

Workshop

**Rural Cooperatives in
Central and Eastern Europe
in the 19th and 20th
centuries**

Leipzig, 21.-22.10.2021



**Leibniz-Institut für
Geschichte und Kultur
des östlichen Europa**



Herder-Forschungsrat

Rural Cooperatives in Central and Eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries

According to contemporary estimates, around the mid 1920s every third Eastern European person was member of a cooperative. The rise of the cooperative associations since the middle of the 19th century resulted from the fact that they helped the »common people« during the economic transformation of the 19th and early 20th century to solve their everyday problems, e. g. by providing cheap loans and high-quality goods or by supporting them in the processing and marketing of agricultural goods. Their democratic nature (»one man – one vote« in the general assembly) and the preservation of the independence of individual economies (household or company) with simultaneous creation of large-scale business structures increased their attractiveness and formed the basis for their economic competitiveness. In models of society which were conceptualized between the 1890s and the 1930s, the cooperatives became the key institution of a rural modernity and a search of an agricultural »third way« between liberalism and socialism.

The workshop will examine the development of rural cooperatives in countries and regions of Central and Eastern Europe. The long-term goal of the project group is to identify common features and specifics as well as processes of mutual interdependence.

Poster, 1930s. Source: Cooperative Museum Warsaw
Ceremonial opening of the rural consumer cooperative »Pomoc« (Help) in Góra Puławska (Poland), 1930s. Source: Cooperative Museum Warsaw

Thursday, 21st October

13.00 Registration

13.30 Frank Hadler (Leipzig), Welcome

13.45–14.30

Torsten Lorenz (Hamburg)/Uwe Müller (Leipzig),
Introduction

14.30–15.00 Break for room ventilation/Coffee break

Chair: Aurelia Ohlendorf (Leipzig)

15.00–15.30

Jan Slaviček/Eduard Kubů (Prague), Cooperatives'
Roles and Functions in the Bohemian Lands in the Se-
cond Half of the 19th and First Half of the 20th Century

15.30–16.00

Rita Aldenhoff-Hübinger (Frankfurt/Oder), German
Cooperatives in the 19th century. Schulze-Delitzsch and
Raiffeisen in economic, political and legal competition

16.00–16.15

Comments: Torsten Lorenz (Hamburg)/
Uwe Müller (Leipzig)

16.15–16.45 Discussion

16.45–17.15 Break for room ventilation/Coffee break

Chair: Frank Hadler (Leipzig)

17.15–17.45

Bartłomiej Błesznowski/Alexandra Bilewicz (Warsaw)/
Torsten Lorenz (Hamburg), A Forgotten Path of
Popular Modernization. Rural Cooperativism in Poland
1870–1939

17.45–18.15

Zsombor Bódy (Budapest), Antiliberal Discourses, Adaptation to Market Economy and State Power. Hungarian Cooperative Movement from the End of the 19th Century until World War Two

18.15–18.30 Comment: Corinne Geering (Leipzig)

18.30–19.00 Discussion

20.00 Dinner (for workshop participants)

Friday, 22nd October

Chair: Uwe Müller (Leipzig)

9.00–9.30

Cornel Micu (Bucharest), Cooperatives as instruments of state policies in interwar Romania (Via Zoom)

9.30–10.00

Catherine Bregianni (Athens), From the Great Depression to Dictatorship. Changing Institutions of Social Economy in Greek Agriculture (1929–1940) (Via Zoom)

10.00–10.15

Comments: Dietmar Müller (Leipzig), Augusta Dimou (Bukarest) (Via Zoom)

10.15–10.45 Discussion

10.45–11.15 Break for room ventilation/Coffee break



Chair: Torsten Lorenz (Hamburg)

11.15–11.45

Viesturs Paul Karnups (Riga), Cooperatives in Latvia
1918–1940. An Overview

11.45–12.15

Žarko Lazarević (Ljubljana), Cooperatives in Yugos-
lavia: regional differences.

12.15–12.30

Comment: Stephan Merl (Bielefeld), Jan Zofka (Leipzig)

12.30–13.00 Discussion

13.00–14.30 Lunch break

14.30–15.30

Final Discussion, Conclusions,
Plans for further work on the project

15.30

End of the workshop

The **Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO)** carries out comparative historical and cultural research on the region bordering the Baltic, the Black, and the Adriatic Seas from the Early Middle Ages to the present. There are currently around 50 research scholars associated with the Institute conducting work both in Germany and abroad from across the range of humanities disciplines. In its activities, the Institute relies on a dense network of cooperative partnerships with Eastern and Central European as well as international research organizations.

www.leibniz-gwzo.de

The Johann Gottfried Herder Research Council is a scientific association with the aim of promoting the exploration of Eastern Europe in European contexts under historical, sociological and cultural issues. The working bodies of the Herder Research Council are its plenary session and its commissions. The work of the Herder Research Council is funded by federal and state funds through the Herder Institute.

www.herder-forschungsrat.de

Venue

GWZO, Specks Hof (Entrance A), 4th floor
Reichsstraße 4-6, 04109 Leipzig / online

Concept

Dr. Uwe Müller (GWZO-Department »Entanglements and Globalisation«) uwe.mueller@leibniz-gwzo.de
and Dr. Torsten Lorenz (Hamburg)
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Please register before the event:

<https://kurzelinks.de/opzn>

Organization

Ines Rößler (GWZO-Department »Knowledge Transfer and Networking«) ines.roessler@leibniz-gwzo.de