IWE GK

Interdisziplinäre Wissenschaftliche Einrichtung
Genossenschafts- und Kooperationsforschung
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg

Invitation to the Conference

on

Cooperative Activities and Governance:

Cases from Germany and Italy

on February 14, 2017

- Program -

Introduction:

Cooperations and cooperatives are always in need of governance in the sense of institutional structures to secure that the objectives of cooperative activities may be achieved, to minimize opportunistic behavior and to assure that a kind of "fiscal equivalence" (Mancur Olson) may be established between those who govern a cooperation, those who are benefiting and those persons who are making financial contributions to a cooperation. In the focus of the conference are governance structures from three different categories of cooperative activities. The first presentation examines the problems of governance in Italian social cooperatives that face the task of maintaining and protecting the prosocial motivation of their members. It is shown that this task calls for fair and participatory organizational practices.

A second presentation is focusing on the allocation of competencies for decision-making within (traditional and so-called "modern") cooperatives of different size: How much participative power is allocated to the members of cooperations, and what are the economic consequences of different allocations of power?

Finally, the third presentation is dealing with cooperations in the field of local public services of general interest ("Kommunale Daseinsvorsorge"). More and more municipalities are trying to optimize their provision of public services by cooperating with adjacent local units. The question is whether and under which conditions such cooperations are really able to come to a more efficient service provision.

It is the objective of the conference not only to discuss the relevance of (specific) governance structures for each of the three categories of cooperative activities, but also to compare these different structures in order to come to a more general understanding of governance within cooperative activities.

Program:

9:45 Registration

10:00 Opening Session

Prof Dr Winfried Kluth, CEO, Interdisziplinäre Wissenschaftliche Einrichtung Genossenschafts- und Kooperationsforschung (IWE GK)

10:10 Session 1

Dr Ermanno Tortia, University of Trento, Italia; Silvia Sacchetti, University of Trento, Italia; Dr Vladislav Valentinov, IWE GK, Germany:

The "protective function" of social enterprises: understanding the renewal of multiple sets of motivations

10:40 Discussion (Chair: *Prof Dr Martin T.W. Rosenfeld, IWE GK*)

11:00 Session 2

Jun Prof Dr Melanie Hühn Technical University of Chemnitz, Germany; Markus Tümpel, Technical University of Chemnitz, Germany:

Housing cooperatives in Germany – a broad range of participative practices

11:30 Discussion (Chair: *Dr Vladislav Valentinov, IWE GK*)

Program:

11:50 Session 3

Dr Peter Haug, Halle Institute for Economic Research, Germany; Simon Melch, Halle Institute for Economic Research, Germany:

„Inter-municipal Cooperation and Local Public Expenditures: The Case of Local General Administration in Germany"

12:20 Discussion (Chair: *Prof Dr Winfried Kluth, CEO, IWE GK*)

12:40 Closing Ceremony (*Dr Vladislav Valentinov, IWE GK*)

12:45 End of the Conference

Venue: **Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg**
Dozentenbibliothek Zivilrecht
Universitätsplatz 10a
06108 Halle

Registration fees: will not be charged

Registration: Please register to participate in the conference before February 9, 2017, by E-Mail to sekretariat-kluth@jura.uni-halle.de