



CECOP – CICOPA Europe European conference:

“Worker ownership: the synthesis between entrepreneurial development and social inclusion”

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd October 2008 (*)

Maison des Associations Internationales (MAI)
Rue de Washington 40 – 1050 Brussels

The world level declaration defining the “worker ownership” model of enterprises represented by CECOP-CICOPA Europe was approved by the general assembly of the International Cooperative Alliance in 2005^[1]. The declaration emphasises both the entrepreneurial aspects and the social inclusion aspect of the model. It advocates the need to develop and promote such enterprises and *“the full recognition of their role as actors in the solution of the problems of unemployment and social exclusion”* (General Considerations, 5) because they are *“effective actors of job creation and inclusion to working life of unemployed social groups”* (IV, 1). The declaration further states that *“Cooperative worker ownership should be promoted as an option and an entrepreneurial model as much in processes of entrepreneurial change and restructuring, start-ups, privatisations, conversion of enterprises in crisis, and transmission of enterprises without heirs, as in the concession of public services and public procurement, in which the State should define conditioning clauses that stimulate local development through worker cooperative enterprises”* (IV, 6).

The conference is an attempt to show how worker ownership, as an entrepreneurial system which directly contributes to entrepreneurial development and social inclusion, is of high relevance to three key and inter-related European policy issues: **services of general interest, cohesion policy and structural funds**, and **enterprise restructuring**.

Wednesday 1st October

8.30am - 9.30am: Welcome of participants

9.30am – 9.50am: Introduction speech

« Worker ownership, entrepreneurial development and social inclusion » by **Javier Salaberria**, President of CICOPA (International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers’ Cooperatives).

[1] World Declaration on Worker Cooperatives, 2004.

9.50am – 1pm: WORKSHOP 1: Worker ownership within the framework of services of general interest and social services of general interest

The issue of social services is particularly important to the enterprise model based on worker ownership, not only because social services offer an important growth potential for it, but also because they are directly linked to the issue of the services of general interest. The latter in turn constitute a very substantial part of the service sector, in which our enterprise model is experiencing, by far, its largest expansion.

Furthermore, the question of the general interest is a fundamental one for cooperatives and the social economy in general.

During this seminar, we will define the EU normative framework for SGI/SSGI, reflect upon the specific contribution of the cooperative and social economy sector in this field, provide a few examples of entrustment of social services by enterprises of the “worker ownership” model. We will explore how we can better work together, within the CECOP network and with other partners of the social economy and among social NGOs, in promoting SGI/SSGI (in particular within the framework of the Service Directive) and we will try to propose specific normative provisions on SGI/SSGI within the framework of the European internal market.

- “How to integrate the principle of general interest and competition rules in the EU?”, by **Joel Hasse Ferreira**, Euro-MP
- “The legal framework of SGI for social economy enterprises in Europe”, by **Laurent Gehkhière**, Social Union for Housing, Representative by the European Union
- The “set of criteria” (or “faisceau d’indices” in French) method in the definition of the allocation of criteria for SGI” by **Marie-Laure Onnée**, *Mutualité Fonction Publique*, Member of the Collective SSIG, member of the working group on SGI of Social Economy Europe
- “The specificities of cooperatives and other worker-owned enterprises in the definition and provision of SGI” by **Bruno Roelants**, CECOP Secretary General
- “SGI and social cooperatives in Italy” by **Filippo Perrini**, Confcooperative Brescia
- “SGI and the cooperatives societies of collective interest (SCIC) in France”, by **Michel Porta**, CGSCOP

Exchanges and debate

Conclusions by **Jan Olsson**, Vice-president of CECOP and Vice-president of Coompanion (Sweden)

1pm – 2.30pm: Lunch break

2.30pm - 6pm: WORKSHOP 2: Restructuring and worker ownership: the role of the financial organisation working for the development

Over 10 financial institutions working for the development of enterprises based on worker ownership exist within the CECOP network. Along the years, they have gained a solid expertise in enterprise development and restructuring (including the cooperativisation of enterprises in crisis or without heirs). The financial instruments which they use have the role of promoting and completing the financial participation of the worker-members of enterprises, and are critical in their start up and development stages.

- "The entrepreneurial restructuring in Europe and the role of cooperatives and other worker-owned enterprises" by **Fernando Vasquez**, Deputy Head Unit F3, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission
- "Introduction to the different financial organisations working for the development of worker ownership enterprises in the CECOP network" by **Marcel Hipszman**, ESFIN-IDES
- Presentation of some typologies of financial institutions:
 - European organisations: Soficatra, by **Bruno Dunkel**
 - Intersectoral cooperative solidarity funds: Coopfond by **Sergio Nasi**, Director of Coopfond
 - Organisations channelling public funds: CFI, by **Alberto Zevi**, Director of CFI
 - Solidarity fund of the worker ownership cooperation: Socoden, by **Christian Simon**
 - Introducing ESFIN-IDES, by **Marcel Hipszman**, special adviser to the President of ESFIN-IDES
 - European organisation: CoopEst, by **Bruno Dunkel**
 - Banca Prossima, a bank for social cooperatives, by **Alessandra dal Colle**

Round table between the development financial organisations of the CECOP network, moderator: **Marcel Hipszman**, followed by a debate

Conclusions by **Marcel Hipszman**

Thursday 2 October

8.45 – 9.30: Welcome coffee

9.30am – 12pm: WORKSHOP 3: Structural funds and worker ownership

Structural funds are fundamental to the development of our "worker ownership" enterprise model, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. On the basis of last year's seminar on structural funds, the purpose of this workshop is to provide an update of the situation in the EU member states in which CECOP has members, in particular on how our national organisations could better monitor national structural fund policies and concretely promote our enterprise model in regional development projects.

- "The European cohesion policy and the social economy" by **Dominique Bé**, Deputy Head Unit A1 Coordination of the European Social Fund, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission
- "Social economy, local development and European Social Fund" by **Dimitri Coutiez**, Cabinet of Minister Jean-Claude Marcourt, Minister of Economy and Employment of the Walloon Region
- The contribution of worker cooperatives, social cooperatives and other worker owned enterprises in the regional development in Europe within the framework of structural funds in countries belonging to the different steps of the European construction:
 - Founding countries: the case of Italy by **Giovanni Tricarico**, Confcooperative Puglia
 - First wave of enlargement: the case of Spain by **Jose de Casas Martín**, General coordinator of CEPES Andalusia
 - Second wave of enlargement: the case of Finland by **Erkki Kangas**, CoopFinland
 - Third wave of enlargement: the case of Czech Republic by **Sonia Vandeelenova**, SCMVD

Round table between CECOP members moderated by **Manuel Mariscal**, Vice-president of CECOP and Vice-president of COCETA – TBC, followed by a debate

Conclusions by **Manuel Mariscal**

12pm – 12.30pm: Conclusions of the conference, by Felice Scalvini, President of CECOP

12.30pm – 2pm: Lunch break

2pm – 4pm: Afternoon session on the common CECOP strategy in 2009/2010 - ONLY FOR CECOP MEMBERS

Considering the three topics previously examined during the conference and of the other policy issues examined during the June interactive seminar, the CECOP members will be invited to discuss the strategic guidelines included in the CECOP 2008-2010 strategic plan and how those guidelines can be translated in concrete activities for 2009 and 2010.



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