

**Podgorica, Montenegro**  
3 July 2012

## **Co-operative Conference**

The Case for Gateway Co-operatives in Montenegro and the Balkans

### **Venue**

PR Centar Josipa Broza Tita 23A Stari Aerodrom – Podgorica, Montenegro

### **Registration**

Registration to the event is free of charge. Please RSVP to [h.elyoussef@coopseurope.coop](mailto:h.elyoussef@coopseurope.coop) OR [cosv.blagojevic@t-com.me](mailto:cosv.blagojevic@t-com.me) by 22 June 2012.

### **Working languages**

Montenegrin, English

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### **Morning session 9:30 – 12:30**

Review of the co-operative development project in Montenegro: “Introduction of social economy and rehabilitation of the cooperative system supporting Rural Development in Montenegro”

9:30 – 10:00

#### **Welcome & Introduction**

Božidar Stamatović – President, Union of Cooperatives of Montenegro  
Nicola Bertolini – Head of Operations Section, EU Delegation to Montenegro  
Pierre-Yves Bellot – Task Manager, Local Self Government and Rural Development,  
EU Delegation to Montenegro  
Tarzan Milošević – Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Montenegro

10:00 – 10:20

#### **Creation to Realisation – General Project Presentation**

*Project Elaboration, Strategic Table, and Partnerships*  
Alessandro Brullo – Balkan Co-ordinator, COSV  
Klaus Niederlander – Director, Cooperatives Europe

#### **Project Results & Achievements**

10:20 – 10:40

#### **A new Legal Framework for Co-operatives**

*Methodology & Results*  
Boris Vukašinović – Junior Legal Expert, COSV / UCM  
*Main Components of Montenegrin Co-operative Law & EU Harmonisation*  
Hans-Jürgen Schaffland – Legal Expert, DGRV

10:40 – 11:00

*Coffee Break*

11:00 – 11:55 **Capacity Building Activities**  
*Methodology & Results*  
Dragiša Dragnić – Junior Economic Expert, COSV / UCM  
*Round Table – Macro, Meso, and Micro Levels of Cooperative Development*  
Diana Dovgan – Policy Officer, CECOP  
Antonio Spera – Co-operative Expert, Confcooperative  
Giovanni Tricarico – General Manager, Confcooperative  
Blažo Vlaović – Regional Business Centre, Bijelo Polje, Montenegro  
Representative – Parliamentary Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology, and Spatial Planning of Montenegro

11:55 – 12:10 **Visibility & Promotion**  
*Presentation: Documents and Audio-Visual Material*  
Marc Noel – International Development Manager, Cooperatives Europe  
Zorica Blagojević – Project Manager, COSV  
Boris Vukašinić – Junior Legal Expert, COSV / UCM

12:10 – 12:30 **Results & Recommendations**  
*General Project Conclusions*  
*Recommendations by the partners for follow-up activities and strategies*

### **Afternoon Session 14:00 – 16:30**

An enhanced co-operative development in the Balkans: Challenges & Opportunities

14:00 – 15:00 **Co-operative Experiences in the Balkans**  
*Moderator:* Božidar Stamatović – President, Union of Co-operatives of Montenegro  
Božidar Stamatović – President, Union of Co-operatives of Montenegro (UCM)  
Katarina Kozinc Huskič – Co-operative Union of Slovenia (ZZS)  
Mende Ivanovski – President, Macedonian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives  
Miladin Ševarlić & Zorka Zakić – Institute for Agro-Economy, Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade  
Ilhami Teke – President, Board of Directors, Central Union of Turkish Agricultural Credit Co-operatives (ACC)  
Smail Zilić – Project Coordinator, DGRV, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro Representative – Central Co-operative Union of Bulgaria (CCU) <sup>TBC</sup>  
Andrea Lo Iacono – Country Representative, Lay Volunteers International Association, Albania (LVIA)

15:00 – 15:30 **Round Table Discussions**  
*Moderator:* Smail Zilić – Project Coordinator, DGRV, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro  
What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges of the co-operative business model in the Balkans? How can public authorities support the co-operative model in the Balkans?

15:30 – 15:45 *Coffee Break*

15:45 – 16:30 **Continued Discussions & Recommendations**  
*Moderator:* Smail Zilić – Project Co-ordinator, DGRV, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro  
Ways to enhance co-operative development in the Balkan region

### **Cocktails & Refreshments 16:30 – 18:00**

Mingling & Networking Opportunity for All Conference Participants



Fondation Assistance Internationale

Lugano - Svizzera

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro