

Multi-stakeholder co-operatives, socialism and solidarity

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CO-OPERATIVE
MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION

Motivation



- Cuba today
- Co-operatives in socialism - are they different?
- Co-operatives under socialist self-managed system; lessons from Yugoslavia

Conclusion



- Multistakeholder co-operative model fits best

Self-management



- All firms worker owned and controlled
 - Assembly
 - Workers councils – delegates -governing body
 - Management- accountable to workers
- Associated labour
 - Worker ownership
 - Use and maintain capital stock ('social ownership')

Links to civil society



- Associated labour
 - Social compacts with local ‘social organizations’
 - Investment into local infrastructure
 - Networks – self-management agreements (MOUs)

Private business in socialism



- Labour should not be hired for a wage
 - Self-determination
 - Emancipation and decision-making
- Small family business in Yugoslavia
 - Limited ‘labour for hire’ – only 5 allowed (besides family members)

Self-employment



- Private ownership of the means of production
 - Land (agriculture)
 - Tools (trades; services; arts)

Co-operatives in self-managed Yugoslavia



- Co-operatives – a means to connect self-employed who own their means of production with ‘associated labour’
 - Agricultural co-operatives
 - Trades co-operatives
 - Artists co-operatives
 - Housing co-operatives (diverse; often pooling resources for private housing development within self-managed firms)

Croatia: self-management heritage



- Co-operative law does not specify member types
- Most new co-operatives are multi-stakeholder
 - Workers
 - Supporters
 - Suppliers
 - Investors and developers
 - Local government
 - Associations (civil society groups)

Co-operatives in Cuba



- Human development
- Limit labour for hire
- Local and community development

Worker co-operatives in Cuba



- Experimental group of 500 worker co-ops
- Success in providing incentives to former state employees under central planning
 - Empowerment
 - Autonomy in decision-making
 - Efficiency and financial gain
- Member solidarity – in some cases, but not all
- Solidarity with wider community- rare



- Rent seeking- present particularly in food supply chains

The multi-stakeholder model



- In case of Croatia – provides community linkages
- Includes workers and civil society
- Provides local economic development
- But co-operatives are rare;
 - overtaken by social enterprise discourse and support

MSC in Cuba



- In Cuba – potential to capitalize on the achievements of state socialism and a socialist development aspiration
- But, it will be a challenge
 - The model is not yet present
 - Inequality is already widespread
 - Supporting institutions are lacking