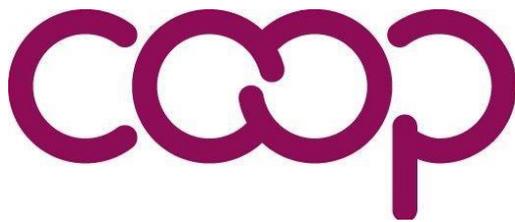


## ICA CCR EUROPEAN RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2022

*“Rethinking co-operatives: From local to global and from the past to the future”*

13-15 July 2022, Athens Greece

### Organizers:



**International  
Co-operative Alliance**  
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ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΕΥΝΕΤΑΙΡΙΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ

& ΜΕΛΕΤΩΝ (ΙΣΕΜ)

**Title of abstract:.....**

**Collaborating for change in critical times? Alter-political cooperativism in  
Thessaloniki, Greece**

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**Abstract :** (max. 300 words)

The period after 2010 saw the emergence in Greece of a constellation of endeavours in the intentional economy, that is, of projects that approach the economy as a space of political action and ethical possibility. Today, more than ten years after the commencement of such endeavours, despite the hostile political environment and the perpetual economic depression, many radical cooperatives are still alive and even thriving, having established their presence in their respective fields. This presentation sets out to provide a critical snapshot of actually existing intentional economies in Greece's second-largest city, Thessaloniki, based on fieldwork with four cooperatives – Bios Co-op, Vio.me., Akyvernites Politeies and Point Blank – encompassing diverse economic sectors, coming from different origins and trajectories, and informed by disparate political outlooks. Our focus is on value-driven but mature cooperatives, where the initial egalitarian and transformative ethos guiding the formation of new solidarity economy ventures has been tested against the imperatives of market competition and economic viability. Do alternative economic endeavours live up to the task of destabilizing the economy as it is usually known and performed, or do they submit politics to the laws of the economy, as critics would have it? The research underlying this presentation explores the political potential of alter-economic projects. It probes their capacity to transform established day-to-day relationships, examines their implementation of novel egalitarian and horizontal modes of operation, and assesses their contribution to broad social transformation towards equitable, autonomous, plural, solidary, ecologically sustainable and caring worlds.

**Keywords:** (max. 5)

Greece, alter-politics, social change, horizontality

