



World Council

Global Bridges Exchange—Ecuador

April 20-24, 2026

Cooperative Payment Infrastructure for Competitiveness and Inclusion

This exchange will bring together leaders from credit unions, SACCOs and savings and credit cooperatives across Latin America to explore **RTC Coonecta's** national payments ecosystem in Ecuador. Through meetings with its leadership and visits to local SACCOs, participants will analyze how a shared payments infrastructure drives competitiveness, financial inclusion, and benefits members—highlighting key lessons in governance, collaboration, and regulatory alignment.

Strategic objectives:

Explore how cooperatively-owned national payments infrastructures can:

- Improve the systemic competitiveness of cooperatives
- Reduce operating costs and accelerate innovation
- Facilitate interoperability, financial inclusion, and digital access
- Strengthen the cooperative sector's voice with regulators
- Be replicable in other countries under different regulatory frameworks



Shared infrastructure is not just technology: it's governance, trust, and cooperation in action. This Global Bridges Exchange in Ecuador will show how SACCOs can build capacities together that none could develop alone—and without losing identity or control.

Program Itinerary | Ecuador – April 20–24

Monday, April 20 | Quito

Arrival and alignment

Arrival of participants, check-in and informal welcome meeting to align expectations, present the agenda and offer an overview of the Ecuadorian cooperative system.

Tuesday, April 21 | RTC Coonecta – Quito

Design and governance of a national cooperative infrastructure

Dialogue with the leadership of RTC Coonecta on the origin of the model, its governance, payment system architecture, relationship with the regulator, and sustainability. Risk analysis, scalability, and roadmap, with an emphasis on lessons transferable to other contexts.

Wednesday, April 22 | CACPECO – Latacunga

Practical Implementation and Local Impact

Visit CACPECO to learn how a shareholder SACCO uses Coonecta's services in its daily operations. Explore the benefits, challenges, and organizational changes, as well as the impact on financial inclusion, with a focus on women entrepreneurs.

Thursday, April 23 | Cooperativa San Francisco de Ambato – Ambato

Scale, Innovation, and Member Experience

Analysis of the strategic use of Coonecta in a SACCO with a distinct profile. Comparison of approaches, key investment decisions, and collective learnings on scalability, digital adoption, and member experience.

Friday, April 24 | Quito

Close and Departure

Airport transfers and informal closing of the exchange.

Hands-on learning and collaboration with real impact.

The registration fee of **USD 1,800** includes four nights' accommodation (arrival Monday, departure Friday), breakfast and lunch throughout the program, local transportation, and exchange facilitation by WOCCU. For more information or to register, please contact Thomas Belekevich at tbelekevich@woccu.org.

