

CALL FOR PAPERS

ICA-ILO International Research Conference

Cooperatives and the World of Work

Antalya, Turkey

10-11 November 2015

Deadlines	<i>tentative and subject to change</i>
Abstracts	<i>February 15, 2015</i>
Notification of acceptance	<i>April 15, 2015</i>
Early bird registration	<i>September 15, 2015</i>

Conference Objectives

The International Co-operative Alliance Committee on Cooperative Research (ICA CCR) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) will host a research conference on 10-11 November 2015 in Antalya, Turkey. The conference will bring together researchers, students, practitioners, advocates, policy makers and representatives of employers' and workers' organizations working in areas of cooperative enterprises and social and solidarity economy organizations, as well as labour research and themes related to the world of work.

The ILO/ICA research conference will be an opportunity, among others, to:

- Bring cooperative researchers and labour researchers together around the themes of world of work;
- Raise visibility and interest in research on decent work (job creation, rights at work, social protection, social dialogue) in the cooperatives world, to encourage more systematic and effective engagement with world of work issues;
- Raise visibility and interest in qualitative and quantitative research on cooperative enterprises among labour economists and researchers ; and
- Establish contacts and potentially a research network around cooperatives and the world of work.

Conference Background

The crisis in the world of work, which ranges from unemployment, to unfairness and inequality in the labour market, the widespread lack of social protection, the impact of climate change along with food and fuel crises, has generated growing interest of policy makers in the cooperative enterprise model. Across continents, cooperative enterprises have been established to confront the crises and have grown both in membership and return at such times. Today when cooperative principles are put into action, they continue to show their relevance and value.¹ Worker cooperatives are emerging as a way to rescue failing enterprises and legislation is often following to catch up with the economic realities in a number of countries.

Cooperative form of enterprise and organization is growing and fulfilling a range of social, economic and environmental functions and responding to the needs of their members. They are increasingly being established among vulnerable categories of workers such as migrant workers, people with disabilities, and workers in the informal economy (e.g. street vendors, waste pickers, home-based, domestic, construction and transport workers); as well as in innovative sectors, including social care cooperatives (for elderly, disabled and child care), tourism cooperatives, and renewable energy production and distribution cooperatives.

As global attention focuses on the challenges of sustainable development, from the world of work perspective, cooperative enterprises are well-placed to be leaders to advance the decent work dimension of a just transition. Nevertheless, although their role as key building blocks for a jobs-oriented recovery strategy may seem obvious, evidence-based policy in that regard requires further research and statistics to track the quantity and quality of the jobs created.²

The cooperative movement must be in a position to articulate and measure the forms of value that cooperatives produce in leveraging more and better jobs.³ What impact do the ownership structure and the active participation of workers and members in cooperatives have on the productivity of such enterprises? What impact does broadening ownership have on job quality and working conditions? What is the record of cooperatives on labour compliance? What is the qualitative and quantitative contribution of cooperatives enterprises to advancing full and productive employment and decent work, in particular for vulnerable groups?

¹ Message from Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General, on International Cooperative Day 2013

http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/who-we-are/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_216859/lang--en/index.htm

² Guy Ryder's opening remarks to the UNRISD Conference on Social and Solidarity Economy held in May 2013 in Geneva.

http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/who-we-are/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_212653/lang--en/index.htm

³ ICA: Blueprint for a co-operative decade (2013)

http://ica.coop/sites/default/files/media_items/ICA%20Blueprint%20-%20Final%20version%20issued%207%20Feb%202013.pdf

Conference Topics

The conference will address, but is not limited to, the following research areas:

1. Cooperatives and labour law compliance
2. Cooperatives and trade unions
3. Cooperatives and employers' organizations
4. Cooperatives and employment creation
5. Cooperatives and child labour
6. Cooperatives and forced labour
7. Cooperatives and formalizing the workers in the informal economy
8. Cooperatives and decent work in the rural economy
9. Cooperatives and youth employment
10. Cooperatives on women's economic empowerment and gender equality
11. Cooperatives and labour statistics
12. Cooperatives and codes of conduct
13. Cooperatives and labour legislation and policies
14. Cooperatives and productivity
15. Employment in cooperatives across value chains
16. Cooperatives and social protection
17. Cooperatives and social dialogue
18. Innovation in cooperatives (social, organizational and technical)
19. Enterprise restructuring and worker cooperatives
20. Cooperatives and labour in socialist and transition economies
21. Theoretical advancements on co-operatives and labour issues
22. Comparative performance of worker co-operatives and (non-co-operative) employee owned firms
23. Coops & human capital development/education/training

Call for papers

We invite practitioners, researchers, and policy makers in the cooperative and social and solidarity economy to submit an abstract no longer than 300 words on the above topics, or other topics related to cooperatives and the world of work. Proposals for presentations or for panels (up to 6 participants) and sessions (three or four presenters of research papers on a common theme) are welcome. The abstracts should be submitted by email to: coop@ilo.org no later than February 15, 2015.

The email communications should indicate ICA-ILO2015 and the family name of the corresponding author in the subject area (eg. **ICA-ILO2015 - Smith**). The message should

indicate clearly the type of proposal - paper abstract, panel, or a session. A panel or session proposals need to include names of all presenters, as well as abstracts of all three (or maximum four) papers for a session.

Young scholars programme (YSP)

Young/new researchers (graduate students, doctoral and post-doctoral students, and new scholars within 2 years of receiving their degrees) are invited to submit their proposals as indicated in the above Call for papers, also indicating their wish to participate in the ‘Young scholars programme’. Depending on interest, a decision about the exact shape of the program will be made with input from the applicants. This may be a pre-conference workshop for new scholars, related to the themes of the conference, or a discussion forum related to their research. Deadline to express interest in YSP by email to snovkovic@smu.ca is February 15, 2015. Spaces are limited.

Young scholars will also be eligible for a reduced registration fee. Financial travel support is possible, but it will depend on the number of applicants and available resources. More details will be available in the Conference website closer to the date.

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