Understanding Competition Law for Cooperatives Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Cooperative Societies	**Duration**	10 Days
Base Fee	$3,000 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

In today’s rapidly evolving global economy, competition law compliance is vital for cooperatives striving to ensure ethical business practices, enhance market performance, and avoid regulatory penalties. Training Course on Understanding Competition Law for Cooperatives provides a robust foundation in competition regulations, helping cooperative leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders understand how to navigate antitrust frameworks and promote fair practices. With increasing regulatory scrutiny and global interconnectedness, equipping cooperatives with legal knowledge has never been more critical.

Designed to foster legal risk management, improve corporate governance, and enhance market competitiveness, this course will empower participants with actionable insights into cartel behavior, abuse of market dominance, and merger control specific to cooperative structures. Participants will engage in real-life case studies, simulation exercises, and strategic legal frameworks that elevate compliance readiness and ensure alignment with national and international competition laws.

Programme Curriculum

Understanding Competition Law for Cooperatives Training Course

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Course Objectives

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand core competition law principles affecting cooperatives.
2. Analyze anti-competitive practices and their implications.
3. Identify and mitigate legal risks in cooperative operations.
4. Differentiate between market dominance and collaborative advantage.
5. Evaluate merger control requirements for cooperatives.
6. Apply cartel detection strategies and whistleblowing mechanisms.
7. Implement effective compliance programs for cooperatives.
8. Navigate price-fixing and bid-rigging scenarios.
9. Understand the role of competition authorities in cooperative oversight.
10. Assess legal issues related to joint purchasing agreements.
11. Strengthen cooperative governance through legal audits.
12. Leverage digital competition frameworks in the cooperative economy.
13. Build a culture of legal compliance and ethical competition.

Target Audiences

1. Cooperative Board Members
2. Legal and Compliance Officers
3. Government Regulatory Officials
4. Cooperative Managers and Executives
5. Policy Analysts
6. Financial Controllers in Cooperatives
7. Auditors and Risk Managers
8. Academics and Legal Researchers

Course Duration: 10 days

Course Modules

Module 1: Introduction to Competition Law for Cooperatives

- Understanding competition law basics
- Overview of cooperative structures
- Importance of competition compliance
- Legal obligations in market conduct
- Cooperative exemptions and limitations
- **Case Study: The Dairy Cooperative Antitrust Case**

Module 2: Antitrust Law and Cooperatives

- Definition of antitrust violations
- Price-fixing and bid-rigging explained
- Understanding market allocation schemes
- Antitrust immunity and the Capper-Volstead Act
- Reporting obligations for cooperatives
- **Case Study: U.S. Poultry Producers & Market Allocation**

Module 3: Abuse of Market Dominance

- What constitutes dominance
- Examples of abuse in cooperatives
- Pricing discrimination
- Refusal to deal scenarios
- Legal defenses against abuse charges
- **Case Study: European Sugar Cooperatives Investigation**

Module 4: Cartel Behavior and Detection

- Red flags in cooperative behavior
- Whistleblowing policies
- Cooperation with authorities
- Role of audits
- Penalties and leniency programs
- **Case Study: Bread Cartel in South Africa**

Module 5: Mergers and Acquisitions in Cooperatives

- Merger thresholds and filing
- Joint ventures among cooperatives
- Pre-merger notifications
- Competition watchdog oversight
- Impact assessments
- **Case Study: Agribusiness Merger Review in Brazil**

Module 6: Joint Purchasing and Buying Groups

- Legality of joint purchasing
- Risk of collusion
- Economic benefits and constraints
- Monitoring and transparency
- Safe harbor guidelines
- **Case Study: European Retail Buying Group**

Module 7: Price Fixing and Market Allocation

- Horizontal vs. vertical price-fixing
- Bidding collusion
- Exclusionary conduct
- Competitive neutrality
- Redressal mechanisms
- **Case Study: Fertilizer Cooperative Penalty in India**

Module 8: Legal Risk Management in Cooperatives

- Risk identification techniques
- Implementing legal safeguards
- Internal controls and audits
- Policy formulation
- Staff training for compliance
- **Case Study: Kenyan Savings and Credit Societies (SACCOs)**

Module 9: Developing Compliance Programs

- Structure of a compliance program

- Code of conduct for cooperatives
- Internal reporting procedures
- Monitoring tools
- Role of legal counsel
- **Case Study: Compliance Transformation in Nordic Co-ops**

Module 10: Investigations and Enforcement

- Competition authority powers
- Investigation procedures
- Rights during an inspection
- Handling subpoenas and requests
- Response protocols
- **Case Study: Raid on Agricultural Supply Chain Co-op**

Module 11: Competition Law and Digital Cooperatives

- Impact of digital transformation
- Algorithmic pricing risks
- Online platform dominance
- Data-sharing constraints
- Emerging legal frameworks
- **Case Study: EU Investigation of E-Commerce Cooperatives**

Module 12: Ethics and Corporate Governance

- Importance of ethical leadership
- Conflict of interest in cooperatives
- Transparency standards
- Whistleblower protections
- Stakeholder accountability
- **Case Study: Governance Reform in Canadian Grain Co-op**

Module 13: Training and Awareness Strategies

- Training policy development
- Board and staff capacity building
- Continuous learning platforms
- Awareness campaigns
- Performance reviews
- **Case Study: Legal Education Strategy in Philippine Co-ops**

Module 14: Global Competition Law Trends

- Comparative competition laws
- OECD and UNCTAD guidelines
- Cross-border enforcement
- Extraterritorial jurisdiction
- Cooperative-specific reforms globally
- **Case Study: ASEAN Regional Coop Law Review**

Module 15: Building a Compliance Culture

- Values-driven leadership
- Role modeling by executives
- Communication channels

- Incentivizing compliance
- Evaluating culture metrics
- **Case Study: Culture Shift in Australia's Cooperative Banking Sector**

Training Methodology

- Interactive lectures using real-world examples
- Case study analysis for practical understanding
- Workshops and breakout discussions
- Role-playing and simulations
- Self-assessment quizzes and knowledge checks
- Group presentations and peer feedback

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Online	$2,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$9,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

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