

# Co-operation and Co-operative Organizations Syllabus

Summer semester 2021



## 1 CONTACT INFORMATION

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### Lecturer

Prof. Dr. Markus Hanisch

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### Office hours

Make appointments per Email (cc Agustina Malvido PC)

### Lecturer

Dr. Agustina Malvido PC.

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Zoom on Thursdays at 14 hs  
(CEST=UTC+2)

## 2 GENERAL INFORMATION

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Since 2007, the course is offered for students of the master programs Agricultural Economics, Rural Development and Integrated Natural Resource Management. In 2016 the lecture was restructured and updated. In 2020 the lecture has been adapted to an online format.

This course is designed to introduce students to the cooperative business model and to encourage them to think critically about why cooperatives emerge, the ways in which they differ from other forms of enterprise, and how the model can be used to address current social and economic issues.

The course uses different theoretical strands such as collective action, behavioural economics, industrial organisation, rural innovation and development economics, using examples to illustrate concepts and ideas. It also analyses cooperatives as strategies towards poverty alleviation and rural development.

### 2.1 COURSE GOAL

Upon completion of the course, the students will have the analytical skills to analyse typical problems of human cooperation and of co-operative organisations

### 2.2 INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the students are expected to:

LO1: be able to apply different theoretical strands: collective action, behavioural economics, industrial organization, rural innovation and development economics to analyse cooperative organizations

LO2: distinguish cooperatives from other organizations and analyse them from an economic, organizational and social perspective

LO3: understand the experience with cooperatives in developing contexts

LO4: professionally reproduce and combine arguments and insights from the cooperative studies literature and apply good scientific practices in order to write an own seminal paper

### **3 ORGANIZATION**

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Classes will be on Tuesdays from 13 hs to 15.15 hs (CEST=UTC+2) on ZOOM platform. Please log in some minutes earlier so that you get into the learning environment and we can start on time.

We will use Moodle as learning platform and for communication. Please activate notifications on Moodle to receive via email messages posted in the Forum.

If necessary, we will use your HU email to reach you individually and ask you to reach us from your HU account. We will do our best to answer you in 72 hs.

The classes will combine inputs from different lecturers with participatory activities among the students. Students are expected to read the course materials in advanced, otherwise, their ability to learn and participate will be hindered.

During the classes, we will provide inputs to improve your analytical skills to produce your written paper.

### **4 COURSE MATERIALS**

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For each class, there are required (theoretical, conceptual and empirical) and optional readings.

## 5 COURSE SCHEDULE

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Week	Lecturer	Topic description	Readings
W1: 13/04	Markus Hanisch	<b>Course outline and Introduction - Orientation</b> Overview over the course, lecturers, and topics. Access to Moodle platform. Rules for dealing with literature and handouts. Requirements for earning credits and deadlines for topic selection and research proposal submission.	
W2: 20/04	Markus Hanisch	<b>Cooperation as a Pattern of (Human) Behaviour (LO 1)</b> Research in economics and human-evolutionary behaviour has shown that individuals are far more concerned about the well-being of others than previously assumed, laying a ground for cooperation. The lecture gives an introduction into concepts and a framework to analyse cooperation, while also discussing the actual situation in terms of cooperative behaviour.	Required: Cardenas, J.C. and Carpenter, J. (2008). Behavioural Development Economics: Lessons from Field Labs in the Developing World. <i>Journal of Development Studies</i> 44 (3): 337-364. Ostrom, E. (2010). Analyzing collective action. <i>Agricultural Economics</i> , 41, 155-166. Optional: Kollock K. (1988) Social Dilemmas: The anatomy of cooperation. <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> , 24, 183,214.
W3: 27/04	Markus Hanisch	<b>The Cooperative Model (LO 2)</b> Presentation and discussion of different cooperative definitions and their historical development and relevance worldwide. Analysis of their different functions and roles in comparison with investor-oriented firms, NGOs, unions, and governments.	Required Krivokapic-Skoko, Branka (2002): The Concept and Classifications of Agricultural Co-operatives. Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and Development. Bathurst, Australia (ACCORD Paper, 8). Optional: Torgenson, R. (1997): Evolution of Cooperative Thought, Theory and Purpose. <i>Journal of Cooperatives</i> . Grashuis, J.; Cook, M. L. (2018): An examination of new generation cooperatives in the upper Midwest: Successes, failures and limitations. In <i>Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics</i> 89 (4), pp. 623-644.
W4: 04/05	Agustina Malvido	<b>The Cooperative and the Market (LO 1 and 2)</b> Industrial organization literature suggests that, in situations of imbalanced markets, cooperatives can play important roles in securing fair prices for produce and inputs. The lecture combines theoretical and empirical inputs to discuss the role of cooperatives in different markets.	Required: Sexton, R.J. (2012). Market Power, Misconceptions, and Modern Agricultural Markets. <i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i> 95 (2): 209 219. Maple syrup case: Watch the Maple Syrup Heist video (Serie: Dirty Money, season 1, episode 5) <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/23/business/international/canadian-maple-syrup-producers-clash-with-law.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/23/business/international/canadian-maple-syrup-producers-clash-with-law.html</a>

Week Lecturer	Topic description	Readings
		<a href="http://america.aljazeera.com/multimedia/2015/4/canada-syrup-cartel.html">http://america.aljazeera.com/multimedia/2015/4/canada-syrup-cartel.html</a> <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39375257">http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39375257</a>
W5: Aicha Mechri and Agustina Malvido 11/05	<b>The cooperative from a value chain perspective (LO 1, 2 and 3)</b> The lecture introduces the concept of value chains, lays the ground for value chain analysis and explores the role of the cooperatives within the entire the entire chain. Theoretical foundations combine findings from industrial organization and institutional economics. Using empirical examples, the role of cooperatives in processes of upgrading and governance of the value chain is highlighted.	Required: Saitone, T.L. and Sexton, R.J. (2017) Agri-food supply chain: evolution and performance with conflicting consumer and societal demands. <i>European Review of Agricultural Economics</i> 44: 634-657. Candemir, A., Duvaleix, S. and Latruffe, L. (2021) Agricultural Cooperatives and Farm Sustainability: a literature review. <i>Journal of Economic Surveys</i> , pp:1-27
W6: Markus Hanisch 18/05	<b>Governance in the Cooperative (LO 2)</b> In recent literature cooperatives have been described as hybrid organizations between markets and hierarchies. The lecture introduces the analysis of the cooperative firm. Typical agency, information and contractual relationships are introduced and discussed. Problems of cooperative management and control are described and analysed in a comparative perspective. Links to transaction cost and information cost schools of thought explain what types of problems in the market give rise to different types of cooperative organizations.	Required: Bijman, J., Hanisch, M., and van der Sangen, G. (2014). Shifting control? The changes of internal governance in agricultural cooperatives in the EU. <i>Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics</i> , 85(4): 641-661. Nilsson, J. (2001): Organisational principles for cooperative firms. In <i>Scandinavian Journal of Management</i> 17 (3), pp. 329-356.
W7: Marleen Thürling 25/05	<b>Cooperatives as Social Enterprises (LO 2)</b> Up to 500 Social Cooperatives exist in Germany, with tendency to rise. Providing services for a community, e.g. infrastructure, work integration, education or care, they are linked to concepts of Social Economy, Civil Society and the Third Sector. In the lecture we will discuss linkages between cooperatives and social enterprises and what makes a Social Coop "social".	Required: Defourny/Nyssens. (2012). The emes approach of Social Enterprises: <a href="http://www.emes.net/site/wp-content/uploads/EMES-WP-12-03_Defourny-Nyssens.pdf">http://www.emes.net/site/wp-content/uploads/EMES-WP-12-03_Defourny-Nyssens.pdf</a> Optional: Defourny/Nyssens. (2014). Social Cooperatives: When Social Enterprises Meet the Cooperative Tradition: <a href="https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2437884">https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2437884</a>
Agustina Malvido	<b>Empirical research structure and Research proposal content (LO 4)</b>	
W8: Katrin Martens 01/06	<b>Cooperatives in Rural Knowledge and Innovation Management (LO 1)</b> Cooperatives play important roles in rural areas. They link actors to markets, explore alternative income opportunities and provide a series of crucial infrastructure and mixed services for rural dwellers. As such they may play the role of hubs in knowledge management and information brokerage. The lecture explores the roles of traditional and "new" cooperatives out from the perspective of economic geography and the science of knowledge	Required: Bock, B.B. (2012). Social innovation and sustainability; how to disentangle the buzzword and its application in the field of agriculture and rural development. <i>Studies in agricultural economics</i> 114 (2): 57-63. Esparcia, J. (2014). Innovation and networks in rural areas. An analysis from European innovative projects. <i>Journal of rural studies</i> , 34 (2014): 1-14. Optional:

Week Lecturer	Topic description	Readings
W9: Anke 08/06 Wolff	<p><b>Cooperatives and Renewable Energy Transformation (LO 2)</b></p> <p>Over the last decade, Germany has witnessed a boom of renewable-energy cooperatives, which make an important contribution to a sustainable energy transition and its social acceptance. The lecture reviews this phenomenon and the changing regulatory environment, also discussing opportunities and challenges of the cooperative model. We will take a closer look at some case studies and recent research on energy cooperatives, and discuss potential term paper topics.</p>	<p>Figueiredo, V. and Franco, M. (2018). Wine cooperatives as a form of social entrepreneurship: Empirical evidence about their impact on society. <i>Land Use Policy</i>, 79: 812-821.</p> <p>Noack, A. Federwisch, T. (2019). Social Innovation in Rural Regions: Urban Impulses and Cross-Border Constellations of Actors. <i>Sociologia ruralis</i>, 59 (1): 92-112.</p> <p>Required:</p> <p>Herbes, C., Brummer, V., Rognli, J., Blazejewski, S. and Gericke, N. (2017). Responding to policy change: New business models for renewable energy cooperatives-Barriers perceived by cooperatives' members. <i>Energy Policy</i>, 109, 82-95.</p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>Sagebiel, J., Müller, J. R. and Rommel, J. (2014). Are consumers willing to pay more for electricity from cooperatives? Results from an online Choice Experiment in Germany. <i>Energy Research &amp; Social Science</i>, 2, 90-101.</p> <p>Yildiz, Ö. et al. (2015). Renewable energy cooperatives as gatekeepers or facilitators? Recent developments in Germany and a multidisciplinary research agenda. <i>Energy Research &amp; Social Science</i>, 6, 59-73.</p> <p>Bauwens, T. (2016). Explaining the diversity of motivations behind community renewable energy. <i>Energy Policy</i>, 93, 278-290.</p> <p>Klagge, B., and T. Meister. Energy cooperatives in Germany-an example of successful alternative economies? <i>Local Environment</i> 23.7 (2018): 697-716.</p>
W10: Margitta 15/06 Minah and Samuel Ahado	<p><b>Farmer organisations in transition and developing economies (LO 3)</b></p> <p>In recent years, farmer organisations have received renewed attention in the development context. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, it is expected that farmer collective action can promote social, economic, and environmental targets.</p> <p>This lecture provides insight to the theoretical and empirical debates on the role and challenges of farmer organisation in transition and developing economies.</p>	<p>Required:</p> <p>Shiferaw, B., Hellin, J., and Muricho, G. (2011). Improving market access and agricultural productivity growth in Africa: what role for producer organizations and collective action institutions? <i>Food Security</i>, 3(4), 475-489.</p> <p>Fischer, E., and Qaim, M. (2012). Linking smallholders to markets: determinants and impacts of farmer collective action in Kenya. <i>World Development</i>, 40(6), 1255-1268.</p> <p>Mojo, D., Fischer, C., and Degefa, T. (2015). Social and environmental impacts of agricultural cooperatives: evidence from Ethiopia. <i>International Journal of Sustainable Development &amp; World Ecology</i>, 22(5), 388-400.</p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>Lerman, Z., Sedik, D., and Csaki, C. (2016). <i>Agricultural cooperatives in transition countries</i>. LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing.</p>

Week	Lecturer	Topic description	Readings
			Wanyama, F. O., Develtere, P., and Pollet, I. (2008). Encountering the evidence: cooperatives and poverty reduction in Africa. Working Papers on Social and Co-operative Entrepreneurship WP-SCE 08-02.
W11: 22/06	Markus Hanisch	<b>Enabling Environments and Cooperative Development (LO 3)</b> The lecture discusses the role of enabling environments for cooperative development with the cases of legal reforms in Turkey and Vietnam the lecture analyses the reasons for recent cooperative development in some of these countries.	<b>Required:</b> Brusselsaers, Jan; Poppe, Krijn; García Azcarate, Tomas (2014): Do Policy Measures Impact the Position and Performance of Farmers' Cooperatives in the EU? In <i>Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics</i> 85 (4), pp. 531-553. Ribašauskienė, Erika; Šumylė, Diana; Volkov, Artiom; Baležentis, Tomas; Streimikiene, Dalia; Morkunas, Mangirdas (2019): Evaluating Public Policy Support for Agricultural Cooperatives. In <i>Sustainability</i> 11 (14), p. 3769. van der Sangen, Ger J.H. (2014): How to Regulate Cooperatives in the EU? In <i>The Dovenschmidt Quarterly</i> 2 (4), pp. 131-146. <b>Optional:</b> Iliopoulos, Constantine (2013): Public Policy Support for Agricultural Cooperatives: an Organizational Economics Approach. In <i>Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics</i> 84 (3), pp. 241-252.
	Agustina Malvido	<b>Writing tips (LO 4)</b> Research paper structure, writing tips (style and grammar, figures and tables, references) and exercise. Peer feedback process explanation.	
W12: 29/06		Colloquium: Research proposal presentations (students)	
W13: 06/07		Colloquium: Research proposal presentations (students)	
W14: 13/07		Colloquium: Research proposal presentations (students)	

## 6 ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

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The students are expected to write a **research proposal** by selecting a subject, compiling a research question and a way to answer it, and making use of the theories and hypotheses developed in this course or other literature.

Students will receive inputs regarding the content of a research proposal and writing tips.

The research proposal related to their final written paper should have 500-800 words (under no circumstance more than 1,200 words). Deadline to upload the proposal on Moodle will be duly announced. Based on the guidelines provided in the course, each student will give **feedback** to another student on their proposal.

After that, students will present their topic and research proposal on an **oral colloquium** in line with the guidelines and rules for research proposals and oral presentations (8 minutes), receiving feedback from the lecturers.

Lastly, students will write a **research paper** in line with the inputs received in the course and guidelines and rules for written papers (15-20 pages, excluding references).

Two students can prepare a paper jointly (30-40 pages, excluding references) and, if relevant, each author can indicate their individual contribution.

Papers will be graded considering the following criteria: definition of a research problem; formulation of clear research questions, objectives and/or hypotheses; presentation of a critical literature study; application of lecture contents (concepts, theories, examples); construction of paper; language and style; figures and tables; references; and overall impression.

**Attention:** writing a research proposal, giving feedback to a peer, and presenting an oral colloquium are pre-requisites to write the research paper. Those steps will not be graded but have to be fulfilled according to the guidelines provided and deadlines, otherwise the research paper will not be accepted.

## 7 ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

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Classes will be on Tuesdays from 13 hs to 15.15 hs (CEST=UTC+2) on ZOOM platform

Although attendance is not mandatory, we strongly advise you to be present during the class to stay on board. We will provide group activities and expect you to participate actively in them to contribute to your own learning.

## 8 COURSE FEEDBACK

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At the end of each class, we will ask you for feedback on different topics. At the end of the course, you will have the opportunity to evaluate us as well. We would greatly appreciate your honest thoughts and suggestions on the course.