

MACE

Modern Agriculture in Central and Eastern Europe: Tools for the Analysis
and Management of Rural Change

Marie Curie Project coordinated by Humboldt University Berlin

2nd Announcement

Marie Curie Training Course

on

Cooperatives in Transition Countries

9-13 October 2006

Sofia, Bulgaria

Organized by

**Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture, Department of Agricultural Economics
and Social Sciences**

Institute for Cooperative Studies Berlin

Institute of Agricultural Economics Sofia

Participants

Participants should have an academic education in the area of social sciences, e.g. agricultural economics, economics, sociology, political science, or a similar discipline. According to its training character, the course especially wants to attract young researchers and junior scientists engaged in post-graduate or doctoral studies from EU member states as well as associated and third countries. Young researchers from Central and Eastern European countries are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants are expected to submit and present a paper.

Application and Deadlines

The application should contain information on the applicant's academic education and current research work, and include a CV and a list of publications. Applicants are also requested to submit two-page abstracts of a paper presentation showing his or her research work. Extended deadline for both the application and the abstract is now 11 September 2006. Notification on the acceptance of the application and the paper presentation will take place by 18 September 2006. Deadline for submission of full papers to be presented at the workshop is 22 September 2006. The papers will be distributed to the workshop participants who are expected to read them in advance and to give a short presentation of their paper. Please send applications and abstracts to:

Marlis Werner, Institute for Cooperative Studies, Humboldt University Berlin, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin, Germany, Phone ++49 30 2093 6500, Fax. ++49 30 2093 6501, email: ifg-berlin@rz.hu-berlin.de

Venue

The Workshop will be held on October 9-13, 2006 in Sofia. The location of the Workshop will depend on the number of participants accepted. Organizers will inform participants about the location in Sofia in the third and final announcement at the end of September 2006.

Cost and Financial Support

The European Community provides financial support to cover travel expenditures and accommodation cost of eligible participants.

Key Lecturers

Dr. Jos Bijman, Assistant Professor of Management and Organization, Wageningen University, Department of Business Administration, Netherlands

Dr. Markus Hanisch, Managing Director and Senior Researcher in the Institute for Cooperative Studies, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany

Prof. Dr. h.c. Konrad Hagedorn, Division of Resource Economics; Executive Director of the Institute for Cooperative Studies, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany

Dr. Constantine Iliopoulos, Director of the Agricultural Economics and Policy Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Foundation, Athens, Greece

Prof. Dr. Ruerd Ruben, Chair of Development Studies and Director of the Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen, Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands

Programme

Sunday, October 8

Arrival at workshop venue in Sofia

Monday, October 9

9.30 Welcome to the MACE Workshop
Konrad Hagedorn

10.00 Introduction

- Programme overview and objectives of the workshop
- Cooperatives – and cooperative systems: Facts, figures and research questions
Markus Hanisch

12.00 Lunch break

13.30 Perspectives on cooperative development: On public, private and collective goods and respective choices
Markus Hanisch

14.30 Coffee break

15.00 Colloquium
Presentations of workshop participants and discussion

19.00 Welcome Dinner

Tuesday, October 10

A New Institutional Economics perspective on the evolution of traditional and new cooperatives

9.30 Five Stages of cooperative development

- Typical problems of cooperative management and their solutions
- The emergence of new forms of cooperatives
Constantine Iliopoulos

12.30 Lunch break

14.00 Analysing cases of best and worst practice
Constantine Iliopoulos

15.00 Coffee break

15.30 Colloquium
Presentations of workshop participants and discussion

Wednesday, October 11

A Development Economics perspective on rural cooperatives

- 9.00 Between self-help and doing business: The role of cooperatives and associations in rural development
- Functions: The role of the state, the market and the role of cooperatives in economic development
 - Infrastructure and cooperative rural service industries
Ruerd Ruben
- 12.30 Lunch break
- 14.00 Colloquium
Presentation of workshop participants and discussion
- 18.00 Visit to Sofia

Thursday, October 12

An Organizational Economics perspective on agricultural cooperatives

- 9.30 Particularities of the Agri-Food Sector
- The changing role of cooperative firms in the agri-food supply chain
 - Cooperatives and corporate governance
 - Changes in cooperative systems – do we need a two-tier model (federated and umbrella cooperatives)?
Jos Bijman
- 12.30 Lunch break
- 14.00 Capital constraints and problems of internationalization and globalization
Jos Bijman
- 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.30 Three days and three perspectives on cooperatives: Concluding remarks to seminar and colloquium sessions
Podium with seminar lecturers

Friday, October 13

Visit to the morning session of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) conference on “The Role of Cooperatives for SME Development”

- 9.00 The Role of cooperatives for SME development in the EU
Dr. Markus Hanisch, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany
- Strengthening SME through cooperatives in Germany
Dr. Heinz-Otto Weber, Philipps University Marburg, Germany
 - Financing SME through savings and credit cooperatives
Prof. Dr. Jost W. Kramer, University of Technology, Business and Design, Wismar Germany
- 12.00 Lunch