

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Seminar 1: Cooperatives (funding and running a democratic and social ecological business)
Course Code	96116
Course Title Additional	Cooperatives (funding and running a democratic and social ecological business)
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	NN
Language	English
Degree Course	Master in Eco-Social Design
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Dott. Klaudia Resch, Klaudia.Resch@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/45845
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
Course Year/s	1st and 2nd year
CP	2
Teaching Hours	18
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	0
Planned Office Hours	6
Contents Summary	Along with the work on their projects and the regular courses, students choose Short Seminars, which provide complementary competencies helping them to sharpen their practice and to get prepared for doing transformation-engaged work after graduating. The seminar in Cooperatives enables students of eco-social design to obtain a practical understanding on how to initiate, set-up, fund and run a democratic and social-ecologically oriented business.
Course Topics	- 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 or a community cooperative for better understanding
Keywords	cooperatives, simulation, business idea, business plan, non-profit
Recommended Prerequisites	none
Propaedeutic Courses	none
Teaching Format	Alternating between classroom teaching as input and practical workshop exercises, group work and group presentations.
Mandatory Attendance	mandatory
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	Knowledge and understanding Students of the Master in Eco-social Design will have developed their own individual project practice and will be able to: - design, implement and manage projects - initiate, carry out and lead project-oriented research, development and design activities - involve stakeholders and actors in projects, identify their needs, conflicts and potentials and work productively with them - working with different experts, companies, organisations, groups and people Applying knowledge and understanding Students will be able to develop projects and practices suitable for addressing complex challenges. Making judgements Students will be able to take responsibility for the development and management of projects and activities.

	Communication skills Students will be able to: - communicate convincingly in different ways and with different audiences - present projects convincingly - argue creative and strategic decisions - show how the social, ecological and economic aspects of sustainability interact in their projects - organising and/or moderating discussions and creative processes among project stakeholders - communicate productively within the team - lead creative processes and teams Learning skills Students will be able to working independently to learn according to different situations and in a personal way through experimentation and planning.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	- 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 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
Assessment	- Group work presentation during the course: students have to develop, describe and present their hypothetical cooperative with reference to the content of the classroom lectures - oral exam on the understanding of cooperatives as a democratic

	and social ecological business
Evaluation Criteria	- 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 - Understanding of cooperatives as a democratic and social ecological business
Required Readings	https://ica.coop/en International Cooperative Alliance: Exploring the cooperative economy. World Cooperative Monitor 2025 Report. Special International Year of Cooperatives. https://monitor.coop/
Supplementary Readings	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
Further Information	A handout with the presentations will be provided.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Gender equality, Decent work and economic growth, Peace, justice and strong institutions, Reduced inequalities, Sustainable cities and communities, Industry, innovation and infrastructure