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The Abstract

Looking for modern co-operative leaders - historical experiences and contemporary challenges

This paper will describe problems of formation new co-operative leaders in Poland in historical perspective and contemporary time of transition the central planned economy into free market rivalry. Also it will present attitudes of characteristic of modern co-operative leader using good examples from the past. The time of political and economic transition in conditions of globalization brings new challenges for co-ops, especially in countries in former soviet domination area. There has been seen the lack of young leaders, which are able to conduct economic activity oriented also into co-operative principles, understanding the meaning of social challenges and successful activity. This problem exists not only in contemporary Poland, but also in other transition's countries in Middle-East Europe. From one side among young managers we can observe the motivation and strong aspiration into quickly personal success in materials meaning, according the capitalistic imperative "catch as you can" and lack of interest in common values and weal, wishing activity for common interests. Education and training of modern co-operative leaders is very important for the future of our movement, heavily fighting for surviving on free markets in condition of growing globalization in industrial and agriculture production, services and trade, but there is no permanent co-operative education and training at high school and universities preparing so oriented young managers. After the deep destruction of the Polish co-operatives' at the beginning of transition time at 80/90. XX c. the group of co-operatives' managers have been decreased and aged quickly. These problems is very important, basic for the future development co-ops movement Poland.

Key words: Poland/ historical experiences/ co-operative leaders/ attitudes/

