

Social and solidarity economy A fit for worker cooperatives? Sonja Novkovic

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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

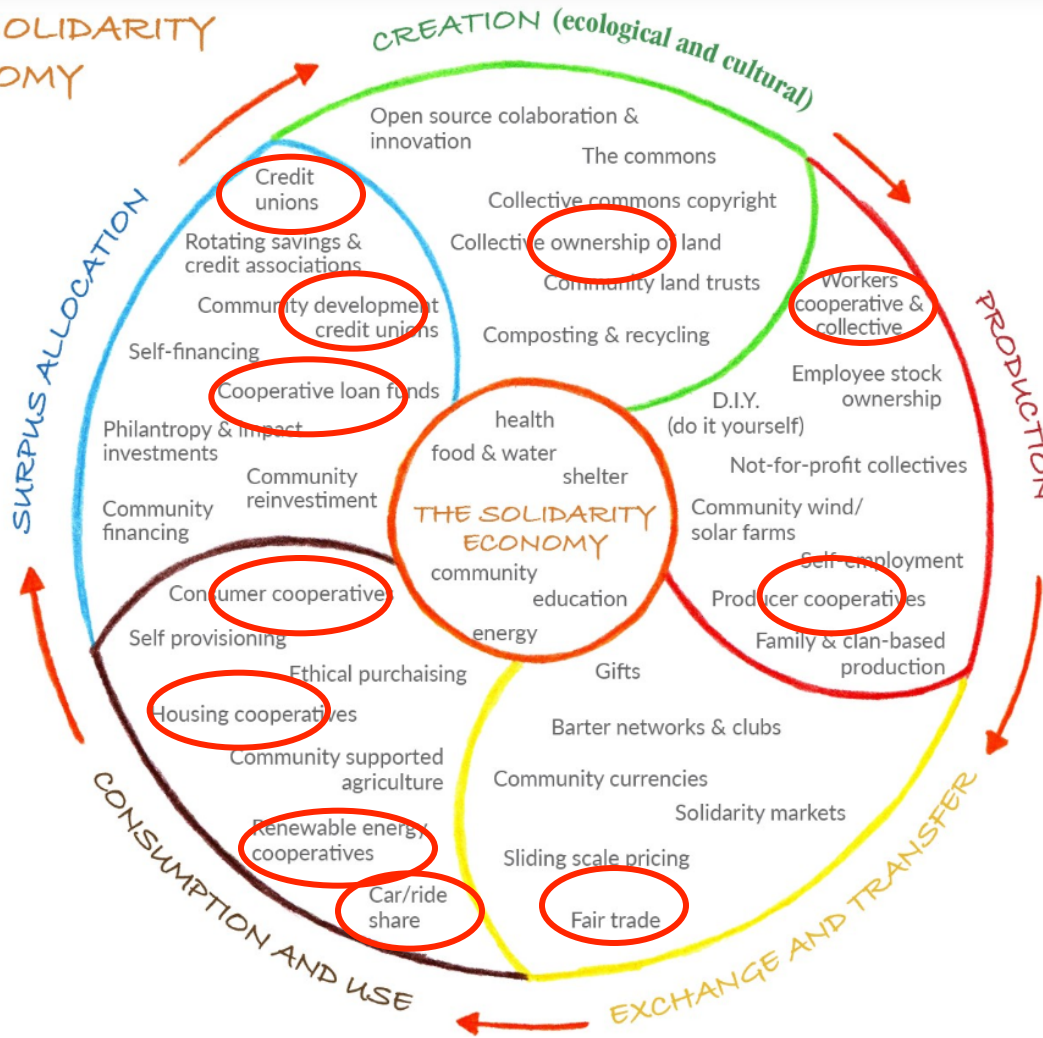
SSE



- 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
Daniel Wahl

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?



ΣΟΧΙΑΛ ΕΚΟΝΟΜΨ

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

*as opposed to nonprofit



Where do worker co-ops fit in?



ΣΟΧΙΑΛ ΑΝΔ ΣΟΛΙΔΑΡΙΤΨ ΕΧΟΝΟΜΨ

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

Where do worker co-ops fit in?



ΣΟΧΙΑΛ ΕΝΤΕΡΠΙΡΙΣΕ

- 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?



ΒΥΙΛΛΙΝΓ ΑΧΤΥΑΑ ΕΧΟΝΟΜΙΕΣ

- 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?



ΜΙΝΔ ΣΗΙΦΤ

- 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
 - UNRISD / UNTFSSSE/ SDGs

Transformation



“Transformation requires attacking the root causes that generate and reproduce economic, social, political and environmental problems and inequities, not merely their symptoms. “

UNRISD 2018



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Sustainability indicators



Informed by cooperative area of impact:

- Distribution of power and income
- Promoting human dignity – impacting workers, consumers, producers, community
- Decommodification (land, **labour**, money, housing, food, health, enterprise, knowledge)
- Longevity and resilience (purpose to serve future generations; enterprise is not a commodity; not exposed to capital market speculations)
- Economic justice (wages; bonuses; prices-producer coops; access)

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
- UK – the Preston model

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, mutuals
 - 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!

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- Resources:

- <http://unsse.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Paper-Mainstreaming-SSE-12-November-2016-EDIT-UNTFSSSE.pdf>
- <https://www.tni.org/en/publicfinance>