

CALL FOR PAPERS

"CO-OPERATIVES AND INNOVATION: INFLUENCING THE SOCIAL ECONOMY"
SASKATOON, CANADA, 28 MAY – 1 JUNE 2007

THE SOCIAL ECONOMY is gaining increasing attention worldwide. Whether this is a new recognition of what already exists or a reflection of how the social economy is expanding to address unmet human needs remains a topic of debate. One thing, however, is certain: Co-operatives are a central component of the social economy. The co-operative model allows people and communities to design, own, and control organizations that function as both enterprises and associations, and with this dual character to serve their members in diverse and sustainable ways.

Co-operatives have an impressive record of technological, commercial, social, and organizational innovation. These achievements frequently go unrecognized outside of the co-operative sector, and their importance is not always acknowledged even within it. Co-operatives are too often viewed as organizations that innovate only in response to crisis, rather than acting systematically and proactively to improve the services they provide or increase the positive impacts they have on relevant communities.

The May 2007 conference of the International Co-operative Alliance Research Forum, the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, and the Association of Cooperative Educators will examine many kinds of co-operative innovation. It offers an opportunity to explore effective practices in the generation and communication of innovations crucial to the sustainability of the co-operative sector and an important part of the sector's contribution to developing and shaping the larger social economy.

POSSIBLE TOPICS, PAPERS, AND PANELS:

- co-operatives as an integral part of the social economy
- the social economy as an example of social innovation
- creating a climate conducive to innovation in co-operatives
- the co-operative difference: recognizing innovations consistent with co-op organizations
- case studies of innovation in co-operatives
- typologies of co-operative innovation: responding to crisis or to opportunity?
- celebrating co-operative innovation and creating awareness
- missed opportunities
- issues demanding co-operative innovation

Case studies and papers that contribute to theory and/or to the dissemination of practical experience are welcome. Contributions from all disciplines qualify for submission.

For complete submission instructions, visit the conference website at
<http://www.usaskstudies.coop/socialconomy/Congress2007>

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FROM 28 MAY – 1 JUNE 2007, three organizations will come together for the first time in a joint conference. The International Co-operative Alliance Committee on Co-operative Research, the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, and the Association of Cooperative Educators will together host one unified conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. This event will combine the approaches and audiences of the respective organizations and will be held in conjunction with the 2007 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Co-operative and social economy researchers, educators, and practitioners from across Canada and around the globe will participate in these meetings. In conjunction with the larger gathering of the Congress, their attendance will make this conference a significant international event.

The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan, will host and organize this joint event. See the reverse side of this page for the conference Call for Papers, and please visit the conference website often for updated information and details.

<http://www.usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy/Congress2007>

FOR INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THIS CONFERENCE,
PLEASE VISIT THEIR RESPECTIVE WEBSITES AT:

Centre for the Study of Co-operatives
<http://www.usaskstudies.coop>

Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
<http://www.fedcan.ca/english>

International Co-operative Alliance Committee on Co-operative Research
<http://ica.coop/icaccr>

Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation
<http://www.coopresearch.coop>

Association of Cooperative Educators
<http://www.uwcc.wisc.edu/ace/ace.html>

University of Saskatchewan, Congress 2007
<http://www.fedcan.ca/congress2007>

Tourism Saskatoon
<http://www.tourismsaskatoon.com>