



Social and solidarity economy

Sonja Novkovic
CWCF AGM
Tatamagouche
October 26 2019



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
for CO-OPERATIVE
MANAGEMENT

Social economy

- Social economy:
 - cooperatives
 - mutuals
 - associations
- people-centred
- accepted the core institutions and rules of the game of the capitalist system; complementing mainstream institutions



Solidarity economy

- Solidarity economy - pushes the envelope of transformative change
- It fundamentally challenges the capitalist system
- Looks for alternatives centred on redistributive justice, deep sustainability, active citizenship and a more profound reconfiguration of power relations



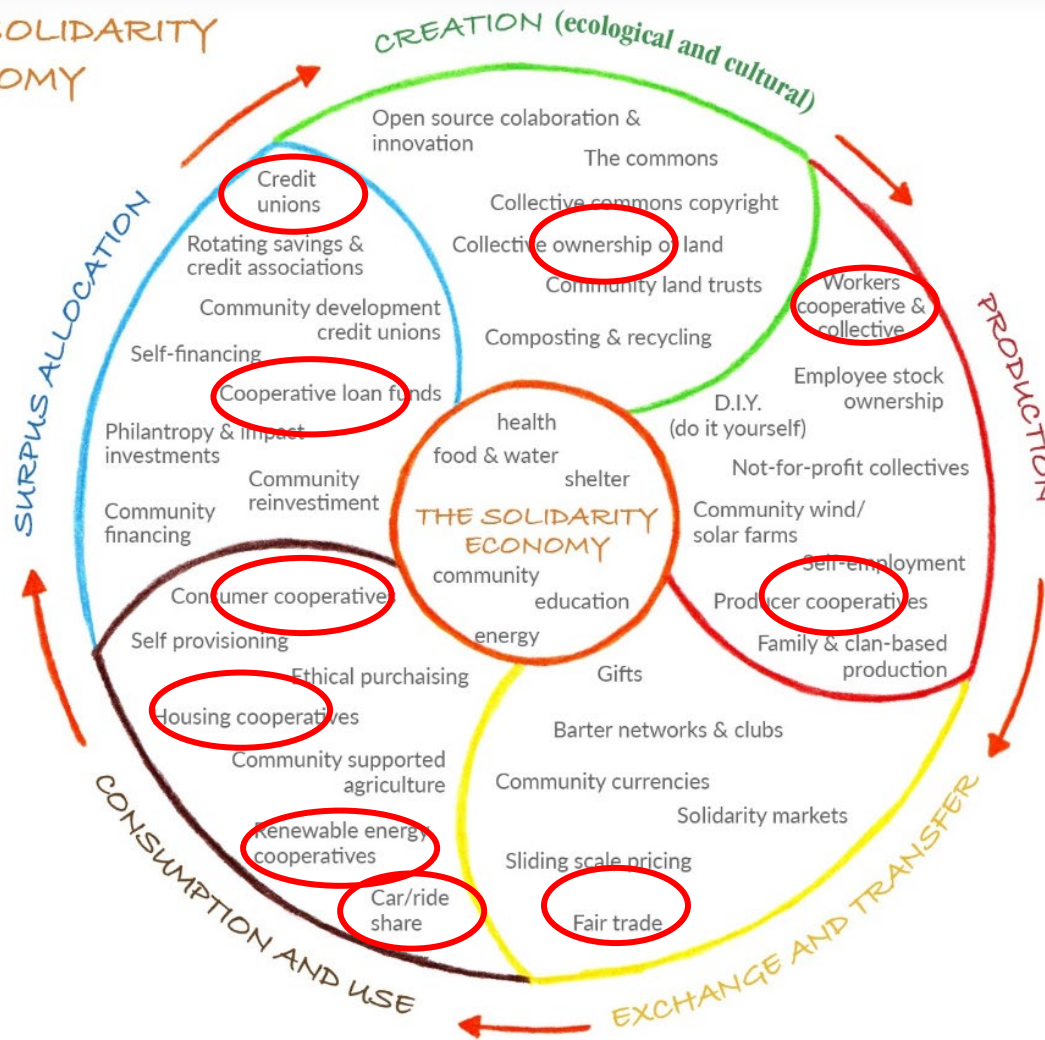
SSE

- SSE ‘social and solidarity economy’ or ‘social solidarity economy’
- many commonalities in principles and practices
- Strategic ‘merger’ – to build a more effective movement for change involving a broader coalition of actors
- Possible tensions



THE SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Ethan Miller



Social enterprise

- Enterprise with a social mission
- Reinvesting profits into the mission
- Typically hero-entrepreneurs
- Can be social cooperatives



Social business

- A business doing social good
 - Tom's shoes
 - Commercialized microfinance
- Realizing there is profit in 'the social'



Where do worker co-ops fit in?

Social economy (SE)

- Social mandate
 - worker rights, voice, control
 - human dignity
- Democratic decisionmaking
- People centred/Not-for -profit



Where do worker co-ops fit in?

Social and solidarity economy (SSE)

- Social economy + changing the system
- Shared values
- Transformative



Where do worker co-ops fit in?

Social enterprise

- If the purpose is a social service/ general benefit
- If surplus is reinvested in the purpose of the enterprise
- Non-profit status



Why does it matter?

Building actual economies

- Developing substantial relationships of economic support and exchange through networks of solidarity actors
- Economic integration; solidarity exchange
- A value chain = a *values* chain



Why does it matter?

Mindshift

- Collaboration with like minded enterprises
- Influencing the supply chain
- Expanding the boundaries/ creating local people-centred economies
- Community
- Sustainability
- Resilience



Why does it matter?

- Local to global
 - Cooperation among cooperatives (P6)
 - CWCF/CMC
 - ICA/ CICOPA/ COPAC
 - ILO Cooperative unit
 - UN Handbook on NPOs – redefines the social economy
 - UNRISD / UNTFSSSE/ SDGs



Solidarity economy

- Brazil
 - solidarity economy enterprises
 - advisory and fostering organizations (NGOs, University Hubs)
 - public managers (local and state governments- programs for SE)



Solidarity economy

- Kerala
 - 31 mil people/ 11,000 cooperatives, high unionization, public finance and state support
 - 980 cooperative banks and 1,647 agricultural cooperative credit societies
- US- the Cleveland model (Evergreen cooperatives)
 - Public procurement (universities, hospitals); worker coops



Solidarity economy

- Barcelona city
 - revived public ownership (energy; water)
 - a citizens' income, partly paid out in social currency that can be spent in 85 local businesses
 - Social market – democratic organizations; indicators
 - Public procurement



Solidarity economy

- Costa Rica

- Banco Popular; owned by 1.2 million Costa Rican workers; Assembly of Workers -highest governing body
- financing cooperatives and groups who face financial exclusion (workers, peasants and small and medium-sized enterprises)
- banking decisions are guided by principles of gender equity, accessibility and environmental responsibility.
- Banco Popular works together with the regional energy cooperative, COOPELESCA (finance to offset its carbon footprint; buy exhausted land to preserve soil, biodiversity and water resource)



Solidarity economy

- Quebec
 - A rich social economy- social finance; cooperatives; associations, mutual
 - Networks – local to global
 - International centre for innovation and knowledge transfer on the social and solidarity economy C.I.T.I.E.S
 - collaborations between local governments and civil society that enable territorial development
 - C.I.T.I.E.S brings together local governments, social economy networks, institutions of higher learning and international organizations



Thank you!

Snovkovic@smu.ca



[**www.ManagementStudies.coop**](http://www.ManagementStudies.coop)