



National Report GREECE

BY Ioannis Nasioulas, Michael Fefes, Apostolos Ioakimidis



COOpilot is co-financed by DG
Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the
European Commission

October 2017



COOPILOT Project Template Host Countries (HC) Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Romania and Slovenia
--

Country: GREECE

Report's author(s): Dr. Ioannis Nasioulas, Prof. Michael FEFES, Apostolos IOAKIMIDIS

PART 1: COOPERATIVES ECOSYSTEM

1.1 General statistics

The Greek Social and Solidarity Economy in Numbers			
	Population	Employment seats	Members
Cooperative Banks: • 112 establishments • Total Turnover: 2.511.253 EUR as of 30 September 2016 • Customers: 374.499 as of 30 September 2016	9 As of 21 February 2017	867 As of 30 September 2016	166.061 As of 30 September 2016
Collective Body: http://www.este.gr/en/index.html			
Banking Cooperatives as of 21 February 2017	5		
Collective Body: http://www.este.gr/en/index.html			
Rural Cooperatives as of 11 December 2014	885 (active)		500.000
Collective Body: http://www.paseges.gr/en			
Plumbers' Coops	33	200	2.500
Collective Body: All-Greek Federation of Plumbers "POSEYD"			
Electricians' Coops	23	200	600
Collective Body: All-Greek Federation of Electricians' Coops "POSIE"			
Housing Coops	545	-	120.242
Collective Body:			
Womens' Agrotourist Coops as of August 2014	141	100	2.000
Collective Body:			
Pharmacists' Coops • 5.500 individual establishments • Turnover: 2,5	41	1500	5.500



billion EUR			
Collective Body: www.osfe.gr			
Limited Liability Social Coops	16	400	2.000
Collective Body: www.pokoispe.gr			
Mutual Insurance Coops	7	40	5.500
Collective Body:			
Naval Mutual Insurance Coops	11	1.140	180.00
Collective Body:			
Social Cooperative Enterprises	1.200	1.800 (estimate)	6.100
Collective Body:			
Workers' Cooperatives	Less than 10	30	30
Collective Body:			

Source: Nasioulas I. (ed.). (2016). Social Economy Themes. From social entrepreneurship, to social investments and social banking. Social Economy Institute. Original title in Greek: Νασιούλας Ι. (επιμ.). (2016). Θέματα Κοινωνικής Οικονομίας. Από την κοινωνική επιχειρηματικότητα, στις κοινωνικές επενδύσεις και την κοινωνική τραπεζική. Ινστιτούτο Κοινωνικής Οικονομίας.

1.2 Historical background and recent evolutions

“Cooperative activities in the Greek domesticity, through the age-old community system, reproduced a decisive stock of social capital. This body of meaningful ties was deployed in favor of social cohesion during the Ottoman rule (1453-1821); the ethnic group of “Romioi” (civilians of Byzantine Empire, of Greek descent, culture and Christian Orthodox religious faith) self-organized in autonomous ways, excelled in conserving, expanding and revitalizing international commercial networks, both for subsistence and market economy, throughout the Balkans, central Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. Community-based productive clans were decisively active in the national liberation war-time activities of 1821. Following the national liberation, they kept pushing towards democratic governance of the rural social reproduction in parallel with national integration during the 19th and 20th century (Nasioulas, 2010: 111-162, 239-298).

Subsistence, productive and civic, self-organization was highly developed in the Greek cultural space already since the classical times and, in a more modern form, since the Byzantine era. Greek cooperative traditions are maybe the oldest in Europe. Institutionalized livestock cooperatives have been widespread throughout the last centuries in many areas of Greece, under the Greek appellations “syntehnies”, “synafia”, “tseligata”, “mitata”, “sempries”, “paradiarika”, “konakia” and “koinata”. As these appellations linguistically show, a solid connotation to the ancient term “koinon” is being made – “koinon” meaning common, joint, reciprocal or political. These primal cooperative forms facilitated the union of individual owners into a common productive basis and management of the livestock. Stockbreeding clans were divided hierarchically



in different roles: at the top was a leader-shepherd responsible for all activities. He represented the clan in all agreements with third parties, such as fixing rents and selling milk products. In the middle, there were the heads of families in charge of the transactions. At the productive and lower group, there were the shepherds providing their labor under salary. It is evident that such kind of extended productive and subsistence activities involved equally important social and ethical ties in clan and reciprocal local context. Above all, such cooperative schemes were closely tied to a nomad way of life peculiar to the Greek tribes of Sarakatsanoi and Vlachoï. Their cyclical and repetitive relocation in various regions followed the seasonal changes. With the onslaught of the refugee masses, following the 1922 Asia Minor demise, this way of life began to fade, since a stable family and productive locale became indispensable. Also, after 1938, all nomads were obliged to conscript to the national armed forces and of course subscribe to official birth registrars (Nasioulas, 2010, 2011).

Around the 18th century, sectoral cooperatives in land mining appear in Chalkidiki, Northern Greece, at the Mantemohoria villages. The Mantemohoria cooperatives schemes were exclusively involved in mining, bearing special privileges granted from the Ottoman Sultan's occupying authority located at the city of Stageira, birthplace of the Greek philosopher Aristotle, in Chalkidiki.

Already since 1770 and around 1750-1770, 22 villages in Tempi, Central Greece, formed several small-sized cooperatives which eventually united into a single modern version of cooperative known as the "Common Company of Ampelakia" in 1772, providing European markets with high quality yarn products. This included a vertical productive process from cultivating cotton, to processing it into yarn, then painting it into a distinctive indigenous red coloring and finally forwarding it into European markets. At first, all small groups of producers in the villages, which were called "syntrofies" (companies or friendships), decided to cooperate with each other, in order to avoid unnecessary rivalry and competition. The common scheme created included some 6.000 individual members and 24 factories. Amongst them there were (a) financiers and land-owners providing for capital and land, (b) technicians providing know-how and (c) workers providing labor. According to its Statute, the General Assembly was formed by all locals over 21 years of age. The Board of Directors had 11 members. There were 5 Committees over Strategic Planning, Management, Agricultural, Industry and Control. Then on, the Common Company of Ampelakia entered the European market facing international competition from an advantageous position. It came to operate 17 branch-stores around Europe amongst which were Amsterdam, Constantinople, Dresden, Hamburg, Leipzig, London, Lyon, Odessa, Smyrni, St. Petersburg, Thessaloniki, and Trieste. The Ampelakia cooperative is considered the first modern cooperative in the world and had come to be one of the major enterprises in Europe, with a cooperative capital of around 20 million piastra. It has created considerable assets for its members (social insurance, health facilities, schools and the Free University of Ampelakia, libraries etc) and significant wealth which can be verified by the quality of architecture and infrastructure in the village. The cooperative was dissolved in 1812 under heavy tax pressure from the Ottoman ruler Ali Pasha and concurrent economic and productive developments in the industry of yarn production (Kalitsounakis, 1929: 224-231).

From the middle of the 18th century to the national revolution of 1821 against the Ottoman rule, maritime cooperatives flourished in the Greek islands of Ydra, Spetses and Psara. Financiers along with seamen and traders contributed financial capital, expertise and labor into a common property scheme for building ships and conducting commerce



throughout the Mediterranean Sea and even farther as far as Latin America. Out of the total, only a small percentage of vessels were private property. With the outburst of the Greek revolution, this Greek cooperative fleet was already sizable with over 160 vessels and was decisively deployed in the wartime operations at the sea. Along, all existing social, subsistence and productive networks throughout the Greek cultural space proved decisively active in maintaining social cohesion and promoting national liberation in those turbulent times (Papageorgiou, 2004).

After 1870, some cooperatives and entrepreneurial associations are established mainly in Athens, paving the way for the major development of the cooperative movement in the beginning of the 20th century in Greece. The first significant effort was the establishment of the “Participial Agricultural Fund of Mutual Help” in Almyros of Thessaly, modern day Central Greece (1906). Other collectivities followed undertaking the form of enterprise or association, since to 1915 no official institutional provision existed in Greece as far as cooperatives were concerned.

Law 602/1914 was the first to officially introduce the cooperative concept and entity in Greece. It has been discussed as an attempt to reconcile State control over production policy, small land owners’ rights and major landholders’ vested interests (Lambos, 1999: 129-139). Under this Law, it was evitable for the first time for the Greek state to organize the cooperative movement and agricultural policy in general upon a firm basis, notwithstanding the critique that “*the Greek State moved to a tight embracement of the agricultural cooperatives reducing them exclusively to tools of its own agricultural policy*” (Patronis, 2001: 3) Many agricultural and financial cooperatives were established, in attempt to getting over with loan sharks, middle-men and the enhancement of creditworthiness.

The cooperative spring of 1915 contributed to the great agricultural reform of 1923-1932, the years after the Asia Minor demise. The onslaught of about 1.500.000 refugees from Asia Minor after the demise of 1922 created an internal social and economic crisis and this momentum pressed forward the cooperative activity. It produced immense pressure through the relocation of thousands of agricultural refugee families, overthrew previous socio-economic procedures relating to the interests of old warrior families of the 1821 Independence Revolution, internal asphyxia in the market, urgent need for increase in agricultural production to feed the refugee masses, along with demographic and ethnological issues in the provinces of Macedonia and Thrace, Northern Greece. All in all, the concurrent great reform of the agricultural production in Greece was the byproduct of territorial expansion of the Greek space in the Balkan Peninsula during the First World War, of the Asia Minor demise and a top-down State-implemented policy (Rigos, 1999: 38-51).

The extremely unbalanced, cost-ineffective and poor development of the Greek agricultural activity pushed the way through to the establishment of the Agricultural Bank of Greece, taking over from the National Bank of Greece, with a decisive role in supporting a viable agricultural reproduction for the masses in 1929. In the interwar period, state intervention in the cooperative movement institutionalized further, in fact abolishing joint liability of cooperative partners and safeguarding the banking system’s interests through funding conditionalities. Nevertheless the presence and activity of the Agricultural Bank has been invaluable at times of intense agricultural crises, involving the international market demise of grapes and tobacco monocultures through the 1930’s, at the aftermath of the American 1929 crash. Additionally, the Greek state proceeded into establishing many compulsory cooperatives for special cases, in order to



cope with the problems of agricultural colonization and the restitution of landless cultivators and refugees from Asia Minor. As international market forces kept pressing domestic production, state intervention deepened; extremely centralized state organizations on agricultural production management were established; the role of cooperatives was restrained in marginal and secondary activities, mainly through providing of short-term loans to farmers; 'Although Greek farmers fought over their rights, the benefits they were given were frequently conceived as a gift rather as an earning' (Patronis, 2001: 3).

In 1935, the All-Greek Confederations of Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives "PASEGES" was established. After the imposition of the Ioannis Metaxas dictatorship regime in 1936, there has been intense interference into the cooperative movement and activities with the aim of ensuring the political stability of the regime. Nevertheless, the Metaxas regime favored agricultural development through a policy of massive lending towards individual land owners and cooperatives, and through a central foreign exchanges policy with Germany and the United Kingdom (Papagarifallou, 1973, Rigos, 1999, Koliopoulos, 2005, Kitroef, in: Veremis et. al., 2009: 107-124).

The Second World War and the concurrent Greek Civil War destroyed national agricultural activity, which gradually recovered the following decades. After the end of the German-Italian-Bulgarian occupation of Greece and until the establishment of the 1967-1974 military dictatorship, agricultural production and cooperative development gradually recovered but the overall state patronage was not altered significantly. Nevertheless, cooperatives turned to a new innovative idea, that of establishing cooperative enterprises in many fields of production, processing and marketing. Agricultural and economic development continued through the dictatorship period (1967-1974).

Following the restoration of democracy in Greece (1974) the main effort was to stabilize the social and political environment and to recover from the national disaster of the Turkish invasion in and occupation of Cyprus. Agricultural cooperatives mobilized clientele networking in order to solidify their benefits and maintain favorable price levels. Throughout the 1980s, along with the populist socialist new government, a major cooperative reform took place in expression of this wider social expectation. Its political narrative referred to the promotion of democratic decision making in cooperatives. Basic provisions of 1983 and 1985 legislative actions could be summed up as follows: Voting through representatives, the majority system, and multiple voting was abolished; The 'one-person-one vote' principle was established; Politically-driven party lists were introduced; Agricultural cooperatives were allocated financial resources and public administration authorities; Economic auditing of the Agricultural Bank of Greece was abolished.

Such policies applied eventually led to devastating consequences for the cooperative movement and agricultural production: cooperatives began to be extremely politicized, through the expansion of the patronage and clientele system into their operations, many non-viable investments were made, a negative interlink of the State into cooperative issues was imposed and the total overdue dept of cooperatives towards the Agricultural Bank led to the eventual demise of the agricultural cooperative system in Greece. Along with political patronage, the most negative of all the related developments was the inexcusable relaxation of the Agricultural Bank supervision over cooperative activities.

Though major efforts were made in the 90s to reform and consolidate cooperatives in Greece, to this day, no serious overturn of this negative image has been witnessed. It has



been argued that the cooperative movement in Greece suffered a temporal disorientation, fragmentation, and has been consistently underactive. The majority of agricultural cooperatives are not involved in productive activities. The overall cooperative body is fragmented, with an inflation of cooperative enterprises and cooperative unions competing in local and peripheral level. The majority is also underactive providing for little employment. This situation is paired with an extensive and eventually toxic political manipulation of the cooperative movement in Greece. Political parties have occupied cooperative activity in order to control and disseminate political power at national, regional, local and sectoral level (Lambos, 1999, 73-74, Patronis, 2001).

There exists "PASEGES", the All-Greek Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives, established in 1935 and providing for the third-degree representation of agricultural cooperatives at the national level. Its existence, operation, activity and legitimacy has been gravely undermined by the establishment of two other competing and politically-driven confederations: "GESASE" and "SYDASE". This fragmented and politically-manipulated organizational structure of the Greek cooperative movement is indicative of the same extent of fragmentation at a practical level.

Proportional number of land holdings to the total agricultural land used is 22.5% in Greece as compared to a 7.6% in the EU level. Median area per holding is 4.7 hectares in Greece as compared to 12.6 hectares in the EU level. This conduces to low productivity and added value per holding. 537.000 individuals are employed in the primary sector in Greece representing an 11.9% of the total employment, as compared to a 5.1% in EU level. Agriculture provides for a 2.4% of the Greek GDP as compared to a 1.1 in the EU level (following Table).

There are about 7.200 cooperatives, 120 Unions and 19 Central Unions (Kazis, 2005: 2), with the 100 most sizeable cooperative enterprises providing for a turnover of approximately 1.5 billion euro as of 2010 (PASEGES, 2011, 55). At the same time, only a 27 per cent of the total available land is exploited. Practical causes regarding this cooperative activity inflation are the relative absence of economies of scale, the long-standing insufficient integration of cooperatives in the globalized capitalist production system and inherent deficiencies in planning and management. With the full accession of Greece into the European Community, this structural fragmentation and deficit concluded at a cyclical domestic agricultural crisis that has not yet been addressed willfully and in effect (Pezaros, 2004, Pezaros, 2005, Patronis, 2001)".

Source: Nasioulas, I. (2012). Greek Social Economy Revisited. Voluntary, Civic and Cooperative Challenges in the 21st Century. PETER LANG VERLAG. Pp 57-88

1.3 Legal context

Overview of national cooperative law

1. General remarks

Cooperative legislation in Greece is rather fragmented. There is no general law for all types of cooperatives. Each type of cooperative is regulated separately with different pieces of legislation that are not affected by each other. This leads to different treatment among several types of cooperatives because some legal norms are rather old and outdated, while others are brief and incomplete, leaving gaps and causing problems. Moreover there is no official codification of cooperative legislation. Finally, the general rules of civil and commercial legislation are applied to cooperatives in cases not covered by the special cooperative legislation. Greek cooperative legislation describes the least prerequisites that cooperatives must follow (compulsory law – *ius cogens*). The legislation itself provides clearly whether the statutes may choose other solutions than those indicated in it. On other issues not covered by legislation, the statutes may provide themselves according to the needs of the partners under the condition they do not violate other legally compulsory provisions. Since there is no English version at all, I have translated the basic points of each law. Cooperatives are referred to in Article 12 of the Greek Constitution (Right of Association). Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Article provide specifically for them. The former reads: –Agricultural and civil cooperatives of any kind are self-governed according to the provisions of the law and their statutes and are protected and supervised by the State, which must care for their development. The latter provides for the establishment of compulsory cooperatives (a Greek originality). Compulsory cooperatives are established to serve causes of common benefit, or public interest, or common exploitation of agricultural parcels or other wealth sources, provided that there is equal treatment among the members.

In the present report the basic points of law on rural and civil cooperatives is described. As regards the cooperative banks, and the pharmacists' cooperatives, they are regulated by the law on civil cooperatives, which is used as a framework for all non-rural cooperatives. Therefore, a description of cooperative banks' legislation is made where necessary. The housing cooperatives legislation is also described; however, such legislation imposes many restrictions, which violate basic cooperative principles and even the Greek Constitution itself with the excuse of public interest (see below under D). The legal regime of social cooperatives is rather narrow, because it concerns only the provision of services to mentally ill persons. Therefore, there is no ambit for formation of social cooperatives and this causes frustration to all those who would like to offer a wider range of services. Social cooperatives may be formed according to the civil cooperatives legislation. In any case, a thorough presentation of the legal regime of those cooperatives is done, because some of them have a worth-to-mention activity helping people in need.

All national law on cooperatives was collected after extensive research in legal databases.

2. Legislation on rural cooperatives

a. Definition

The basic legislative piece for rural co-operatives is Law 4384/2016. Article 1§1 reads that the Rural Cooperative Organization (hence AS) is an autonomous association of

persons, which is set up voluntarily and aims, through the mutual assistance and solidarity of its members, their collective economic, social and cultural development and advance through a co-owned and democratically-run business.

b. Activities

Article 1§1 provides that by AS is meant the fish, livestock, poultry, beekeeping, sericulture, agritourism, agroindustrial, cottage and other cooperatives of any sector or activity of the rural economy (forestry cooperatives are governed by Law 4423/2016). ASs are private legal entities and have commercial status. They develop all kinds of activities to achieve the objectives within the scope of the law and their statutes. The law provides for business with non-members (article 23§2).

c. Mode of setting up (Article 4, Article 19)

Setting up a rural cooperative requires statutes and their signing by at least twenty persons, and its approval by the District Court of the registered office of the cooperative. The statutes are a private contract among the founding members and include basic details such as, for instance, the commercial name, the registered office, the purpose and activities, the membership conditions etc.

The temporary Administrative Organ files an application with the District Court in regard to the approval of the statutes. The District Court pronounces its judgment on that application. If the statutes are not lawful, the Court defers its decision and issues an interim ruling inviting the temporary Administrative Organ to make the necessary amendments or to fill in the lacunas within fifteen business days from the publication of the interim decision. Following that, the Court issues its final decision. The Administrative Organ may appeal a negative ruling of the Court.

There are two Registries wherein cooperatives have to be registered. The first is the Registry kept by the District Court of the registered office of the cooperative and the second one is the National Registry kept by the Ministry of Food and Rural Development.

d. Membership

Article 6§1 lays down the conditions of membership, that is members of agricultural cooperatives may be natural persons who have full capacity to contractual action, work in any sector or activity of the rural economy served by the activities of the cooperative, meet the terms of the statutes and agree to use its services. If provided in the statutes, members of the cooperative may also become legal persons whose statutory objective is the pursuit of rural business, which is served by the activities of the cooperative. Particular terms and conditions of such participation and representation is provided for by the statutes.

The statutes may also provide for the acquisition of further additional optional shares by members (Article 9) or investor members (Article 6§2).

To become a member (Article 7), one has to apply in writing and the Administrative Organ decides on the admittance or not of the applicant within a time limit set out by the statutes. The Administrative Organ justifies its decision and the applicant, in case of a negative answer or no answer at all, may appeal against such a decision in front of the first ordinary General Meeting, which shall make the final decision. The statutes also provide for the constraints and impediments to becoming a member as well as the terms and conditions of withdrawal or expulsion of a member, and the minimum membership period.

e. Financial profiles

Article 9 provides that each member participate in the cooperative with at least one share, whose amount is defined by the statutes and may distribute interest. The amount of the shares may vary after a decision by the General Meeting. The law does not provide directly that the capital of a cooperative is variable; however, it is concluded by the wording of Article 7§5.

Article 23§1 provides that the net income of a cooperative is comprised of surplus and profit. Surplus comes from business with members and profit from business with non-members. According to Article 23§3-4, 10% of the surplus, unless the statutes provide for a higher percentage, is withheld for the formation of a legal reserve until the total amount shall reach the amount of the compulsory shares and the remaining surplus may be used either a) as investment in the cooperative, b) as dividends to the members in accordance to the volume of business done with the cooperative, c) to promote other activities approved by the members or d) to educate and train the members.. The reserve is also formed by the profits, any donations to the cooperative, and any other income not regulated differently by the statutes.

As said above, surplus may be distributed to members as dividends. The law does not provide for distribution of profit to members who hold compulsory shares, since all profits go to the legal reserve. Distribution of profit, a part of it or the whole, is only possible to the holders of optional shares, if so provided by the statutes. Part of the surplus may also be distributed to holders of optional shares.

In case of dissolution and liquidation (Articles 26-27), if there are net assets, creditors are paid first, then the banks, the Greek State, the Insurance Funds, the employees and finally the optional shares and the remaining amount, if any, is allocated according to the provisions of the statutes (it is not distributed to the members). No special reference is made to the legal reserve, so one may conclude that it is allocated as well, unless the statutes provide otherwise.

According to Article 23, cooperatives are obliged to keep Accounting Books and Records of Law 4308/2014. Article 21 provides that all accounts and reports are compulsorily audited by accountants, chartered or not, depending on the size of the cooperative. The law does not provide that the audit by the accountants has to be cooperative specific.

The cooperatives' accounts are published in the Web Page of the cooperative and the Web Page of the Ministry (Article 22§4).

f. Organisational profiles

Article 12 provides that each member has one vote (—one member one vote|| principle). There is a legal quorum (Article 13§1), if more than half of the members are present or represented. If there is no quorum, there is another General Meeting after a week's time where any number of members is enough for a legal quorum. The majority in both cases is 50% plus one vote. In certain cases, special quorum and majority rules apply (2/3 or 1/2 of the members and 2/3 of the votes). The law (Article 16) provides for the two-tier system, therefore there are an Administrative Organ and a Supervisory Organ. The Administrative Organ comprises of at least three members elected for a period between 3 and 5 years. The members may be re-elected. If the employees of a cooperative are more than twenty, one representative participates in the Administrative Organ with rights of voting for personnel issues. The above are valid for the Supervisory Organ, whose task is to check and control the actions of the Administrative Organ.



Finally, according to Article 21, the administrative, audit and financial control is the task of external auditors appointed by the General Meeting. The auditors enjoy wide appreciation and powers.

g. Registration

The statutes are recorded in the Registry of Agricultural Cooperatives, held with the District Court. Following that, the cooperative acquires legal personality and commercial status (Article 4§1). The same procedure is followed in case the statutes are amended. There is as well the National Registry kept by the Ministry of Food and Rural Development, wherein all cooperatives are to be registered (Article 19).

h. Control (Article 18)

The Ministry of Food and Rural Development enacts public supervision and control on cooperatives through its Directorate of Economic Control and Supervision. The content of the supervision and control concerns the legal function of the cooperative and its assistance to achieve its goals. More specifically, the Minister controls whether a) the equity capital or other outstanding liabilities of the members have been covered, b) the provisions of the legislation, the statutes and the decisions of the General Meeting are abided with, c) the details of the Balance Sheet, the Income Statement and other financial documents are true and accurate and d) the books and statements are true and accurate.

i. Merger

Article 24 provides for the merger of two or more cooperatives and either the formation of a new cooperative or the acquisition by one of them of the other merging entities. The merger takes place after a decision of the General Assemblies of the cooperatives involved with the special quorum and majority requirements, while there are publication requirements and assessment of the value of the property of the merging cooperatives by independent experts.

j. Tax treatment

Article 29 provide for the special financial and tax treatment of rural cooperatives (e.g., the contributions of members are not burdened with stamp duty or other duties in favour of the State or a third person or other duties whatsoever, cooperatives enjoy all preferential and favourable treatment provided for any third person in case of merger).

Civil Cooperatives

Civil Cooperatives are governed by Law 1667/1986 and its amendments: Law 2076/1992, 2166/1993 and 2515/1997. *“Civil cooperative is the voluntary union with economic purpose, which, without developing activities of rural economy, aims especially with the cooperation of its members to the economic, social and cultural development of its members and the betterment of the quality of their life in general in a common enterprise”* (Law 1667/1986, Art. 1, § 1). Civil cooperatives may have a vast array of primary purposes: production, consumption, supply, credit, transport and tourist. Their activities primarily involve (a) the joint organization of production, (b) the provision of products for the fulfillment of vocational, subsistence and other members’ needs, (c) the provision of technical or organizational assistance to their members for the increase or



improvement of production, (d) the processing or distribution of products to their members, (e) the provision of loans, securities, insurance or other economic assistance to their members, (f) the vocational, cooperative and cultural training, (g) the fulfillment of social and cultural needs (Art. 1, § 2). At least 15 members are required for the establishment of a civil cooperative with the exception of consumers' cooperatives where members should at least be 100 (Art. 1, § 3).

Private or public-law entities may become members of a civil cooperative (Art. 2, § 1).

Each member participates with one compulsory share (Art. 3, § 1).

Civil cooperatives are distinguished between limited and unlimited liability entities (Art. 4, § 4).

The democratic system of decision-making and governance applies (Art. 5-8).

Profits are allocated for the creation of reserves and distributed to members (Art. 9, § 4).

Civil Cooperatives are supervised by the Ministry of Economy, Department of Cooperatives. Its jurisdiction involves (a) assisting the development of the cooperative movement, (b) policy agenda-setting, (c) promoting cooperative training and education, (d) audit and regulation (Art. 13, § 1). There also exists a Cooperatives Council in which six of its members come from Cooperatives. Civil Cooperatives are registered in the General Commercial Register, kept by Central Department of General Commercial Register at the Chambers Union according to Law 3419/2005.

Electricians' Cooperatives

The Electricians' Cooperatives Federation consists of 23 cooperatives, involves 6000 electricians, 50 commercial establishments and a turnover of 12 billion euro (www.posie.gr).

Plumbers' Cooperatives

The Plumbers' Cooperatives Federation "POSEYD" was established in 1980. It now involves 33 cooperatives and 2.500 plumbers and since 2004 it operates 54 commercial establishments under the trademark "Ydro", with a turnover of 35 million euro in 2010. It is the leading power in retail and wholesale hydraulic apparels commerce in Greece (www.ydro-poseyd.gr).

Women's agro-tourist cooperatives

Women's agro-tourist cooperatives have been invaluable to the enhancement of social cohesion and the support of women's income and subsistence quality especially in remote rural communities. A population of over 130 women's agro-tourist cooperatives is estimated to be active. With several of them pertaining the rural cooperative-status, others are established as civil cooperatives due to tax incentives and less bureaucratic procedures followed. During the last decades a cooperative spring has been witnessed substantially enhanced by the Local Administration Organizations and EU funding. Nevertheless business spirit is rather missing and involvement is in general regarded as residual, leisure or complementary employment. Though practical skills are developed and community life rekindled, employment creation has not been substantial (Koutsou et al, 2003).

Pharmacists' Cooperatives

The Pharmacists' Cooperatives Federation was established in 1998 and now consists of the existing 41 Pharmacists' Cooperatives all over Greece, with 45 distribution

establishments, serving 5.500 drug stores, 1500 employees, and a turnover of 2.5 billion euro in 2009, with a 50% market share nationally. The Federation has also established “PANSYFA SA”, a non-pharmaceutical products company, and participates in “SECOF SA” along with Portugal, Spain, France and Turkey. It now operates the innovative on-line logistics system “Information System of Cooperatives Pharmacists” (www.osfe.gr).

Housing Cooperatives

Housing Cooperatives are a form of Civil Cooperative. Their primary goal is of serving housing needs of the people. Such institutions are governed by PD 17/1984, 93/1987, 2/1988, 23/1990 and 448/1991. According to PD 93/1987, Article 4, initiative on creating a Housing Cooperative may be undertaken by a Municipality or Community, by an appeal of at least 25 citizens or by Ministry of Public Works decision. A purposefulness advisement and related building approvals are also needed. Housing Cooperatives are excluded by the obligation to register at the General Commercial Register under Law 3419/2005. Registers are kept at the Ministry of Public Works, Local Government Organizations and local Country Courts.

European Cooperatives

In Nice European Summit, European Community Regulation 1435/2003 was adopted concerning European Cooperatives or European Cooperative Enterprises (SCEs). Main concern has been to lift bureaucratic hindrances in cooperative activities at cross-border European level. SCEs are legal entities of European Community law. They are companies bearing legal entity, constituted by individuals or legal entities of public or private law, residing in at least two European Community member states and fall under local state law. Each of these members has one vote. SCEs in Greece are registered at the General Commercial Register under Law 3419/2005.

SCE statute contains chapters on general provision, formation, formation by merger, conversion of an existing cooperative into a SCE, the structure of a SCE, financial and administrative provisions along with the winding up of a SCE. Though SCEs could substantially enhance transnational cooperative activities, their overall dynamism is hindered due to many inconsistencies emerged as to national legal contexts and there is an ongoing process of reforming and simplifying the statutory provisions. SCE Regulation had only limited success since a small number of SCEs were established (EC, 2010, EP, 2011).

Credit Cooperatives and Cooperative Banks

Law 602/1914 provided for the reinstatement of the “Lamia Technical Workers Banking Cooperative”, established in 1900; with about 12.000 members, today’s “Lamia Cooperative Bank” is the oldest civil cooperative in Greece. Currently, establishment and operation of credit cooperatives is provided by Law 1667/1986 recognizing them as a special form of civil cooperatives. Law 2076/1992 on “Banking Cooperatives” was the decisive institutional step which provided for a distinction between credit cooperatives, bearing a more restricted scope of services, and cooperative banks, thus triggering a cooperative banking spring in mid-90’s, as shown in Table 1, with local Chambers of Commerce playing a leading role. Law 2076/1992 was replaced by currently at force Law 3601/2007.

Competent authority over credit cooperatives is the Bank of Greece (Law 3601/2007, Art. 1). Credit cooperatives are special forms of civil cooperatives governed by Law 1667/1986. They transact with their members, other credit foundations and the Greek public sector. Conditionally, credit cooperatives may proceed to transactions with non-members to a maximum of 50% of their loans or deposits. Excluded are transactions in which members of the credit cooperative are involved, or in cases of secondary banking services of mediatory character. Initial capital of 6.000.000 euro is required (Art. 5). Credit cooperatives are allowed to use the denomination “Cooperative Bank” (Art. 7). Any statutory amendment should be approved by the Bank of Greece (Art. 87).

Cooperative banks, especially in medium-sized Greek cities, introduced a regional agenda much more sensitive to local specificities and counterbalancing the usually offensive, market expansion of commercial banking. The Union of Greek Cooperative Banks, with an estimated 120.000 clients, has 25 members, of which 16 are Cooperative Banks, 8 Banking Cooperatives and 1 Banking Foundation, the “Panellinia Bank S.A.”. This private scheme was created by the 15 larger Cooperative Banks and 13 Banking Cooperatives in Greece, the Central Cooperative Bank of Germany DZ Bank AG and Greek “PASEGES” (www.este.gr).

Table 7: Cooperative Banks (Foundations, Cooperatives, SAs) in Greece

Entity	Founded	Website
Foundations		
Cooperative Bank of Thessaly	1994	http://www.bankofthessaly.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Chania	1993	http://www.chaniabank.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Lesvos & Limnos	1995	http://www.lesvos-bank.net/
Cooperative Bank of Dodecanese	1994	http://www.bankdodecanese.gr/
Achaiki Cooperative Bank	1993	http://www.acbank.gr/
Pankritia Cooperative Bank	1994	https://e.pancretabank.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Drama	1994	http://www.dramabank.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Evros	1996	http://www.evrosbank.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Evvoia	1994	http://www.eviabank.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Epirus	1978	http://www.epirusbank.com/site/
Cooperative Bank of Karditsa	2000	http://www.bankofkarditsa.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Western Macedonia	1994	http://www.bankofwesternmacedonia.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Peloponnese	2005	http://www.korinthiasbank.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Lamia	1900	http://www.lamiabank.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Pieria	1995	http://www.pieriabank.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Serres	1995	http://www.syntraser.gr/
Cooperative Bank of Kozani	1995	http://www.kozanibank.gr/
Cooperatives		
Banking Cooperative of	1994	http://www.aitpisti.gr

Aitoloakarnania “Aitoliki Pisti”			
Banking Cooperative of Korinthia “Ermis”	of	1983	http://www.synermis.kor.forthnet.gr
Banking Cooperative of Arkadia “Arkadiki Pisti”	of	N/A	N/A
Banking Cooperative of Arta “Artini Egiisi”		N/A	N/A
Banking Cooperative of Voiotia	of	N/A	N/A
Banking Cooperative of Kerkyra “Ioniki Pisti”	of	N/A	N/A
Banking Cooperative of Magnisia	of	N/A	N/A
Banking Cooperative of Megarida	of	N/A	N/A
SAs owned by cooperative entities			
Panellinia Trapeza SA		2001	http://www.panelliniabank.gr
Unions			
Union of Greek Cooperative Banks		1995	http://www.este.gr/

Data compilation: Ioannis Nasioulas

Limited Liability Social Cooperatives

Institutional framework

Limited Liability Social Cooperatives (LLSCs) are governed by Law 2716/1999. They aim at social, psychological and work integration of individuals facing serious psychological and social issues, thus contributing to their therapy and economic self-sufficiency. Cooperative members bear limited responsibility. LLSCs are legal entities of private law with commercial faculty and are considered as mental health units. LLSCs are supervised by the Ministry of Health (Art. 12, § 1).

LLSCs can at the same time be productive, consumer, commercial, logistics, tourist, building, credit, and development, social, educational and cultural units. They are free to exert any economic activity. They are free to create commercial establishments anywhere and participate into European groupings of economic purpose, joint ventures, limited liability enterprises, SAs, state and municipal enterprises. One LLSC per health district is allowed (Art. 12, § 2).

LLSCs are forms of civil cooperatives governed by Law 1667/1986. Their establishment is subject to purposefulness control by the Ministry of Health (Art. 12, § 3).

Members can be: (a) Individuals with psycho-social disabilities, without the prerequisite of ability to legally transact, over 15 years of age, at a minimum of 35%, (b) Health professionals up to 45%, (c) Juridical entities up to 20%. No double membership in LLSCs is allowed (Art. 12, § 4).

Category (a) members have the right of compensation for their work, even if they already enjoy other allowances, pensions or benefits. Alongside, they enjoy the privilege of participating in any profit distribution (Art. 12, § 5).

A promising trajectory

LLSCs constitute the first solid form of work integration social enterprise in Greece. The introduction of LLSCs has formed part of the National Action Plan, *Psychargos* Mental Health Programme. It set out in 1998 and extended to 2010 aiming at social and economic integration of the mentally disabled, through a de-institutionalization scheme. *“They provide the opportunity for their members to regain ‘unused’ skills or to acquire new ones through on-the-job training and work experience and, finally, to acquire a permanent job in a semi-protective environment of some sort or in the mainstream labor market. In the cooperatives both mentally ill persons and non-mentally ill persons work together, thus avoiding the creation of a ‘sheltered’ work situation”* (Seyfrid, 2005, 4).

Mainly financed through the European Structural Funds and the EQUAL and HORIZON programmes, to 2011, 16 LLSCs are active in Greece. Their estimated employees reach up to 400. The 2nd grade association of LLSCs was founded in 2011, providing for their collective representation.

Table 8: Limited Liability Social Cooperatives in Greece

Entity	Activities	Employees
Chios LLSC “Orion” www.kspechios.gr	Hospital apparel cleaning services , Biological agriculture, Biological products store, Production and selling of toys, Greenhouse agricultural production, Natural Chios mastic cultivation and collection	12
Athens LLSC “Eikona” www.eikonakoispe.gr	Graphic design, Printing services , Publishing services / Typing	25
Dodecanese LLSC “ www.koispe.gr	Agriculture, Pastry making, Buffet services, Honey production	44
Attica LLSC “Climax Plus” www.koispe.org	Art design, Popular/folk art, Furniture maintenance, Catering, Paper recycling, Cleaning services	
Kerkyra LLSC “Neoi Orizontes” www.koispekerk.gr	Cleaning services, Café-Bar, Parking services, Catering , Pastry making	70
Chania LLSC www.koispechania.gr	Gift manufacture , Car cleaning services, Art, Café-bar	
Fokida LLSC “Giannis Volikas” www.koispefokidas.gr	Biological products store, Agricultural activities	
Attica LLSC “Ef Zin” www.koispe-euzin.gr	Catering, Delivery, Handmade furniture, Decoration services	
Thessaloniki LLSC “ www.koispe-thess.gr	Farming, Catering, Art House, Carpentry, Greenhouse, Cleaning services	110
Achaia LLSC “Faros” www.koispeachaias.gr	Hospital cleaning services	
Athens LLSC “Diaplous”	Cleaning services, Agriculture, Gardening	

www.diplous.eu		
Cephalonia/Zakynthos LLSC "Rota" www.rotasocialcoop.gr	Café-bar, Wine-house, Catering, Farming	16
Kavala LLSC www.kavalahospital.gr/Pub/ News/koispe.aspx	Currently under establishment	
Athens LLSC "Iliotropio" www.koispe-iliotropio.gr	Cleaning services	
Attica LLSC 'Diadromes'	Commerce, Cleaning services	
Arta/Preveza LLSC	Greenhouse cultivations, Grocery store, Cleaning services	
All-Greek LLSC FEDERATION www.pokoispe.gr	2nd Grade LLSCs Association	

Data compilation: Ioannis Nasioulas

Mutual Insurance Cooperatives

Mutual Insurance Cooperatives are governed by PD 400/1970, Art. 35, 36 and 37, as amended. They undertake the form of civil cooperative as provided by Law 1667/1986. A minimum of 50 individuals is required to establish a Mutual Insurance Cooperative which has the right of providing insurance for damages only (PD 400/1970, Art. 35). Mutual Insurance Cooperatives only provide for non-life insurance. They are audited by the Bank of Greece, Private Insurance Auditing Directorate, under Law 3867/2010.

Currently, there are 7 domestic Mutual Insurance Cooperatives operating in Greece with the majority created by professional automobiles' owners. Mutuals and cooperatives in Greece hold a total (life and non-life) insurance market share of 3.9% as of 2008: 0.1% in life, 8% in non-life, a market-share of 273 million dollars, of which 4 million in life and 268 million in non-life insurance, involving 468 employees and possessing assets of 73 million dollars (EP, 2011, 58).

Table 9: Mutual Insurance Cooperatives in Greece

Entity	Outlook
Ioannina city Mutual Insurance Cooperative of Motorists, Shareholders of Interurban Bus Companies	Liabilities insurance
North Greece and Thessaly Limited Liability Mutual Insurance Cooperative of Professionals, Public-Use Automobiles' Owners	Liabilities insurance Providing for other cooperatives' re-insurance Gross premiums: 2.018.598, 28 euro Market share (non-life insurance): 0.07% As of 2009
Achaia Mutual Insurance Cooperative of Interurban Buses' Owners	Liabilities insurance
Limited Liability Mutual Insurance Cooperative of Interurban Buses' Owners "Geniki Panelladiki"	Liabilities insurance

Greek Cooperative of Sea Mutual Insurance, Protection, Compensation and War Cover	Liabilities insurance
All-Greek Limited Liability Mutual Insurance Cooperative of Urban Buses and Professional Automobiles' Owners	Liabilities insurance Providing for other cooperatives' re-insurance Gross premiums: 306.482,67 euro Market share (non-life insurance): 0.01% As of 2009
All-Greek Limited Liability Mutual Insurance Cooperative of Public-Use Automobiles' Owners	Liabilities insurance Providing for other cooperatives' re-insurance Gross premiums: 1.420.189,13 euro Market share (non-life insurance): 0.05% As of 2009

Data compilation: Ioannis Nasioulas

Source: Bank of Greece, Mutual Insurance Cooperatives' Register & EPEIA, 2009

Sea Mutual Insurance Cooperatives

Sea Mutual Insurance Cooperatives are governed by Law 3569/2007, PD 400/1970 and constitute a form of civil cooperative as provided by Law 1667/1986. Sea Mutual Insurance Cooperatives provide for insurance exclusively for their members against risks of shipping activity, transport and accidents. Members can be ship owners, managers and charterers, individuals or juridical entities, with a limited liability.

Greece is a world leader in shipping and has been a pioneer in sea mutual insurance cooperatives with the establishment of "Mutual Insurance of Galaxidi" in 1840. Piracy remains a major issue for Greek ship-owners. Nevertheless, advanced capital requirements of a sea mutual insurance and peculiarities of the shipping industry and insurance framework have not facilitated the establishment of a cooperative in the form provided by Law 1667/1986. Law 3569/2007 provides for a case-specific framework and has been welcome by the Greek shipping community.

Source: Nasioulas, I. (2012). Greek Social Economy Revisited. Voluntary, Civic and Cooperative Challenges in the 21st Century. PETER LANG VERLAG. Pp 57-88

The Legacy of Law 4019/2011 on Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship

A basic characteristic of Law 4430/2016 on Social and Solidarity Economy is that it abolishes Articles 1 to 17 of the Law 4019/2011 on Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship (Art 35, §1):

- Art 1. Definitions
- Art 2. Social Cooperative Enterprise
- Art 3. Establishment of the Social Cooperative Enterprise
- Art 4. Relations of the members to the Social Cooperative Enterprise
- Art 5. General Assembly



- Art 6. Managing Committee
- Art 7. Distribution of Profits
- Art 8. Resources
- Art 9. Financing Tools
- Art 10. Economic Incentives and Support Measures for the Social Cooperative Enterprises
- Art 11. Audit and Sanctions on the Social Cooperative Enterprises
- Art 12. Cooperation Networks, Collaboration Ability and Contractual Agreements
- Art 13. Dissolution and Liquidation
- Art 14. Social Economy General Registry
- Art 15. Coordinating Authority for Development Policies on Social Economy
- Art 16. Social Reference Public Contracts
- Art 17. Enabling Provisions

It's evident that Legislators put forth a generalized reform of the existing regulatory framework on social economy and social entrepreneurship in Greece. The way the social economy and social business market has functioned so far and the dynamics that Law 4019/2011 allowed to emerge have already been discussed in great length and considerable depth.

Basic elements of this discourse, where a wider consensus is documented, are that Law 4019/2011:

- Formally introduced the concepts of social economy and social entrepreneurship in Greece and favored the recognition potentials of their main actors: in considerable extent regarding the Social Cooperative Enterprises and actually not at all when considering all other social economy constituents as such: cooperatives, associations, foundations, mutual funds and non-profit companies.
- It laid the ground for the formation of a generalized anticipation that access to European Union financing is closer, through the Social Cooperative Enterprise vehicle.
- It allowed for the establishment of over one thousand two hundred Social Cooperative Enterprises, posing core questions on the incentives and calculations behind this intriguing market response.
- It hasn't contributed to the rendering of any noteworthy, positive, verifiable and sustainable social impact, through the operation of the existing Social Cooperative Enterprises to an extent meaningful when taking into account the regulatory burden undertaken and the resources dedicated to this exercise by both the European Union and Greece.
- It was utilized by citizens as an emergency response business vehicle, involving intense tax-evasion, illegal and atypical labor and insurance contributions evasion.
- It has not at all contributed to the creation of social enterprises by notable charitable donors, foundations, corporate philanthropy actors, capital aggregators or regular businesses (Νασιούλας, 2012, Nasioulas, 2012, CIRIEC, 2012, Nasioulas, 2013, Νασιούλας, 2013, Nasioulas & Mavoeidis, 2013, Γεώργιας, 2014).

The new Law 4430/2016 on Social and Solidarity Economy

CHAPTER ONE. PREAMBLE

Art 1. Scope



In Art 1, the concept of Solidarity Economy is introduced in the Greek legislative order. Included in the legislative scope are the concepts of:

- Productive Self-Management Projects («Παραγωγικά εγχειρήματα αυτοδιαχείρισης»)
- Collective Social Entrepreneurship («Συλλογική κοινωνική επιχειρηματικότητα»)
- Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations («Φορείς Κοινωνικής και Αλληλέγγυας Οικονομίας»).

Art 2. Definitions

“The Social and Solidarity Economy is defined as the sum of economic activities which are based on an alternative form of organization of the relations of production, distribution, consumption and re-investment, founded on the principles of democracy, equality, solidarity, cooperation along with the respect towards man and the environment” (§1).

This definition is more sound and clearer in comparison to that adopted by Law 4019/2011; it reflects the conceptualization formulated in the greater extend of the bibliography, but does not include two critical attributes, for which a generalized consensus is featured in the scientific discourse:

- No direct reference is made to “private economic activities”: to the fact that the social economy is private in nature and does not represent an initiative of the public sector or a version of public policy. This deficit is remedied with the provisions of Art 3, §1, στστ, whereby a Social and Solidarity Economy Organization is not allowed to *“have been founded or managed directly or indirectly by public law juridical entities or organizations of self-government of the first of second level or by other juridical entities of the greater public sector”*.
- No direct reference is being made to “relations of investment”
- Or to the principle of “philanthropy”
- Along, no distinction is being made between the two major components of the social economy: the corporate and the non-profit (Νασιούλας 2012, Nasioulas, 2012, CIRIEC, 2012, Νασιούλας 2013).

Various other definitions follow, but the Law 4430/2016 does not feature a definition of “collective social entrepreneurship” (Art 1§2); it does not define social entrepreneurship per se nor does it provide a definition of social enterprise. The absence of social entrepreneurship and social business is very striking in the legal text.

Regarded as very positive and useful are the definitions given for collective benefit with emphasis on equal production relations (§2) and the distinction made in relation to social benefit, for which the importance of social innovation is pronounced in the text (§3). These distinctions provide the methodological basis for the recognition of activities bearing benefits between members of a single organization and those initiatives that are undertaken by members of an organization for the benefit of third parties. It has already been discussed that the definition of “charitable” is embedded in the national juridical context; in contradiction to the novelty of Law 4019/2011 introducing the term “collective purpose” which raised not few technical and conceptual issues (Νασιούλας, 2013).

It could be regarded as a serious omission that no direct reference is being made to public causes of the social economy, restricting the recognition scope to collective and social only. Social economy organization and the corporate ones share public causes

with the state. This is the case of general interest services. As social economy institutions share social causes with conventional corporations (Νασιούλας, 2012, CIRIEC, 2012).

A very promising contribution is being made with the definition of sustainable development and the stress on intergenerational and multicultural issues (§5), both considered crucial for social reproduction in Greece, in light of the intense economic, fiscal and insurance crisis along with the demographic upheaval taking place due to the influx of voluminous populations of refugees and illegal migrants for some time now.

A direct reference to fair trade is introduced in the Greek juridical context as is equally beneficial along with that made to innovative and free digital goods and services, bringing to the fore the practices of what we have coined as the Digital Social Economy (Nasioulas & Maris, 2011).

By defining social general interest services and stressing that state support does not supplant state obligations, Law 4430/2016 bridges domestic dynamics of the social economy with the wider debate on the reformation and enrichment of supply and demand lines for general interest services in the European level.

Economic migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, for as long their file is pending, are enumerated as also belonging to special population groups which merit support and are given the right to participate in social economy initiatives, in the context of the rights provided to them by formal law and international conventions (§8).

“Social impact is the collective and social benefit produced by the activity of a Social and Solidarity Economy Organization, as defined in Art 3, in regard to economic, environmental and social terms in the local societies” (§9). Having already defined collective and social benefit renders the definition of social impact sound and the direct inclusion of the term in the text can be considered a breakthrough. A potential unfolding of the term could involve the elaboration of the following components of social impact:

- It is intended and not subsequent (Attribution).
- It is positive in greater extent than negative and thus there exists the ability to document any eventual negative social impact (Positive Impact).
- It is laid down as such in the Articles of Association (Statutory).
- It is sustainable, with the major part of the resources that sustain it coming from the profit making activities (in case of corporations) and contributions (in case of non-profits) (Institutional Sustainability) (Νασιούλας, 2013, COM, 2014).

Finally, but not of least value is the introduction of a Social Impact Measurement Tool, whose methodological architecture, span of coverage and terms of use will eventually provide for the basis of its evaluation.

CHAPTER TWO. SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ORGANIZATIONS

Art 3. Concept

§1 enumerates as Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations the following:

- The Social Cooperative Enterprises (re) introduced herein
- The Limited Liability Social Enterprises of Law 2716/1999
- The Workers’ Cooperatives introduced herein and
- Under given prerequisites, the Agricultural Cooperatives of Law 4384/2016, Civil Cooperatives of Law 1667/1986 and Civil Companies of Art 741 of the Civil Code.

All the above are corporations, according to the national-accounting provisions at force (Νασιούλας, 2012, 2013).



The prerequisites of eligibility of an entity for recognition as a Social and Solidarity Economy Organization are as follows:

1. It is a non single-member juridical entity,
2. It has acquired juridical personality,
3. It employs activities of collective and social benefit, as provided in §2 and §3 of Art 2,
4. It caters for the information and participation of its members and employs a democratic system of decision-making, according to the principle 'one member, one vote', irrespectively of the contribution of each member,
5. Its Articles of Association foresee restriction in distribution (authors note: "of profit" – the wording is not included in the official text, possibly due to typographical error) as follows:
 - i. a minimum 5% for reserve formation,*
 - ii. a maximum of 35% is distributed to the employees, unless the 2/3 of the General Assembly members decide for its allocation to activities of iii below,*
 - iii. the remaining percentage is allocated for the creation of new employment positions and the expansion of its productive activity.*
6. It employs a system of remuneration convergence, according to which the top net salary does not surpass the low by three times, unless the 2/3 of the General Assembly members decide differently.
7. It aims at the empowerment of its economic activities and the maximization of the social benefit produced through the horizontal and equal networking with other Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations.
8. Is not established or managed directly or indirectly by public law juridical entities or local self-government organizations of the first or second grad or other juridical personalities of the greater public sector.

The above laid prescriptions for the eligibility of any given entity to be considered as a Social and Solidarity Economy Organization several conclusions can be raised:

FIRST. The Law 4430/2016 is expanding the regulatory coverage towards the enterprise sector of the social economy, towards including other corporate entities which have for long been its traditional pillars: agricultural and civil cooperatives, though with strict prerequisites.

SECOND. Criterion for the recognition of an entity as a Social and Solidarity Economy Organization is the acquisition of juridical personality. This is a negative characteristic of the Law. The Legislator is unaware of the existence of social economy organizations which do not possess juridical personality. This is provided by the Art 107 of the Greek Civil Code. A very striking example is some private law, mutual insurance funds in Greece , which since the beginning of the 20th century have pioneered as the most dynamic actors of the domestic social economy and acted as a credible pillar of liberalizations and organizational innovation in the industry of social insurance, dominated by the state.

This is even more striking when taking into account that the public insurance system in Greece has defaulted, the income distributed by insurance benefits and pensions is collapsing and the services provided by state insurance organizations are deteriorating, while the Greek Legislator is denying the (insurance) organizations of the social economy the opportunity to deploy their different, democratic, self-managed, inclusive and viable logic model into a domestic market so needy of it.



THIRD. We consider to be a grave theoretical and technical failure of Law 4430/2016 that it introduces criteria for the eligibility of agricultural and civil cooperatives as entities of the social economy. Specifically these juridical types are self-righteously and without any moderation or conditionality belonging to the social economy. This is a baseline throughout the expanse of domestic and international bibliography.

By introducing conditionalities for agricultural and civil cooperatives to be recognized as social economy organizations, the Legislator is practically asking them to turn into social enterprises. In fact, Law 4430/2016 confuses Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations introduced therein with social enterprises.

Social businesses can undertake the cooperative organizational type; but cooperatives are not necessarily social businesses. Nor is it grounded in any plausible theory to oblige any existing cooperative to amend its statute so as to be recognized as a social economy organization.

FOURTH. The Law 4430/2016 excludes non-profits out of the Social and Solidarity Economy. Non-profit entities are by Law restricted not to systematically produce or distribute profits. Thus it is not foreseen for them to form reserves out of profits or earmark any profits for distribution to employees. Nevertheless these are the requirements set by Art 3 §1δ as discussed above.

Entities abiding by Art 3 §1δ are de facto (social) enterprises. Identifying them as Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations is a major failure of the Law 4430/2016, leading to a confusion between the concept of Social and Solidarity Economy with social entrepreneurship. In contrast to the dominant theoretical context describing social economy as comprised by business and non-profit entities along.

Thus, it can be said that Law 4430/2016 erroneously contains the juridical expanse of the social economy by excluding the private non-profit sector. It's not hard to understand that such a provision is highly toxic since the financing dynamism of the social economy stems from its two protagonists: the mutual insurance funds and charitable foundations, both non-profit entities de jure and de facto.

To its abolishment, the Law 4019/2011 provided for a distinction between social business entities and other entities, not excluding non-profits. This methodology was unfortunately not replicated or even so elaborated in the Law 4430/2016. Such a backdrop could be remedied by introducing a concept of "social enterprise" and the explicit inclusion of non-profits in the scope of the Social and Solidarity Economy as conceptualized therein.

FIFTH. At the same time the Law 4430/2016 does not provide a fundamental definition of social entrepreneurship or the term "collective social entrepreneurship" given in Art 1 and found nowhere else in the text. In fact, the total absence of the terms "social enterprise" and "social entrepreneurship" is very striking.

No confidence can emerge from the already well-documented distortions of competition, the waste and mismanagement of European Union and national public funds, the non-equal provided support and the active exclusion of certain entities by state aid. Such failures in the social economy sector, if to be continued uninterrupted, will increase the very negative consequences of ill lawmaking. Indeed, we have persistently advocated in favor of introducing the definition of "social business" as provided by the European Commission's SOCIAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (Νασιούλας, 2013, Nasioulas & Mavroeidis, 2013):



“A social enterprise is an operator in the social economy whose main objective is to have a social impact rather than make a profit for their owners or shareholders. It operates by providing goods and services for the market in an entrepreneurial and innovative fashion and uses its profits primarily to achieve social objectives. It is managed in an open and responsible manner and, in particular, involves employees, consumers and stakeholders affected by its commercial activities.

The Commission uses the term 'social enterprise' to cover the following types of business:

Those for who the social or societal objective of the common good is the reason for the commercial activity, often in the form of a high level of social innovation.

Those where profits are mainly reinvested with a view to achieving this social objective.

Those where the method of organisation or ownership system reflects the enterprise's mission, using democratic or participatory principles or focusing on social justice” (COM. Social Business Initiative, 2011, 2-3).

SIXTH. Restrictions upon profit-distribution applying to agricultural or civil cooperatives are a counter-incentive for their members, whose initial statutory purpose was the pursuit of collective and not social benefit per se.

SEVENTH. The introduction of a system of remuneration convergence and the elasticity in its internal application is a very positive contribution of the Law 4430/2016. It is expected to promote wage justice, to channel the added value produced more fairly to the benefit of employees and deter the abusive ownership of proportionally unequal benefit by the few or only one individual among the members of the Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations.

EIGHTH. Provided by §3, the Social and Solidarity Economy Organization upkeeps a Volunteers' Registry for those voluntarily assisting the statutory activities of the entity. Art 8, §1 provides for an exemption of the Organization off insurance contribution for the volunteers and this is expected to favor the participation of volunteers. Nevertheless it might as well act as an incentive for illegal or clandestine employment through an abuse of the volunteer capacity.

As already discussed in great length (Nasioulas and Mavoeidis, 2013), the Law 4019/2011 had also allowed for incentives that eventually contributed to the maximization of abuses and clandestine employment of member of the therein called Social Cooperative Enterprises. The Law 4430/2016 attempts to apply some restrictions into this trend through Art 17 §9.

NINTH. §4 provides that: *“the Social and Solidarity Economy Organization is obliged, from the second fiscal year, to present annual wage expenses equal at least to the 25% of its turnover of the previous fiscal year. This obligation applies to Organizations with an annual turnover and income from subsidies of the previous fiscal year not exceeding the 300% of the annual wage costs of a full-time employee, calculated according to the stipulated minimum wage without benefits”.*

This provision can be considered as restrictive of the economic and managerial liberty of the eligible organizations. Nevertheless the room left allows for ill-efficient entities to be exempt of any burden or obligation. The basic positive contribution of this provision is that active counter-incentives are stipulated for the abuses of capitalization.

CHAPTER C. SUPPORT MEASURES



Art 5. Participation of the Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations in support measures

With §3, public authorities can make available movable and immovable property to Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations for the enhancement of their collective and social benefit activities. The objective criteria are to be laid down with a common Ministerial Decision.

Issues of preferential treatment and sound competition could be discussed once the specifics are published. Throughout the ongoing fiscal consolidation in Greece, a vast array of central and municipal public organizations and enterprises were abolished and a ban on the establishment of new ones is at force. The provisions of this Article create an even demanding context upon the procedures introduced by the Law 4430/2016 on identifying eligible organizations to be benefited by this Article. And this in turn leads the discussion back to the failures and exclusions from which the legislative text suffers.

CHAPTER D. SOCIAL COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES AND WORKERS' COOPERATIVES

Art 14. Social Cooperative Enterprises

With §2, the types of Social Cooperative Enterprises at first introduced by Law 4019/2011 are deduced into two, taking into account the abolishment of the "Care" type:

- Social Cooperative Enterprises for the Integration of Vulnerable and Special Groups
- Social Cooperative Enterprises of Collective and Social Benefit.

In comparison to the Law 4019/2011 which practically allowed for any kind of activity, there is herein introduced a restriction to sustainable development activities and provision of general interest social services only.

§ 8 stipulates that the percentage of the mixed income derived of public entities is not allowed to surpass the 65% of the gross income of the Social Cooperative Enterprise, calculated in a three-year period. This is a provision restricting the exclusive dependency of social enterprises by public funding; it aims at inculcating the principle of economic viability and independency and deter phenomena of substitution of public organizations by social economy ones.

All beneficial provisions for individuals belonging to vulnerable groups of the population remain (Art 34, 2).

Art 18 introduces the obligation of employing members of the cooperative at a minimum of 60% of the sum of employees, including non-members. This provision is in tune with the effort of ensuring jobs for members; it acts as an incentive for becoming a member of the cooperative when being employed by it; it can finally be said that it renders Social Cooperative Enterprises of Law 4430/2016 active producers of democratic employment.

CHAPTER E. WORKERS' COOPERATIVES

The 4430/2016 introduces an innovative business type, the Workers' Cooperative; a form of civil cooperative with the explicit statutory purpose of collective benefit. Only physical persons can become its member (Art 24, §1). A restriction applies whereas an individual can only take part into one Workers' Cooperative (Art 24, §2), which is set up by at least three natural persons (Art 25, §2).

Members are enrolled and insured in the Insurance Organization of Freelance Professionals ("OAE" in Greek). Insured members are not subject to any other



insurance obligation stemming from any other capacity as professionals or via a personal activity. The abovementioned insurance obligation is the only one foreseen and it absolves members from any other previous or forthcoming obligation. The insurance expenses sit with the Workers' Cooperative and are deductible by its income (A26, §6, β).

The insurance obligations rest with the cooperative and this is could act as a counter incentive for those presiding, since it becomes their personal obligation also. Failure of members to serve their insurance obligations is directly charged to the member in charge.

The number of non-member employees is restricted to the 25% of the total members, with an option of 50% in special, justified, cases (Art 28, §2).

Art 31, reserves the same benefits for Workers' Cooperatives' members as is the case with Social Cooperative Enterprises, when they belong to vulnerable social groups and receive insurance or other welfare benefits at the same time (Art 34, 2).

CHAPTER F. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Art 35. Transitional Provisions

With the Law entering into force, the existing Social Cooperative Entities under the Law 4019/2011, types of Collective - Productive Purpose and Care can transform into Social Cooperative Enterprises of Collective and Social Benefit or into Workers' Cooperatives (§2).

The main criterion for their recognition will be the pursuit of goals related to viable development and general interest social services provision. It rests with the Social Economy General Registry to set the standards. The official procedures will judge the extent to which existing social enterprises will be forced to switch into Worker's Cooperatives, having said that the later are subject to strict insurance obligations of their members in contrast with Social Cooperative Enterprises.

Conclusions

1. The Law 4430/2016 introduces theoretically unfounded regulatory toxic provisions against non-profits, organizations without juridical personality, cooperatives and especially mutual funds and charitable foundations, by excluding them from its scope and support measures foreseen.
2. It expands the regulatory interest towards part of the business sector.
3. It erroneously confuses the concept of Social and Solidarity Economy with activities featuring a business character only and presented only by entities which can be regarded as social enterprises.
4. It does not specify the meaning of collective social entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship or social enterprise nor does it adopt the European Commission's Social Business Initiative definition.
5. Its innovative and positive contributions include the sounder description of collective and social benefit, the social impact measurement, the introduction of a system of remuneration convergence, a system of channeling income from business activity into employees' remuneration and the introduction of incentives for employees to become members of the social cooperatives.
7. Law 4430/2016 introduces an innovative type: the Workers' Cooperative. Insurance obligations for its members discern it from the existing Social Cooperative Enterprises with which they resemble in many other aspects. Taking into account the extremely few



positive incentives provided in comparison with other juridical types, it remains to be seen whether its introduction is linked to the clean-up of the existing population of Social Cooperative Enterprises.

8. Critical importance lies with the extent of the conditionalities to be set for the concession of state property to Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations.

9. Of equal importance will be the practical procedure to be followed by the Social Economy General Registry for checking the dedication of entities to sustainable development or provision of general interest social services, which constitute the only allowed activities thereof.

10. The Law 4430/2016 is characterized by strict and intense public intervention into market issues and trajectories of the Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations.

11. Striking is the fact that the legal text does not make any direct reference to social entrepreneurship or social enterprises, but in one and only one instance in the introductory part.

Source: Nasioulas I. (ed.). (2016). Social Economy Themes. From social entrepreneurship, to social investments and social banking. Social Economy Institute. Original title in Greek: Νασιούλας Ι. (επιμ.). (2016). Θέματα Κοινωνικής Οικονομίας. Από την κοινωνική επιχειρηματικότητα, στις κοινωνικές επενδύσεις και την κοινωνική τραπεζική. Ινστιτούτο Κοινωνικής Οικονομίας.

1.4 Public policy

The Greek legislative and administrative terrain regarding cooperatives is fragmented in various laws and various jurisdictions per competent authority. No single approach is provided for the development of the cooperative sector at large. Along, the educational system is not at all linked to the cooperative sector and specifically the educational component of the cooperative agenda, which is considerably stressed in the ICA premises.

Since the crisis erupted in Greece, in 2010, most subsidies for collective institutions representing cooperatives were cut-down or completely cut-off. The banking system is at a stall and this involves also loans and export guarantees for cooperatives, which are not favorably identified by the systemic banking institutions.

Many provisions are incorporated into law regarding the audit of several kinds of cooperatives. But the big picture is that the Greek state has never materialized on these premises and this is mainly the reason why the rural cooperative was completely dismantled as on the 1980s (see previous analysis).

1.5 Public awareness

When referring to coops, people in Greece mainly imply rural cooperatives. Most of the other kinds such as civic cooperatives (cooperatives of same-line professionals) or even the newly-found social cooperatives are relatively exotic for the majority of the people.

1.6 Public knowledge

In general terms, cooperativism is not well-understood in the cities. Yet, the rural populations are better acquainted with cooperatives and their practices.

1.7 Media

The word “cooperative” was associated with corruption and as being part of the political clientele regime of the two major parties and especially the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement PASOK which ruled Greece for the most part of the eighties and nineties.

1.8 Role models

Examples and Best Practices: Credit Cooperatives

Name: Lamia Cooperative Bank

Established: 1900; the oldest existing cooperative in Greece

Form: Cooperative Bank

Scope: Cooperative credit services

Structure: 6 establishment, member of the Union of Greek Cooperatives Banks

Value:

Financial data (million €)											
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Assets	95,57	76,77	62,41	57,49	66,28	71,03	78,51	76,53	73,03	68,68	87,73
Loans	81,47	73,11	62,70	62,38	65,88	66,96	70,19	63,84	61,62	58,65	62,21
Deposits	64,71	42,84	40,99	38,72	47,66	53,24	60,90	57,8	53,76	51,25	68,75
Equity	27,99	27,49	19,83	16,81	16,58	16,26	16,38	16,57	16,14	15,19	17,04
Cooperative capital	19,77	19,19	18,60	17,83	16,43	15,36	15,17	14,85	14,30	13,60	15,28
Earnings before taxes	1,4	0,23	0,18	0,60	1,87	1,08	0,93	1,11	0,91	-0,92	0,23
Establishments	3	3	3	3	3	4	5	6	6	6	6
Employees	48	45	43	44	39	39	42	45	43	43	48
Members	15.694	15.200	14.709	14.230	13.768	13.390	13.308	13.105	12.845	12.457	12.410

Data compilation: Ioannis Nasioulas

Source: <http://www.lamiabank.gr/>

Examples and Best Practices: Limited Liability Social Cooperatives

Name: Dodecanese LLSC

Form: Limited Liability Social Cooperative

Established: 2002

Scope: Social and work integration of individuals with psycho-social disabilities.

Structure: 441 members, (a) individuals 198, (b) professionals 148, (c) entities 95.

Employees 53, (a) individuals 27, (b) professionals 15, external collaborations 2.

Establishments, (a) honey factory, (b) agricultural production, (c) pastry production, (d) food bar.

Value: Agricultural production in 9 hectares, with 40 tons annually in 20 different kinds



of grocery; 80% of production to the Leros island psychiatric facility and 20% in the market. "Artemis" thyme honey; 50.000 euro investment (LEADER programme).

Data compilation: Ioannis Nasioulas
Source: www.koispe.gr

Examples and Best Practices: Mutual Insurance Cooperatives

Name: Mutual Insurance Cooperative of Northern Greece Interurban Buses
Form: Mutual Insurance Cooperative
Established: 1986
Scope: car-accident insurance
Structure: 24 first-grade mutual insurance coops, 2.000 buses
Value: "MACEDONIA" interurban bus station in Thessaloniki, 27.000 square meters; 288.000 euro net profits as of 2008.

Data compilation: Ioannis Nasioulas
Source: www.ktelmacedonia.gr

Examples and Best Practices: Sea Mutual Insurance Cooperatives

Name: Greek Cooperative of Sea Mutual Insurance, Protection, Compensation and War Cover
Form: Sea Mutual Insurance Cooperative
Established: 2009
Scope: Shipping insurance. Vessels up to 25.000 gt accepted, coverage up to 500 million dollars
Structure: statute signed by 50 ship-owners, 90 ships insured as of 2010
Value: While in course to India (October 6, 2011), the Greek commercial vessel "Motivator" fell victim to piracy by Somalian pirates who kidnapped its crew. The vessel was insured in the Greek Cooperative and ransom reaching 3.6 million dollars was forwarded through Lloyd's in exchange for the safe retrieval of the 24 individuals aboard the ship.

Data compilation: Ioannis Nasioulas
Source: http://www.mutual.gr/files/LL_20110120_60343_A_003.pdf

Examples and Best Practices: Pharmacists' Cooperatives

Name: "PANSYFA" Pan-Hellenic (All-Greek) Pharmacists' Cooperative
Form: Cooperative
Established: 1997
Scope: PANSYFA creates economies of scale, in regard to the trading, storage and distribution of products, for cooperative pharmaceutical warehouses, cooperative pharmacies and its collaborating companies. Within the frame of the company's development and business plan, two new departments were created, in order to expand the provided services towards business partners and function supportively towards cooperative pharmaceutical warehouses: 3PL; Logistics storage and distribution of pharmaceutical and parapharmaceutical products and Sales & Promotion Services; product promotion services for our partners.
Structure: 26 pharmacists' cooperatives founding members
Value: 43 cooperative warehouses, 5.000 pharmacies, approximately 50% share of the Greek market



Data compilation: Ioannis Nasioulas

Source: www.pansyfa.gr

Examples and Best Practices: Housing Cooperatives

Name: "OSYATE" Housing Cooperative of the Agricultural Bank of Greece's Employees

Form: Housing Cooperative

Established: 1945

Scope: Provision of housing loans for family houses or resorts to employees and pensioners; real estate services

Structure: 8.955 members as of 31/12/2006

Value: Loans

Year	Total	Bank Capital	Coop Capital	Contracts	Annual Total
2000	12.945.435,07	10.761.719,74	2.183.715,33	951	10.533
2001	14.302.077,77	12.046.412,33	2.255.665,44	1.164	11.697
2002	13.784.733,04	11.173.780,84	2.610.952,20	811	12.508
2003	14.081.087,36	12.428.147,36	1.652.940	558	13.066
2004	17.310.663,01	15.846.313,01	1.464.350	585	13.651
2005	20.198.497,19	18.332.487,19	1.866.010	706	14.357
2006	18.050.214,97	16.504.454,97	1.545.760	526	14.883

Data compilation: Ioannis Nasioulas

Source: www.osyate.gr

1.9 National publications

1. Nasioulas I. (2012a). Greek Social Economy Revisited: Voluntary, Civic and Cooperative challenges in the 21st century. Peter Lang Verlag.
2. Nasioulas I. (2012b). *Social Cooperatives in Greece. Introducing new forms of social economy and entrepreneurship*. International Review of Social Research. Volume 2, Issue 2, June 2012, 151-171. ISS N 2069-8267.
3. Νασιούλας Ι. (2012). *Η Κοινωνική Οικονομία της Ελλάδος και το Κοινωνικό της Κεφάλαιο. Μια συνολική, θεσμική και εθνικολογιστική αναγνώριση*. Ινστιτούτο Κοινωνικής Οικονομίας.
4. Νασιούλας Ι. (2013). *Κοινωνικές Επιχειρήσεις – Clusters & Δίκτυα Κοινωνικής Οικονομίας. Θεωρία, Ευρωπαϊκές Πολιτικές και Ελληνική Πραγματικότητα*. Ινστιτούτο Κοινωνικής Οικονομίας.
5. Νασιούλας Ι. (2016). *Θέματα Κοινωνικής Οικονομίας – Από την κοινωνική επιχειρηματικότητα, στις κοινωνικές επενδύσεις και την κοινωνική τραπεζική*. Ινστιτούτο Κοινωνικής Οικονομίας.

1) BOOKS

- Fefes, M., Law and Organization of agricultural co-operatives (in Greek), Legal Library, Athens 2012.
- Fefes, M., European Institutions of Social Economy: I. The European Co-operative Society, (in Greek), Ant. N. Sakkoulas Publications, Athens – Comotini 2007.



II) ARTICLES

- Fefes, M., “Law 4384/2016 on Agricultural Cooperatives” (in Greek), in Nasioulas (ed.), *Social Economy Issues*, pp. 165-184, Institute of Social Economy, 2016
- Fefes, M., “Recent Developments in Agricultural Cooperatives Legislation” (in Greek), *Legal Attorney Volume 101/2014*, Legal Library.
- Fefes, M., “Greek and Italian Co-operative Movement: A brief comparison”, *Collective Volume Agricultural cooperatives in South and Central Europe, 19th - 20th century: a comparative approach*, Athens Academy, 2013.
- Fefes, M., “The New Legal Regime of Agricultural Co-operatives: Critical Reading” (in Greek), *Enterprise & Company Law, Volume 3/2013*, p. 232-238, Legal Library.
- Fefes, M., “Recent Developments in Agricultural Cooperatives Legislation” (in Greek), *Legal Attorney Volume 95/2013*, Legal Library.

6.

1.10 National web sites

www.paseges.gr/el

www.este.gr/

www.osyate.gr

www.koispe.gr

www.pansyfa.gr

www.ktelmacedonia.gr

www.osyate.gr

PART 2: COOPERATIVE/ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

Part 2.1: Cooperative Education

Name	Social Business Lab http://www.loutraki.plus/social-business-lab-en.html
Providers	The City of Loutraki-Perachora-Hagioi Theodoroi, GREECE, in collaboration with the Social Economy Institute
Target	All
Content	Getting to know the basics about Social Cooperative Enterprises and Workers' Cooperatives under Law 4430/2016
Learning practices	Participatory Workshops, Masterclasses by invited speakers, Invited Lectures by Businessmen
Indicate if those programs include specific action supporting entrepreneurship	YES. The Social Business Lab forms part of the Social Economy Action Plan (http://www.loutraki.plus/social-economy-en.html) and is a prerequisite for taking part in the Social Economy Competition (http://www.loutraki.plus/socia-economy-competition-en.html)
Indicate if those programs include specific action towards young people	

Name	Cooperative Learning Courses
Providers	KAPA Network ("Diktyo Kapa")
Target	All
Content	Getting to know the basics about cooperatives and their set-up
Learning practices	E-learning, conventional textbooks
Indicate if those programs include specific action supporting entrepreneurship	
Indicate if those programs include specific action towards young people	

2.1.2 Needs of cooperative actors to develop entrepreneurship

- A single, coherent policy net for coops
- A single competent authority for coops
- Legislation for favorable treatment by the banking system
- Less red-tape for setting up any kind of coop



- More integration of cooperative knowledge into the mainstream educational system

2.1.3 Needs of cooperative actors to reach young people

- Integration of cooperative ethics and knowledge into the basic educational system
- A new law is needed for the establishment of STUDENTS' COOPS inside the University Campuses
- Provision of latent public facilities for cooperative experimentation and start ups in a generalized and representative manner in all geographical areas and especially the most deprived – Financing and management of this exercise by a specific competent authority

Part 2.2 : Entrepreneurship Education

Name	UNIT OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP – ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI https://dasta.auth.gr/cmsitem.aspx?id=165&sid=4
Providers	ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
Target	Students
Content	Business skills and knowledge
Learning practices	Courses parallel to the main curriculum
Indicate if those programs include specific action supporting cooperatives	Conventional and social cooperativism is included and highlighted
Indicate if those programs include specific action towards young people	

Name	Social Business Lab http://www.loutraki.plus/social-business-lab-en.html
Providers	The City of Loutraki-Perachora-Hagioi Theodoroi, GREECE, in collaboration with the Social Economy Institute
Target	All
Content	Getting to know the basics about Social Cooperative Enterprises and Workers' Cooperatives under Law 4430/2016
Learning practices	Participatory Workshops, Masterclasses by invited speakers, Invited Lectures by Businessmen
Indicate if those programs include specific action supporting	YES. The Social Business Lab forms part of the Social Economy Action Plan (http://www.loutraki.plus/social-economy-en.html) and is a prerequisite for taking part in the Social Economy Competition (http://www.loutraki.plus/socia-economy-



cooperatives	competition-en.html)
Indicate if those programs include specific action towards young people	

2.2.2 Needs of entrepreneurship educative actors to cover cooperative entrepreneurship

Most of the collective institutions representing segments of the cooperative sector are not mobilized adequately in providing quality and consistent education to their members and prospective coop-entrepreneurs. This is mainly due to lack of commitments, resources and the specific skills to organize the exercise. It's also due to the peculiar nature of most of them being subsidies-oriented and with no actual capacity-building agendas for their beneficiaries.

Parallel to this, mainstream education providers such as HEIs are not adequately linked to such collective-representation bodies or the cooperative ecosystems and thus hands-on education is very limited.

2.2.3 Needs of entrepreneurship educative actors to reach young people

Entrepreneurship-specific education is not well and firmly integrated into the official educational system in Greece. This is vividly the case of HEIs were links with the business sector are practically non-existent and are left to be treated in hostility by a very small minority of politically-motivated groups, most of which do not belong to the students' community. This status has been solidified since the 80s and there is no sign that it could be reverted in the near future.

PART 3: OPPORTUNITIES

3.1. Youth

Since the default of Greece in 2010, almost 500.000 people left the country, with the majority being young and well educated. In Greece, almost anybody willing to enroll to a HEI course will get there. The percentage of degree-holders has tripled the last 3 decades. The level of foreign-language proficiency is considerably high, especially in English.

3.2. Youth unemployment

Currently, youth unemployment reaches an average of 50-60%. The general unemployment rate is over 25%. Brain-drain has been devastating.

3.3. Youth **intentions** towards entrepreneurship

The majority of Greek youth is creative and very eager to undertake risks. Yet, the overall ethics and ideology which are widespread in the HEI sector and public sphere tend to dismantle the business spirit and re-orient the youth towards following the path leading to becoming linked or dependent to the public sector through clientelistic networks and public subsidies.

3.4. Uncovered social needs

- Baseline protection against poverty
- Primary health-care
- Financing of the start-up sector
- Proper education not-mediated by political networks and not-subject to physical and ethical violence in the HEI campuses
- Support to communities receiving migrant flows

3.5. Youth **sensibility** to uncovered social needs

The majority of the young people are well-aware of the counter-incentives posed by resilient clientelistic networks embedded in the HEI sector and actively hostile to entrepreneurship and cooperativism.

3.6. Industries or social needs with high potential for cooperative entrepreneurship

- Mutual finance and cooperative banking
- Mutual insurance
- Agricultural production
- Fisheries
- Logistics
- ICT
- Community and social services

- Energy generation and provision

- The tourism sector
- The educational sector
- The religious sector

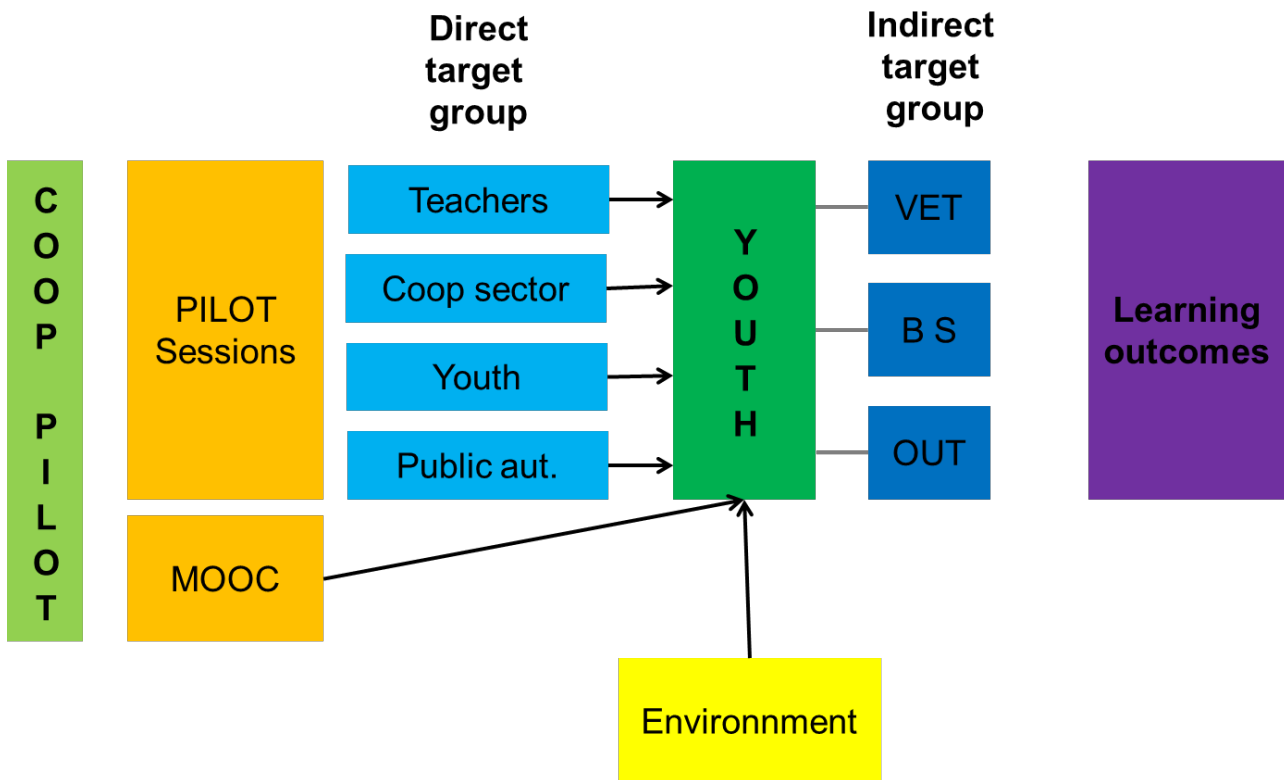
3.7. Do you think those are suitable for youth entrepreneurship?

In fact most of the above provide the basic ground of what is missing in HEI curricula and methods of intervention. Low-cost start ups are very viable in most of these industries and this comes to fit with the low budget of the Greek families and young entrepreneurs. Expertise for most of these industries is already available in the Greek market and social networks. Most of these industries involve a visible amount of social capital and ICT skills, both very rich in the Greek society.

3.8. Industries or social needs with high potential for youth entrepreneurship

- Mutual finance and cooperative banking
- Mutual insurance
- Agricultural production
- Fisheries
- Logistics
- ICT
- Community and social services
- Energy generation and provision
- The tourism sector
- The educational sector
- The religious sector

PART 4: NEEDS



4.1 Needs in terms of expected learning

4.1.2 VET students

Learning outcomes	Entrepreneurship	Cooperative
ATTITUDE Examples: self-confidence, sense of initiative, problem solving mind, cooperation ability, listening capacity, empathy...	6	6
SKILLS Examples: creativity, planning, financial literacy, managing resources, managing uncertainty, and risk, teamwork, co-construction, communication, decision making...	4	5
KNOWLEDGE Examples: assessment of opportunities, role of entrepreneurs in society, entrepreneurial career options, legal framework of coop, coop ecosystem, funding sources for coop...	3	3

4.1.2 Universities scholars and business management students

Learning outcomes	Entrepreneurship	Cooperative
ATTITUDE Self-confidence, sense of initiative, problem solving mind, cooperation ability, listening capacity, empathy...	6	6
SKILLS Creativity, planning, financial literacy, managing resources, managing uncertainty, and risk, teamwork, co-construction, communication, decision making...	5	6
KNOWLEDGE Assessment of opportunities, role of entrepreneurs in society, entrepreneurial career options, legal framework of coop, coop ecosystem, funding sources for coop...	4	4

4.1.3 Young people out of education

Learning outcomes	Entrepreneurship	Cooperative
ATTITUDE Examples: self-confidence, sense of initiative, problem solving mind, cooperation ability, listening capacity, empathy...	6	6
SKILLS Examples: creativity, planning, financial literacy, managing resources, managing uncertainty, and risk, teamwork, co-construction, communication, decision making...	6	6
KNOWLEDGE Examples: assessment of opportunities, role of entrepreneurs in society, entrepreneurial career options, legal framework of	6	6

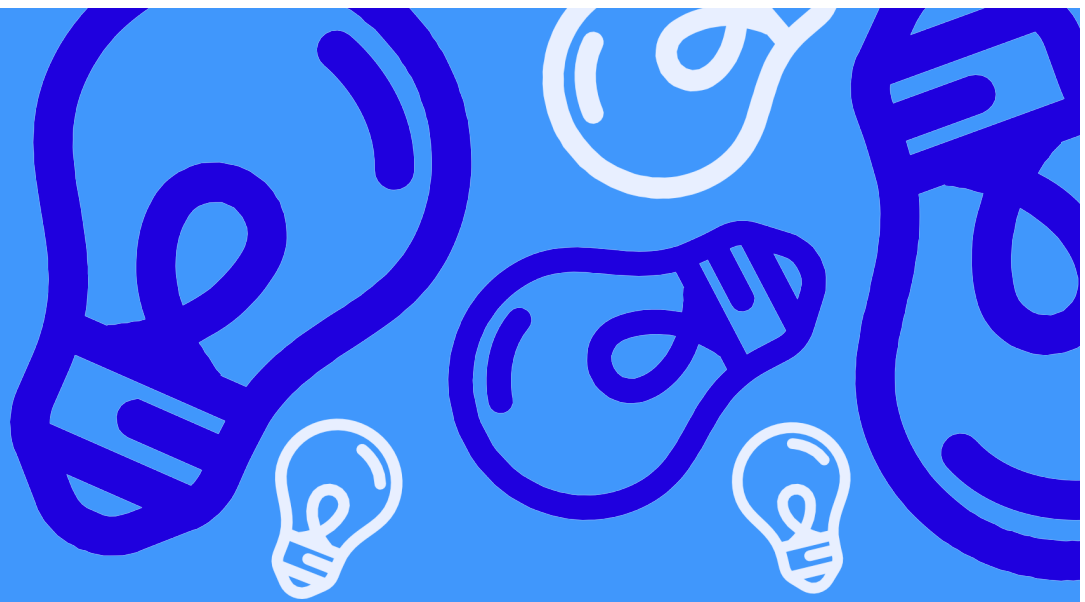
coop, coop ecosystem, funding sources for coop...		
---	--	--

4.2 Target audience that will attend the pilot session:

- Teachers: 10%
- Coop sector: 10%
- Youth: 60%
- Public authorities: 20%

4.3 Expected learning outcomes

	VET student	Universities scholars and business management students	Young people out of education
Entrepreneurship ATTITUDES	6	5	6
Entrepreneurship SKILLS	4	5	6
Entrepreneurship KNOWLEDGE	4	5	6
Cooperative ATTITUDES	6	5	6
Cooperative SKILLS	4	5	6
Cooperative KNOWLEDGE	4	5	6



*This publication is the result of the European **project COOPilot**, led by a consortium of 11 partner organisations established in 9 EU countries, with the support of DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission, from April 2017 to March 2018. The project aims to provide innovative responses to the youth employment challenge in the European Union, by stimulating cooperative entrepreneurial spirit through education and training.*

For more information, please contact COOPilot partners:

European think & do tank POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ - Belgium, Project coordinator
(<http://www.pourlasolidarite.eu>)

Université de Liège - Le Centre d'Économie Sociale - Belgium (<http://www.uliege.be>)

National school of political studies and public administration - Romania (<http://www.snspe.ro>)

Federazione trentina della cooperazione - Italy (<http://www.cooperazionetrentina.it>)

Fundacion Escuela Andaluza de Economia Social - Spain (<http://escueladeeconomiasocial.es>)

Mladinska zadruga Kreaktor, Z.B.O., Socialno podjetje - Slovenia

Social Economy Institute - Greece (<http://www.social-economy.com>)

Scuola Nazionale Servizi Foundation - Italy (<http://www.scuolanazionale.servizi.it>)

Association des agences de la démocratie locale, ALDA - France (<http://www.alda-europe.eu>)

Chamber of commerce and industry Vratsa sdruzhenie - Bulgaria (<http://www.cci-vratsa.org>)

Authority for Cooperative Societies - Cyprus (<http://www.cssda.gov.cy>)

For more information: <http://www.coopilot-project.eu>



COOPilot has been funded with support from the **European Commission**.

This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use, which may be made of the information contained therein.

