



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

JOURNAL OF RURAL COOPERATION

Vol. 34

No. 2

2006

Guest editor: Yair Levi

CONTENTS

1. A selection of articles presented at the XXI International Co-operatives Research Conference on *The Contribution of Co-operatives to Community Culture*, held at Centre for Co-operative Studies, University College Cork, Ireland (11-14 August 2005)

From the Editor

Yair Levi 117

Is Small Both Beautiful and Competitive? A Case Study of Irish Dairy Cooperatives

Robert Briscoe and Michael Ward 119

Cooperatives as Social Policy Means for Creating Social Cohesion in Communities

Robert Dobrohoczki 139

Theorizing “Producer-led” versus “Investor led” Dairy Cooperatives: A Regulationist Perspective

Patrick Enright and Ian Bowler 161

Risk Management in Lithuanian and Irish Credit Unions: Trends and Impacts on Credit Union Development

Dalia Kaupelyté and Olive McCarthy 179

The Practice of Social Entrepreneurship: Theory and the Swedish Experience

Yohanan Stryjan 195

Typesetting and layout by Vardit Tsarfati, Ramat-Ilan, Givat Shmuel
Printing by the Hebrew University Magnes Press, Jerusalem, Israel

From the Editor

This special issue of *Journal of Rural Cooperation* contains selected articles presented at the XXII International Research Conference of the ICA on *The Contribution of Cooperatives to Community Culture* (Cork, Ireland, 11-14 August, 2005).

The criterion behind the selection of articles was the concern to present the reader with a wide range of topics, as included under the Conference title. Among such issues we find cross-national and national comparisons based on different farm branches; the issue of small and medium versus big sized enterprises; the place and role of cooperatives facing globalization and the ensuing emergence and development of welfare cooperatives on the international scene.

A cross-international comparison is used in the articles by **D. Kaupelyté and O. McCarthy** and **P. Enright and I. Bowler** who discuss the development and role of credit and dairy cooperatives, respectively in Ireland and Lithuania and in Ireland and Denmark. **R. Briscoe and M. Ward** tackle the issue of "Is small both beautiful *and* competitive" to gain new insights into the danger of cooperatives' demutualization. This seems to threaten big and small cooperatives alike and limit the alleged advantages of the big ones.

In his plea for cooperatives as "space of resistance" in the face of globalization, **R. Dobrohocski** maintains that cooperatives have a clear edge over mainstream trends, owing to their local-community attachment, their potential for democratization and their sense of "Third Sector" that enables them to supply public services though independently from the government.

The contribution by **Y. Stryjan** deals with a totally different subject like cooperatives and similar community enterprises, mainly in the welfare domain, based on examples from Sweden. Social entrepreneurship is viewed as a means to mobilize "socially-embedded" resources. By drawing upon the notions of "social capital" and the interconnectedness of socio-economic factors in a community discourse, the author of the article enriches our knowledge and arouses our interest in the suspect, beyond the Swedish examples.

This collection of articles brings us one step forward towards a better understanding of what is meant by the *contribution of cooperatives to community culture*. Instinctively, we are inclined to think in terms of meta-economic factors, mainly from the "community empowerment" and the "nonprofit" vocabulary. This issue invites a more balanced perspective.

Guest editor: Yair Levi
Centre for the Advancement of the Social Economy in Israel
(Former editor of the JRC)

