

## **Identifying the potential of consumer cooperatives in the development of circular business models in the Republic of Moldova**

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### **Abstract**

**Introduction:** This article explores how consumer cooperatives can contribute to circular business models in the context of climate change and sustainable development, emphasizing their pivotal role in Moldova's transition to circular practices.

**Aim:** The aim of the article is to assess the potential role of consumer cooperatives in the development and promotion of circular business models in the Republic of Moldova.

**Method:** To provide concrete evidence of the contribution of consumer cooperatives to the evolution of circular business models, we designed a comprehensive survey tailored for cooperatives. This survey aimed to gather pertinent information regarding the current involvement of these cooperatives and their constituent entities in the circular economy system. Additionally, it sought to outline future strategies and initiatives in this domain. This survey was thoughtfully designed as an essential element within a scientific research initiative under the State Program (2020-2023) for the Development of Circular Economy Mechanisms in the Republic of Moldova.

**Findings:** The results of this research, obtained through the survey and subsequent data analysis, furnish a clear and detailed portrayal of the extent of consumer cooperatives' participation and their potential contributions to the Republic of Moldova's circular economy. This comprehensive understanding of their role can inform policy decisions and strategic initiatives aimed at fostering a more sustainable economic landscape in the country.

**Originality and value:** This article contributes significantly to the understanding of the sustainable development transformations needed in the Republic of Moldova, serving as a valuable guide for decision-makers fostering a responsible economy.

**Key Words:** Consumer cooperatives, Circular business models, Circular economy, Climate change, Sustainable practices, Sustainable consumption, Waste management.

**Jel Codes:** Q01, Q56, P13

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