

Call for Papers

This is an invitation for full papers, posters and position papers to be presented at the **International Interdisciplinary Conference *Visions 4 a Cooperative Future: Cooperativism for the 21st Century Europe & Beyond***

organized by: International Visegrad Fund project "Inclusive Local Economies through Cooperatives Development" (INECON) in conjunction with the project "Cooperative business and innovative rural development: Synergies between commercial and academic partners" (C-BIRD), European Alternatives and International Young Professionals Foundation, that will take place on December 4-6, 2014 in Bratislava, Slovakia

The aim of the conference is to address issues related to the status and role of cooperatives and social enterprises in social and economic development in the V4 countries – Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland within a broader European context (South-Eastern and Western Europe) both from the point of view of a historical and theoretical reflection and from practical perspectives.

We invite practitioners, researchers, and policy makers in the cooperative and social and solidarity economy to submit an abstract on topics that align with the conference themes (on abstract submission specification please see the Conference Structure section listed below)

The conference will address, but is not limited to, these thematic areas:

1. Cooperatives and development of cooperative economy

- the history of the cooperative movement
- current relevancy and standing of cooperatives in the economies of the V4 and other European countries
- good practices in various forms of cooperative action

2. Cooperatives and social economy

- the democratic and social dimension of cooperatives and their role of in social economy
- social economy and social cooperatives – forms and linkages

3. Local and regional development and the role and contribution of cooperatives and social economy actors

- the impact of cooperatives and social economy actors on local/sub-regional economies
- the cooperative model in rural development
- the cooperative model for disadvantaged regions and communities

Conference funded by:

• Visegrad Fund



Partners of the conference:



The research leading to these results has received funding from the People Programme (Marie Curie Actions) of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme FP7/2007-2013/ under REA Grant Agreement No. 611490 (PIAPP-GA-2013-611490).



4. Cooperative business and its enabling environment

- legislative support for development of cooperativism in the future
- public policies supporting the development of social economy and cooperativism in Europe
- factors hindering the development of the cooperative and social enterprise sector
- financing start-up and existing cooperatives
- educational programs in cooperativism and social economy

Conference structure

Full Paper Sessions - an accepted proposal for a single paper presentation, prepared by one or more authors, which will be scheduled as part of the Themed Sessions. Please send an abstract of up to **500 words** with 3 to 5 key words

Poster Session – dedicated time slots will be available during the Conference Programme to allow the authors to present their work. Please send an abstract of **300 words** with 3 to 5 key words.

Discussion Session (position papers) – authors are encouraged to submit a **200 words** abstract on particular Thematic Area and will be part of a 40 minutes Discussion Session to converse and interact with the rest of the participants.

How to submit

Together with their submitted abstracts, authors are requested to submit a **short bio (CV)**.

Please submit your proposed **abstract** of full paper, poster or position paper, and the **short bio (CV)** via email to the address: utopia@utopia.sk.

Important days

Abstract submission **October 24, 2014**

Announcement of acceptance/ rejection **November 3, 2014**

Publication of Conference Papers

Participants will have an opportunity to publish their conference papers in the proceedings from the conference. Participant should submit their papers for publication by December 15, 2014.

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