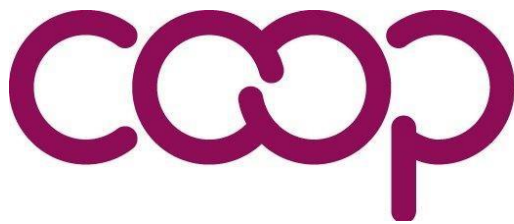


## ICA CCR EUROPEAN RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2022

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

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& ΜΕΛΕΤΩΝ (ΙΣΕΜ)

# Origin of the products of Bios Coop: A non-profit cooperative grocery in Thessaloniki

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## **Abstract**

In the fall of 2011, an initial core of members from PROSKALO (Cooperation Initiative for Social and Solidarity Economy) started working on the creation of the Social Consumer Cooperative of Thessaloniki "Bios Coop". It all started as an idea between citizens sharing common concerns, aiming to promote human and natural sustainability based on the principles of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and Direct Democracy. Today, Bios Coop comprises more than 440 members. One of the primary goals when Bios Coop founded, was to supply products directly from the producers, avoiding mediators where possible, in order to keep prices low. In terms of an Erasmus + program called "Strategic Partnership for AGRI-entrepreneurship and Eco-Innovation", which was conducted in the University of Macedonia in 2021, a group of students investigated if and which products of the "Bios Coop" could be purchased without mediators. After that, members of the Cooperative expanded the research and examined the origin of the products of Bios Coop, classified into 150 categories, in relation to the turnover generated by each of them and their impact in the shopping basket of a household. As it was found, the possibility of choosing products without mediators applies to the majority (95.34%) of the products that Bios Coop offers.

**Keywords:** cooperation, grocery, origin of the products, sustainability, without-mediators

