



BICS

The Berlin Institute for
Cooperative Studies (BICS)



Cooperative Responses to Global Challenges

International Conference

March 21 - 23, 2012

Berlin, Germany

Announcement and Call for papers



Humboldt-University Berlin



Funded by DZ BANK-Foundation, Germany

Cooperative Responses to Global Challenges

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Background and Objectives

Modern societies are confronted with challenging decisions about their future. In a globalizing world setting the right priorities about economic growth, the design and reform of democracy, the issue of human rights and ecosystem management are becoming increasingly complex. The ways in which we design organizations and craft the rules for making them effective will be of crucial importance for shaping our future. The focal point of this conference is the cooperative idea as a design principle and the ways in which it is implemented in practice. The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives highlighting the positive responses of cooperatives to global challenges, with emphasis on sustainable development, eradication of poverty, and the stabilization of livelihoods in various economic sectors in urban and rural areas.

This conference brings together leading academics, practitioners, advisors, and political decision-makers. Our aim is to critically discuss, collect the evidence and demonstrate the capabilities of cooperatives to respond to global challenges. The event is meant to provide an interdisciplinary platform for setting the research agenda in the field of cooperative studies beyond the year 2012. Conference themes tackle the most commonly discussed types of global challenges and related areas of research. The program comprises two high-ranking keynote addresses followed by a sequence of plenum and parallel sessions, complemented by two podium discussions, a poster session and a best practice exhibition. Results will be summarized in a session at the end of the event. Selected paper contributions will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. The following preliminary session titles are meant to guide the submission of abstracts:

Themes (preliminary selection)

- The role and performance of cooperatives in economic crises
- Cooperatives and SMEs development
- Cooperatives in poverty alleviation and micro-finance
- Cooperatives in rural service provision
- Cooperatives and producer organizations in the food value chain
- Approaches to cooperative start-ups
- Energy reform and energy cooperatives
- Cooperatives in environmental services
- Categorizing and theorizing cooperatives and the issue of governance
- Women and cooperatives – a gender perspective
- Cooperative and the management of natural resources
- Policies promoting cooperatives
- Cooperatives in the classroom, capacity building and education
- Demographic change and cooperatives
- New types of cooperatives

Call for papers

The organizers invite an interdisciplinary audience from the fields of

- Cooperatives and Non Profit Organizations
- Economics and Finance
- Political Sciences
- Governance and Institutions
- Cooperative Studies
- Public Policy
- Sociology
- Agricultural Economics
- Rural Development
- Gender Studies
- Geography
- other related disciplines

Participants intending to contribute a paper are requested to submit an abstract of maximum 2 pages (about 500 words) in English by September 23, 2011.

The abstract should indicate: 1) the question addressed, 2) the concepts and theories to which one refers, 3) the methodology used, the cases referred to and 4) the results obtained. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by November 11, 2011. The deadline for the final submission of accepted papers is March 1, 2012.

Posters and cooperative best practice exhibitions

Participants who intend to contribute a research poster are requested to submit a description of maximum 2 pages (about 500 words) by September 23, 2011.

During the duration of the event a selection of cooperative enterprises can present themselves. Cooperatives who intend to contribute a "best-practice presentation" are requested to submit a description of maximum 2 pages (about 500 words) by September 23, 2011.

For all submissions please use the conference management tool which will be provided under www.coopsyear.hu-berlin.de/call.

Young researchers' bonus and best paper award

In order to motivate contributions from young researchers below the age of 35 years, a reduced participation fee will be provided. Contributions from young researchers automatically take part in the best paper award worth 500 Euro.

Location

Berlin, which is situated in the Centre of Europe, has one of the most lively culture scenes in the world. The German capital is well known for its historical heritage and internationality. With its atmospheric cafes and bars, its numerous museums it has become a popular tourist destination as well as an inspiring conference location.



Brandenburg Gate

© Wolfgang Scholvien

The conference will take place in the heart of Berlin. The campus is located at the Boulevard Unter den Linden, 6. Accommodations are available in nearby hotels.

Registration

Participants are kindly asked to pre-register by December 15, 2011. Information for pre-registration and registration will be provided on the conference website at

www.coopsyear.hu-berlin.de/registration



Humboldt University - Main Building

Participation Fees

Registration will be possible until the conference starts, but a reduced rate subscription will be offered until December 15, 2011. The registration fees include lunches and coffee during the breaks.

	Participants	Young Researcher (under 35 years)
before December 15, 2011	155 Euro	85 Euro
after December 15, 2011	205 Euro	125 Euro

Limited amounts of participants' stipendia are available on request. Please send your application including your CV and information about your professional status to reinhold.wilhelm@agrار.hu-berlin.de.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission: September 23, 2011
Author Notification: November 11, 2011
Deadline for Papers: March 1, 2012

The official language of the conference will be English. Note that the number of participants is limited to 350 people for organizational and technical reasons.

Contact

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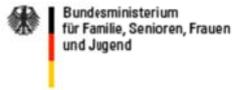
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German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation



Genossenschaftsverband e.V.



Mitteldeutscher Genossenschaftsverband e.V.



Zentralverband Deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften, e.V.