

**15TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**

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**COOPERATIVE  
AND RESPONSIBLE  
FINANCE  
FOR DEVELOPMENT**



13-14 June 2024, Trento, Italy

[conference@euricse.eu](mailto:conference@euricse.eu)



# ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

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The 15th edition

Euricse announces the organization of the **15th Euricse International Workshop on Cooperative and Responsible Finance for Development**. The workshop, organized in collaboration with the **Department of Economics and Management of the University of Trento** and **Federcasse** (Italian Federation of Cooperative Credit Banks), with the support of **EACB** (the European Association of Co-operative Banks), will be held in Trento, Italy on **June 13rd and 14th, 2024** at the **University of Trento** (Department of Economics and Management).



# INTRODUCTION

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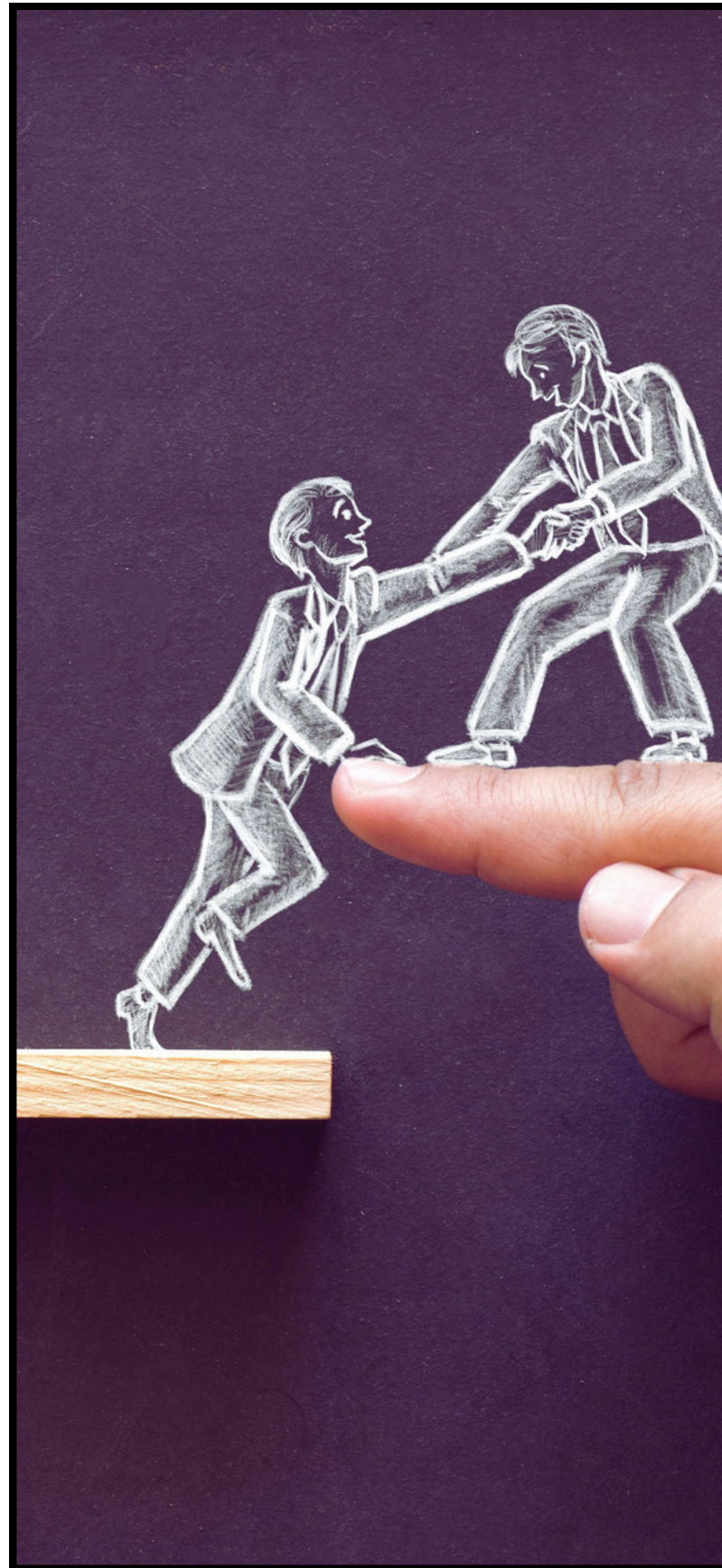
The current capitalist phase is both unfair and deranged, and serious questions arise about its long-term compatibility with the ecosphere. The world of the economy is showing a growing rapacity towards the other components of the ecosystem (the natural, social, family, political, cultural worlds), directing and exploiting them for its own purposes. At the same time, capital allocation systems move progressively away from the real economy and are no longer performing effectively and efficiently their function, increasing market risks, especially for ordinary savers. In other words, productive economy and finance diverge more and more from a morally responsible behaviour, concerned about the consequences, i.e. the externalities, both negative and positive, not only immediate, of their activities.

Recent EU policy shows a growing awareness of these challenges, increasing compliance requirements, and compliance risks for companies (for instance, many raw materials and products may only be marketed and sold with a certificate of verification).



This picture has been exacerbated by the recent pandemic and the international conflicts, which have weakened the global economy as a whole, and increased domestic and international imbalances, jeopardizing social cohesion and international relations.

The renewal of the economy toward a more responsible and sustainable order is therefore crucial. This entails a new conception and a redesign of finance, where negative and positive externalities are included in the estimate of produced value, and thus favour social value and surplus with respect to a private one. This means to finance, besides technological innovation, also social innovation, investments in health and healthcare, social and personal services, online assistance, green industry, environmental protection and property. This can lead also to a revaluation of the localized production and of the domestic and community dimensions as places of economic activity, promoting an economy where value derives from relationships as well. The ambition should be to channel capital to creativity and to utility calculated in a holistic way: finance must return to being "at the service" and not master.



All this offers new potentials to cooperative and ethical banks and in general to alternative funds and financial institutions. However, during the twentieth century, governments and large private companies have often supplanted in this sector organizations with social participation, often accused, not always wrongly, of paternalism, non-professionalism or bureaucratization. Besides, their growth in size and membership may undermine their values, dedication, and sense of belonging of the members.

A consequent work of reengineering cooperative and ethical finance requires choices and implementations that clearly signal: (i) what are its objectives, consequent to the evaluation of what is productive and what is predatory; (ii) which are its true stakeholders; (iii) which are its most appropriate forms of governance and what is the selection process of its leading cadres. Finally, what do European regulations and new cooperative laws mean for local banks, especially supply chain finance? Digitalization can help to control such processes, but new player, like digital service firms outside Europe try to take over this business. What are the challenges for cooperative bank networks?

# RESEARCH THEMES

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- New approaches and new institutions for responsible and sustainable finance and investments.
- The role of financial services and local banks for economic success in regional and in global markets.
- The concept and procedures of retaining or establishing the link with local societies.
- Ways to diversify the credit risk of local banks without endangering their support of local communities.
- Research on the management and the special role of cooperative banks in the economy.
- Cooperative banks and EU regulations.





- Social venture investments, development finance, climate and green finance based on private investors, both in a global and European perspective, with reference also to the European Green Deal.
- Cooperative and ethical banks' engagement in social finance to encourage sustainable development and social economy.
- Governance issues for coop and ethical banks deriving from consolidation, de-mutualization, de-mutualization and the use of hybrid structures.
- Searching for fertile ground for the diffusion of the cooperative and ethical banking model: prerequisites, socio-economic coincidence and need within and beyond the European level.
- The new unstable world setting: a new role for cooperative and ethical finance?
- Digitalization and new technologies: their effects on cooperatives and local communities.



# SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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- **Silvio Goglio**, University of Trento, Italy (chair)
- **Yiorgos Alexopoulos**, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece
- **Giovanni Ferri**, Lumsa University of Rome, Italy
- **Detlev Hummel**, University of Potsdam, Germany
- **Juan Lopez**, Federcasse, Italy
- **Eric Meyer**, University of Münster, Germany





## WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

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The methodology of the workshop is interdisciplinary and integrative. There will be only plenary sessions in order to stimulate interaction, exchange of ideas and debate.

The Workshop will be held in physical presence, with the possibility of remote connection (via Zoom) for listeners only.

The Scientific Committee will not only examine the papers by their scientific and innovative value, but it will try to achieve a balance between the workshop themes.

*A limited number of scholarships designed to encourage the participation of young researchers will be offered. For more details, please visit our web site [www.euricse.eu](http://www.euricse.eu) or write to organizational secretary [conference@euricse.eu](mailto:conference@euricse.eu) after March 2024.*

# IMPORTANT DATES



All abstracts should be prepared in A4 format (Times New Roman, size 12 fonts, single-spaced) and be no more than 500 words length. Authors' full title, name, address, organization and email address should be included at the end of the abstract.

**Abstracts are invited up to the end of December 2023** to the following email address: [conference@euricse.eu](mailto:conference@euricse.eu).

The Scientific Committee will carefully review the applications and advise the selected authors to extend the abstracts into the **full papers**, which must be sent to the organizers by **the end of March 2024**.

The authors of **accepted papers** will be notified by the **end of April 2024**.

For more information about the Workshop please contact: [conference@euricse.eu](mailto:conference@euricse.eu).

# CONTACT DETAILS

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## ADDRESS

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**2024**

13-14 June, Trento, Italy

[www.euricse.eu](http://www.euricse.eu)