CIRIEC Research on Social Economy. An Overview

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WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO
SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION OF CIRIEC

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
“General interest”

SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION
“Public Services/Public Enterprises”

SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION
“Social & Co-operative Economy”
1. Scientific journal:

*Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics*

Published by Wiley-Blackwell and indexed in Scopus, Econlit and others. National sections have their own journals.

2. Specialized Serie

“Social economy & Public economy”, Brussels, P.I.E. Peter Lang

3. CIRIEC *Working Papers*
1. CIRIEC International Congress
   31st Congress in Reims (France), 2016

2. CIRIEC International Research Conferences on Social Economy
   1st: Victoria (Canada), 2007
   2nd: Östersund (Sweden), 2009
   3rd: Valladolid (Spain), 2011
   4th: Antwerp (Belgium), 2013
   5th: Lisbon (Portugal), 2015

➔ Around 300-400 researchers from around the world
International research:

1. International working groups (IWG-Ciriec)
   (20-30 ‘quality’ researchers from 12-15 countries that choose their research topic)

2. Projects for international institutions
   Answers to Call for tenders (e.g. European Commission, European Social and Economic Committee...)
Research topics of the IWG-Ciriec (1)

1. Concept of the social economy and first economic panorama: an international perspective

2. Evolution of the cooperative principles facing markets

3. The social economy facing the employment and the welfare state crisis
Research topics of the IWG-Ciriec (2)

4. Challenges of the SE groups and cooperative holdings

5. Governance in SE and the role of managers

6. Methodes and indicators of the Social Economy
Research topics of the IWG-Ciriec (3)

7. The social economy in the public policies

8. Organization and Governance in social economy enterprises

9. Statistics on the Social Economy – How should they be produced?


THESOCIALECONOMY
ASARESEARCHFIELD
Social Economy:
- Part of a plural economy
- Activities and organizations that are democratically governed and not for profit – oriented

An economic field in expansion around the world
- It represents jobs, essential economic and social activities
- Aims at mutual and general interest goals
- Recent new attention from national and international authorities in the context of the global crisis (financial, economic, social, ecological)

World Recognition and Attention
- UNRISD (2012-2015)
A RESEARCH FIELD IN EXPANSION

Scientific Events
• 16 events and 7 calls for contributions (FR, EN, SP) only between July 2015 and October 2016

Publications
• Scientific journals dedicated to the SE
• Scientific journals in various disciplines (admin sciences, social sciences, political sciences, dev. econ, law...)
• Collections of works with scientific publishers

Research Groups and Networks
• Research centers and groups in more countries every year
• Theoretical, conceptual and linguistic competition
• International networking of researchers
Management
- Participative governance
- Financing mix, marketing and strategy, accountability,
- Procurement, inter-organizational relations

Sociology, Political Sciences, Development economics
- Public policy
- SE and services of general interest
- Social innovation, social cohesion, social capital
- Economic and social development (rural, local, regional)
- Financial inclusion, social services, housing, employment, etc.

Conceptualization
- Definition and quantification of SE
- New social economy forms and fields of action
- Impact indicators
Transformations of the context:
- Growing inequalities
- Transformation of welfare states, New public management
- Emerging and developing economies, unmet needs and social aspirations
- New sources of financing for “social investment”
- Calls to “scale up” social impact

Transformations of the SE:
- New waves of SE initiative
- New forms of SE organizations
- Social innovation + technological innovation
- Evolution of institutionalized SE (“coopitalism”)
- New initiatives outside SE
- International networking of SE actors
POSSIBLE FUTURE RESEARCH THEMES?

Organization and business models
- Pluralism and hybridity, Embracing a paradox perspective, Ecology, New institutionalism
- Financing growth vs. Sustaining variety and viability

Sector and territory
- Multi-stakeholders and international solidarity
- New waves of SE, New territories of action

Sustainable development models
- Social and technological innovations
- Sustainable growth and development
- Existing and New SE ecosystems

Research methods and conceptualization
- Codification of new social innovations in the SE
- Quantitative analysis, international comparison
- Measurement of the SE sector and impacts
- Partnership research with SE actors
SPECIAL THANKS TO RAFAEL CHAVES

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www.ulg.ac.be/ciriec