

# ICA Research Conference

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European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises

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# ICA Research Conference

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The Role of Cooperatives in Sustaining  
Development and Fostering  
Social Responsibility

**Riva del Garda (Trento, Italy)**  
**October, 15-18 2008**



organised by



ISSAN (Istituto Studi Sviluppo Aziende Nonprofit)  
e  
ICA (International Co-operative Alliance)

## Conference Information:

### ISSAN

Via San Giovanni, 36 - I-38100 Trento  
Tel: +39 0461 882289 - Fax: +39 0461 882294  
Email: [issan@issan.info](mailto:issan@issan.info) [ica2008@issan.info](mailto:ica2008@issan.info)  
Web: [www.issan.info](http://www.issan.info)



# ICA Research Conference 2008



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## The role of Cooperatives in Sustaining Development and Fostering Social Responsibility

The Chair of the ICA Committee on Cooperative Research, Prof. Lou Hammond Ketilson, is pleased to announce that the 2008 ICA Research Conference will take place in Riva del Garda (Trento, Italy) on October 15-18 2008.

The **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** and the **Istituto Studi Sviluppo Aziende Nonprofit (ISSAN)** would like to invite you to the ICA Research Conference 2008. The Conference represents a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and research findings about the role of cooperatives in sustaining development and fostering social responsibility.

**ICA (International Cooperative Alliance)** is an independent, non-governmental association which unites, represents and serves cooperatives worldwide. Founded in 1895, ICA has 226 member organisations from 87 countries active in all sectors of the economy. Together, these cooperatives represent more than 800 million individuals worldwide. ICA's priorities and activities centre on promoting and defending the cooperative identity and ensuring that cooperative enterprise is a recognised form of enterprise able to compete in the marketplace.

**ISSAN (Istituto Studi Sviluppo Aziende Nonprofit)** is a research and training centre on the not-for-profit sector established by the University of Trento in 1994. ISSAN has over 50 members including consortia, foundations, social cooperatives, commercial associations, public institutions and universities. The Institute promotes multi-disciplinary scientific research, both theoretical and applied, training at university and post-university levels and the dissemination of ideas and research findings through seminars and conferences, as well as publications.

The theme of the ICA Research Conference 2008 is "**The Role of Cooperatives in Sustaining Development and Fostering Social Responsibility**". The Conference is multi-disciplinary in its approach and offers an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to discuss theoretical and empirical insights, to identify vital areas for new enquiry, and to establish contacts with those with similar interests.

The Conference will mainly focus on four themes:

- Recent contributions of human sciences to understanding and explaining cooperatives
- The role of cooperatives in developing and transforming countries
- Cooperative and social enterprise concern for the community: the emergence of new fields of activity
- Cooperative social responsibility and social accounting

It is our hope that this conference theme will inspire stimulating debate and discussion and facilitate the creation of exciting collaborations.

Fototeca Ingardia Trentino S.p.A. (foto Patrizia N. Matteotti)



# Conference highlights include:

## PLENARY SESSIONS

### Opening Plenary

The keynote speaker will be Giulio Sapelli, full Professor at the Università degli Studi di Milano. Prof. Sapelli will give an overview of the role of cooperatives in economic development.

### Plenary – Recent Contributions of Human Sciences in Understanding and Explaining Cooperatives

Various theoretical approaches have been developed by human sciences to understand the roles played by co-operatives and social enterprises. However, this debate has recently lost some of its original vitality. The aim of this session is to re-launch the international discussion within a wider framework that includes contributions from various disciplines, including among others: economics, sociology, political science and history.

The keynote speakers will be:

*Ian MacPherson*, Founder and Director of the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies of the University of Victoria.

*Marguerite Mendell*, Associate Professor and Vice-Principal of the School of Community and Public Affairs of Concordia University.

*Roger Spear*, Chair of the Cooperatives Research Unit of the Open University and founder member and Vice-President of EMES Research Network.

*Victor Pestoff*, Full Professor in Political Science at Mid-Sweden University.

### Plenary – The Role of Cooperatives in Developing and Transforming Countries

Historically, cooperatives have played an important role in creating solidarity and self-help in the interest of the most disadvantaged stakeholders. Hence derives the importance of cooperative enterprises especially in contexts characterized by crucial economic and social problems which other actors fail to tackle efficiently and effectively. The aim of this session is to focus on developing and transforming countries and to identify the main drivers of cooperative development, the specific economic sectors where cooperatives are experiencing revitalisation, and the main barriers and challenges in these contexts for cooperative and social enterprise development.

The keynote speaker will be:

*Yohanan Stryjan*, Professor of Business Administration at Södertörns Högskola.

### Plenary – Cooperative and Social Enterprise Concern for the Community: the Emergence of New Fields of Activity

Cooperatives are increasingly engaged in the production of services addressed to the community at large, rather than being aimed at promoting the interests of a specific category of stakeholders. The aim of this session is to focus on the current evolution undergone by cooperatives with special regard to the role of cooperatives and social enterprises in supplying high public interest goods and services and in supporting local development. The session will also explore how new cooperative forms delivering good and services for the community can be sustained and whether public policies acknowledge this role.

The keynote speaker will be:

*Carlo Borzaga*, full Professor at the University of Trento and President of Istituto Studi Sviluppo Aziende Nonprofit (ISSAN)

### Plenary – Cooperative Social Responsibility and Social Accounting

The topic of CSR has been embraced primarily by share-holder companies in search of legitimisation within the community. Despite the intrinsic concern for the community held by cooperative enterprises, this issue has been so far overlooked at both a theoretical and practical level. The aim of the session is to explore the specificity of CSR for cooperative enterprises, the main developments of cooperative social auditing and accounting, the extent to which CSR practices are implemented by cooperative and social enterprises, and how cooperative social responsibility can be institutionalised and disseminated.

The keynote speaker will be:

*Lorenzo Sacconi*, Professor at the University of Trento and Director of the Interuniversity Research Centre EconomEtica at the University of Milan Bicocca.

# Conference highlights include:

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

### Parallel Session – The Global 300 Project

The importance of the world's cooperative and mutual businesses – many of them successful, large-scale enterprises with social and ethical principles at the heart of their operations – is often overlooked. The Global 300 Project, an initiative by the International Cooperative Alliance, contributes to better understanding of this neglected part of the world economy by presenting the details of the major member-owned businesses worldwide. This parallel session will be an opportunity to present the Global 300 Project.

### Parallel Session – Presentation of the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (EURICSE)

There is an increasingly felt need to re-launch cooperative studies and strengthen research on nonprofits and social enterprises. EURICSE intends to be a centre for analysis and debate with a high scientific profile and at the same time open to direct participation by the cooperative and social entrepreneurship movement. It aims to attract and support young researchers interested in the study of non-profits, cooperatives and social enterprises. It will be involved primarily and predominantly in research and advanced training and will encourage conversation and synergies among existing research centres. PHD students and post doctoral students are particularly welcome to attend this session.

### Thematic Parallel Sessions

The papers developed by diverse authors will be organised around the four major themes of the Conference and related topics in order to form cohesive parallel sessions. At the sessions, a coordinated set of papers dealing with a particular topic or issue will be presented by the authors and discussed.



Fototeca Ingarda Trentino S.p.A.  
(foto Patrizia N. Matteotti)

### ICA RESEARCH GENERAL MEETING

The ICA Research General Meeting will be held at 6.00 p.m. on Friday, 17 October. An agenda will be distributed prior to the Conference.

### STUDY VISITS

A study visit to a local cooperative will be organised at 4.30 pm on Thursday, 16 October.

### RECEPTIONS

A welcome cocktail reception will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 8.00 p.m. (venue to be announced)

A Gala Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 16, 8.00 p.m. (venue to be announced)



# Provisional Programme

Wednesday, 15 October – Saturday 18 October 2008

The Conference will be held at:  
Riva del Garda Fiere Congressi,  
Parco Lido – 38066 Riva del Garda (TN) Italy  
[www.palacongressi.it/eng](http://www.palacongressi.it/eng)

The official language of the ICA Conference 2008  
is English. Simultaneous translation in Italian  
of the keynote speeches will be available  
only on Thursday, October 16.

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

20.00 p.m. Welcome cocktail reception

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

9.00 a.m. – Conference Check In  
4.30 p.m.

### 9.30 a.m. Plenary Opening session

Opening and welcome addresses by institutional and academic authorities  
Carlo Borzaga, University of Trento / ISSAN, IT  
Lou Hammond Ketilson, University of Saskatchewan / ICA, CAN  
Giulio Sapelli, University of Milan, IT

### 11.00 a.m. Coffee Break

### 11.30 a.m. Parallel sessions

Global 300 Project chaired by Roger Spear, Open University, UK  
Presentation of EURICSE by Carlo Borzaga, University of Trento / ISSAN, IT

### 1 p.m. Lunch

### 2.30 p.m. Plenary Session

**Recent contributions of human sciences in understanding and explaining cooperatives**  
Ian MacPherson, B.C. Institute for Cooperative Studies, CAN  
Margie Mendell, Concordia University, CAN  
Roger Spear, Open University, UK  
Victor Pestoff, Mid-Sweden University, SW

### 4.30 p.m. Study visit to a local cooperative

### 8.00 p.m. Gala Dinner

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

### 9.00 a.m. Plenary Session

**The role of cooperatives in developing and transforming countries**

Yohanan Stryjan, Södertörns Högskola, SW

### 9.30 a.m. Parallel sessions

### 11.00 a.m. Coffee Break

### 11.30 a.m. Plenary Session

**Cooperative and social enterprise concern for the community: the emergence of new fields of activity**

Carlo Borzaga, University of Trento / ISSAN, IT

### 12.00 a.m. Parallel sessions

### 1.30 a.m. Lunch

### 3.00 p.m. Plenary Session

**Cooperative social responsibility and social accounting**

Lorenzo Sacconi, University of Trento, IT

### 3.30 p.m. Parallel sessions

### 5.00 p.m. Coffee Break

### 6.00 p.m. ICA Research General Meeting

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

### 9.00 a.m. Parallel Session

### 10.30 a.m. Coffee break

### 11.30 a.m. Plenary Closing Session

Carlo Borzaga, University of Trento / ISSAN, IT

Lou Hammond Ketilson, University of Saskatchewan / ICA, CAN

## GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### ISSAN (Istituto Studi Sviluppo Aziende Non Profit)

Via San Giovanni, 36 – I-38100 Trento  
Tel: +39 0461 882289 – Fax: +39 0461 882294  
Email: [issan@issan.info](mailto:issan@issan.info) [ica2008@issan.info](mailto:ica2008@issan.info)  
Web: [www.issan.info](http://www.issan.info)

### All correspondence and payments concerning registration and scholarships should be addressed to ISSAN

Up to date conference information and details will be posted on ISSAN website – [www.issan.info](http://www.issan.info).

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

### Registration fees

Registration fees cover all materials, a welcome reception, two lunches, the Gala Dinner on October 16, a visit to a local cooperative and a CD-ROM of the conference papers.

Early Stage Researcher/PhD Student	€ 100,00
ISSAN and EURICSE member	€ 100,00
Professor, Researcher, Professional	€ 300,00

### Registration deadline

The registration deadline is September 30, 2008. Authors of papers must register for the Conference by 14 July 2008 to have their presentation scheduled in the conference programme.

### Registration procedure

All registration requests must be made on the secure **Online Registration Form** ([www.issan.info](http://www.issan.info)). Registration forms must be accompanied by payment of registration fee. Registration forms will not be considered unless accompanied by payment.

**The registration deadline is September 30, 2008**

### Confirmation

Confirmation of your conference registration will be sent by e-mail within 10 days of receipt.

### Cancellation

Written notification of cancellation must be sent by letter or fax to ISSAN Secretariat. A € 100 administrative fee will be charged for cancellations made before September 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no refunds after September 1<sup>st</sup>.



## CONFERENCE SITE

### Riva del Garda Fiere Congressi

Parco Lido  
38066 Riva del Garda

Tel. +39 0464 520 000  
Fax +39 0464 555 255  
[www.rivadelgardafierecongressi.it/eng/info@rivafc.it](http://www.rivadelgardafierecongressi.it/eng/info@rivafc.it)

## ACCOMODATION IN RIVA DEL GARDA

Rivatour, the travel agency of Riva del Garda Fiere Congressi, is in charge of hotel reservations for the ICA Research Conference 2008. A qualified team of professionals is at your disposal to satisfy the most demanding requirements in the best possible way.

**Please contact Rivatour for your hotel reservations**

[www.rivadelgardafierecongressi.it/ng/Ospitalità](http://www.rivadelgardafierecongressi.it/ng/Ospitalità)

# Travel to Riva del Garda

The nearest **airports** for Riva del Garda are:

Verona Airport "Valerio Catullo"

<http://www.aeroporto.verona.it>

Brescia Airport "Gabriele D'Annunzio"

<http://www.aeroporto.verona.it>

Bergamo Airport "Orio al Serio"

<http://www.sacbo.it>

Aeroporti Milano "Malpensa" e "Linate"

<http://www.sea-aeroportimilano.it>

Venezia Airport "Marco Polo"

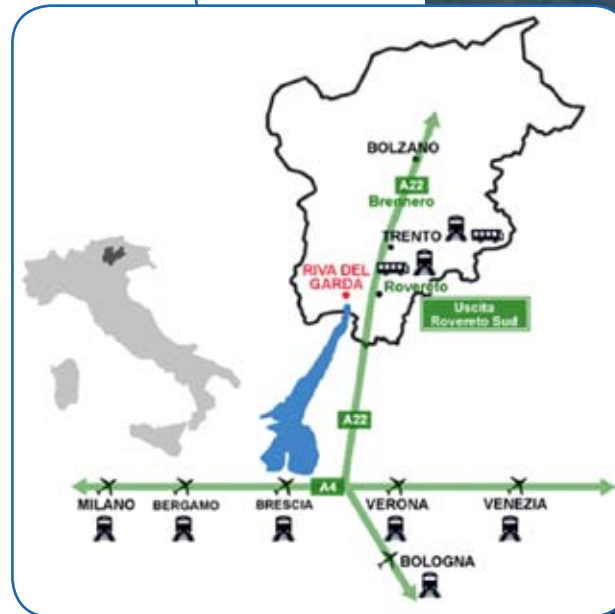
<http://www.veniceairport.it>

All of these airports are linked to the rail system. The nearest train station is Rovereto (Brennero line), 20 km from Riva del Garda.

Train service: <http://www.trenitalia.com>

A regular bus service by **Trentino Trasporti** links Rovereto with Torbole, Riva del Garda and Arco.

Bus service: <http://www.ttspa.it>



## VISAS

### Applying for a Visa

Please be sure to check with your travel agent and/or the Italian Embassy or Consulate to determine whether a visa is required for your entry into Italy. Most embassies and consulates around the world will allow people attending a conference in their country to enter with a tourist or visitors visa.

Foreign nationals intending to enter Italian territory must have the corresponding visitor's visa if the nature of their nationality requires them to do so. The visa required for entry into Italy is the Schengen Visa.

For locations and contact information taking place Embassies and Consulates of Italy, please refer to the following website: <http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Ministero/Rappresentanze/>

### Letters of Invitation:

For those who require a visa to permit their entry into Italy, ISSAN will be happy to provide a letter of invitation. To receive a letter of invitation, please send a written request to [ica2008@issan.info](mailto:ica2008@issan.info), with your full name, address, organizational affiliation, fax number with dialling codes, and full passport details (passport number, issue and expiry dates, nationality, etc.). These letters of invitation will only be sent when ISSAN has received the delegate's Conference registration form and fee.

**It may take up to three months to secure a visa; please allow ample time for the procedure.**