

SYLLABUS
course description

Course title	Cooperatives - Funding and running a democratic and social-ecological business Area: Seminar
Course code	96116
Scientific sector	
Degree	Master in Eco-Social Design (LM-12)
Semester	I
Year	1 st and 2 nd
Credits	2
Modular	No
Lecturer	Klaudia Resch, e-mail: Klaudia.Resch@unibz.it Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/45845-klaudia-resch
Scientific sector of the lecturer	-
Teaching language	English
Teaching assistant (if any)	-
Office hours	6
Teaching language	English
Total lecturing hours	18
Total hours of self-study and/or other individual educational activities	
Attendance	mandatory
Prerequisites	-
Course page	

Course description

The seminar "Cooperatives - Funding and running a democratic and social-ecological business" has a learning by doing approach. The students will create "their" cooperative in teams. They will discuss and agree on the purpose and goals, the name of the company, the rights and obligations of the members, the services or products, the customers, markets and competitors. They will think about where the start-up capital for their company comes from, how it should be set up, which structures, employees and skills are needed. Based on these considerations, they will draft a business plan and determine the financial requirements. The simulated founding of a cooperative will be accompanied by inputs on theory and practice of the cooperative system, by plenary discussions and by reflection loops on the project.

Educational objectives

Students will be able to:

- Understand the differences between cooperatives and other forms of businesses
- Evaluate the pros and cons of the cooperative form for their business idea
- Simulate the founding and running of a cooperative

Knowledge will be acquired in the following fields:

- Legal requirements of founding and running a cooperative
- Understanding and drafting a business plan

List of topics covered

- International Cooperatives: definition, values, principles, facts and figures
- The Mediterranean model and the Central European model of cooperatives: differences and similarities
- Cooperatives in Italy: legal form, different types, differentiation from other types of companies, history, market shares, cooperative associations
- Founding a cooperative: purpose and aim, members, customer segments, channels, customer relationships, revenue streams, key partners, key activities, key resources (business model canvas)
- Development of a business-plan
- Help and support: assistance and subsidies for cooperatives
- Example of a social cooperative for better understanding

Teaching format

Frontal lectures combined with hands-on workshop exercises, group work and group presentations.

Learning outcomes

This course shows the opportunities and limits of cooperatives. Students should be able to decide whether a cooperative is suitable for implementing their business idea.

Knowledge and understanding

Knowledge of how to found and run a cooperative, understanding of the cooperative networks in Italy

Applying knowledge and understanding

Acquisition of a range of methods and tools to develop a business idea and a business plan

Making judgments

Ability to assess whether a coop is the right type of company for one's business idea

Communication skills

Being able to develop a project in a team and to present the project in a professional way

Learning skills

Ability to organize and apply the knowledge acquired to a group project

Assessment

Group work and oral: students have to develop, describe and present their hypothetical cooperative with reference to the content of the classroom lectures and discuss it during the oral exam.

Assessment language: English

Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks

- Completeness of the developed cooperative and of the business-plan
- Creativity of the idea and the presentation
- Teamwork
- Ability to reflect the pros and cons of the cooperative form for their business idea

Readings

<https://ica.coop/en>

International Cooperative Alliance 2024 Exploring the cooperative economy. World Cooperative Monitor 2023. <https://monitor.coop/>

Carini, Chiara, Fontanari, Eddi (et.al.) 2023 La Cooperazione in Italia: Tratti distintivi e traiettorie di sviluppo. Euricse Research Report n. 31/23

Depedri, Sara (et. al.) 2024 Lavorare in cooperativa oggi. La voce dei nuovi professionisti della cura e il turn-over nelle imprese sociali. Euricse Research Report n. 35/24