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

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& ΜΕΛΕΤΩΝ (ΙΣΕΜ)

**Title of abstract: Rethinking the principle of democratic member control:
towards more participatory cooperatives**

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Abstract:

Cooperatives are based on important values and principles which should be promoted, such as democratic member control, which is enshrined in the second cooperative principle of the International Cooperative Alliance, and which is manifested in the principle of “one member, one vote”, among other things.

However, for various reasons it is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure member participation, especially as cooperatives become larger, as their organisational structure becomes more complex, members feel less represented and are less able to exercise their most basic rights.

But governance is an essential element of the identity of cooperative societies and it must be ensured that, as a democratic organisation, it is ultimately and actively controlled by its members, through the exercise of their right to vote in the adoption of the most important decisions on the cooperative's policies and through the election of the members of the Board of Directors responsible for the day-to-day running of the organisation.

Little attention has been paid to this issue of the General Assembly body. Therefore, the paper will try to analyse the current formulation of the principle of democratic member control, trying to rethinking it in order to increase the participation of members and ensure the exercise of their basic rights such as the creation of internal committees, the promotion of the use of new technologies, the use of plurality vote, etc.

Keywords: democratic control, general assembly, plurality vote, active participation