a community-owned grocery store. Unlike traditional corporate grocery chains, the food coop operates for the benefit of the community.

how does it work?

Member-owners buy a share in the coop, which grants them voting rights, access to member benefits, and involvement in the democratically-operated store.

what are the member benefits?

Member-owners typically receive financial benefits like discounts, and they can even earn a share of the coop's profits through patronage dividends. This depends on what the member-owners choose! Members elect the coop's board of directors and have an equal voting rights. This democratic approach is at the heart of the co-operative philosophy.

The benefits of member ownership also extend to the entire community. Coops keep money in the local economy, increase access for locally produced food, and prioritise business practices that are good for people and the planet.

what are the responsibilities for members?

Members are encouraged to participate in the decision-making process, often taking part in annual meetings and voting on key issues, including product selection, store maintenance, event planning and other issues that may arise.

how do I become a member?

Becoming a member entails purchasing a one-time €100 share in the coop.



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can anyone shop at the food coop, or do you need to be a member?

Yes, anyone can shop at the coop, however only members will be able to access the benefits previously outlined.

how will the food coop differ from other grocery shops?

The food coop is a community-owned and democratically controlled one-stop shop for local products, sourced directly from Maltese farmers and producers - designed to serve the needs of the community.

will shopping at the food coop be more expensive than a regular grocery shop?

Shopping at the food coop will not be more expensive than regular grocery shop, and has the possibility of being cheaper than regular grocery shops as we are not importing products incurring less costs and buying directly from producers and farmers! Members will benefit from additional discounts.

where is the initial financing coming from?

As the first community-owned co-operative in Malta, this initiative is being financed by the Malta Food Agency and Koperattivi Malta for the first 2 years.

what happens to the food coop profits?

Profits are re-invested back into the food coop at the benefit of members and producers. This means better and cheaper products for members, constant maintenance of the shop, and higher wages for workers!

is it really €100 to join?

Yes, really! The share is low to ensure accessibility for people from all backgrounds who share the same vision and believe in the co-operative model.

where will the co-op be located?

The food coop, Triq il-Pitkali, Ta' Qali