

TOPIC: WEBINAR ON “RESPONSE OF CO-OPERATIVES, EDUCATION AND ENTREPREUNERSHIP TO DEVELOPMENT “

1. BACKGROUND

A webinar organized by the Finnish Co-operative Research Association Kooperatiivi, the joint authority of education in the Espoo Region, Omnia and Pellervo Economic Research PTT will take place on 27th May, 2021 in Helsinki, Finland at 9.00 - 13.15 EET (Finland) .

The point of departure for organizing the webinar is due to the awareness of the immense role played by co-operatives, education and entrepreneurship in the effort to enhance development in the developing world including Africa.

It is expected that presentations, keynote speeches and panel discussions that will be deliberated at the webinar by invited researchers, specialists and policy makers from Finland, Africa and international organizations will open venue for dialogue among the webinar participants. Therefore, it is anticipated that concrete and useful recommendations will be produced for use by authorities concerned with development affairs in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world.

2. ORGANIZATION

Planning and implementation of the webinar is undertaken by selected persons consisting of Dr. Pasi Tuominen (Chairman) Kooperatiivi, Dr. Antti Talonen (Member) Kooperatiivi, Mr. Pekka Hytinkoski (Member) Kooperatiivi, Dr. Olli-Pekka Ruuskanen (Member) PTT, Mr. Sampo Suihko (Member) Omnia and Mr. Shimelles Tenaw (Coordinator) Omnia.

At the preparatory stage as well as during the webinar Mr. Shimelles Tenaw will be responsible for practical arrangements. He will also coordinate the task of managing the proceedings and distribution of the webinar.

3. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION THEMES

The webinar will be conducted on the three arenas identified relevant for the webinar presentations and discussions:

3.1 Co-operatives

The basic conception of co-operative activity in any country and circumstances is that cooperation is economic activity, aiming at assisting members of co-operatives to procure such commodities and services which they think necessary when taking charge either of their domestic households or of their occupation or trade. As self-help organizations, co-operatives play a vital role in increasing income and raising the living standard of their members.

In light of the above statement, the co-operative part will present and discuss co-operative organizational structure and performance along with education and research activities in Finland. Additionally, discussion will be conducted as to how Finland as a developed country with its considerable

co-operative know-how can contribute to the developing world including Africa in this field.

The special feature of African co-operatives due to existence of abundant community rooted informal cooperation societies and activities in many African countries that place Africa a case apart from the rest of the world will be the focal point of discussion among other things.

3.1.1 Education

The education part deals with presentation of the overall role of Omnia as a multidisciplinary education provider and regional development, involvement in promoting vocational and training education in Africa and elsewhere in the world as well as experience of the recent official visit made by Omnia's leadership to Tanzania on assessment and familiarization with the Tanzanian education, institutions and authorities.

3.1.2 Entrepreneurship

As regards entrepreneurship, the versatile activity of Pellervo Economic Research PTT in economic research activity in Finland and in the international arena will be demonstrated including the achievements and experience acquired from a project implemented in Uganda on small or medium-sized enterprises.

4. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of the webinar is to analyse the role of co-operatives, education and entrepreneurship for enhancing development especially in Africa and to discuss what new and innovative ideas can be introduced on the basis of the deliberations and discussions.

The webinar will bring together scientists, researchers, students, officials involved in development and other stakeholders to deliberate and participate in the dialogue on the promotion of co-operative, education and entrepreneurship development in Africa. This way a good deal of issues and ideas a good deal of issues are expected to rise to serve as basis for research and to assist in the practical task to improve co-operatives, education and entrepreneurship in Africa. Additionally, the webinar will open venue for strengthening network between African and Finnish researchers and policy makers.

4.1 Specific Objectives

- To address the question of whether there is an opportunity for knowledge and experience in Finland and from the discussions that could be useful for Africa's development in the field of co-operatives, education and entrepreneurship.
- To find means for creating network and opportunities between Finnish and African authorities and institutions for exchanging of ideas for project implementation focussing on development promotion in sustainable manner.

- To explore means for creating linkage to the Africa Strategy project initiated by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland on the basis of the webinar deliberations.

4.1.1 Expected outcomes

- Finding appropriate research themes for conducting joint research and exchanging researchers in the field of co-operatives, education and entrepreneurship between Finland and African countries.
- Creating opportunity to identify proposals for project implementation in Africa.
- Forming a forum for dialogue between African and Finnish policy makers and researchers for the possibility of exchanging views on development affairs in Africa.
- Producing concrete recommendations on the basis of the webinar presentations and discussions for use by the policy-makers and researchers.

WEBINAR PROGRAMME

27th May, 2021

Morning Session

9.00 – 9.05	Participants arrival & Zoom/teams orientation Host – Coordinator of the webinar organizing team (Mr. Shimelles Tenaw)	
9.05 – 9.50	Opening Remarks	
	Introductions	Dr. Pasi Tuominen, chairman of the webinar organizing team
	Key note speeches	Co-operatives for Development from the ICA Perspective (Dr. Ariel E. Guarco, President of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA))
		The Role of European Union (EU) in the Development of African countries Mrs. Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner, European Union (EU)

Session 1 Co-operatives

Chairperson, Ms. Marjaana Saarikoski

9.50 – 10.10	Co-operative lessons from the experience of Finnish co-operatives, the case of Pellervo Coop Center (Mr. Sami Karhu, Managing Director, Pellervo Coop Center, Finland)
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10.10-10.30	Revival of the Informal and Formal Co-operatives for Innovative Socio-Economic Development in Rural and Urban Areas in Africa – Some Lessons from the Finnish Co-operative Movement (Mr. Shimelles Tenaw, Senior Advisor, Omnia, Finland)
10.30 – 11.00	Free discussion
11.00 – 11.30	Lunch break
Session 2	Education & Entrepreneurship
11.30 – 11.45	- Omnia as vocational & Training provider (Mr. Sampo Suihko, Managing Director, Omnia, Finland)
11:45 – 12:00	- On the role of Pellervo Economic Research PTT in Finland and globally & experience in the implementation of the Project on small & medium-sized enterprises in Uganda (Dr. Olli-Pekka Ruuskanen, Research Director, PTT, Finland)
12:00 – 12:10	Break
Panel Session Chairman, TBC	
12.10 – 12.40	- Initiatives for establishing co-operative research network between Finnish and African Higher Education & Research Institutions - The role of Co-operatives for job creation and rationale for problems in the youth and women's involvement in co-operatives in Africa Panelists: Dr. Chiyoge B. Sifa, Regional Director, Alliance Africa Dr. Managasini Katundu, Professor, Moshi Co-operative University, (MoCU), Tanzania Mr. Pekka Hytinkoski, Pedagogical Planner, University of Helsinki/ Ruralia Institute, Finland Dr. Neema Kumburu, Senior Lecturer, Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU), Tanzania
12:40 – 12:45	Break

Panel Session

Chairman, TBC

12.45 – 13.15

- Way forward for strengthening bilateral relations between Finnish & African Institutions for implementing joint projects and research in the field of co-operatives, education and entrepreneurship

- Significance of co-operatives, education and entrepreneurship in the Finland's Africa Strategy

Panelists:

Vice-Chancellor Professor Faustine Bee, University of Dodoma, (UDOM)
Tanzania

Mrs Riina Subra, Director Aalto Global Impact, Aalto University, Finland

Mrs. Laura Desmoulin, Senior Advisor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Adjourning the webinar

The webinar organizing team welcomes you to the event!

- Register for the event
- Join Teams meeting

Further information:

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