

# Agricultural University Seminar

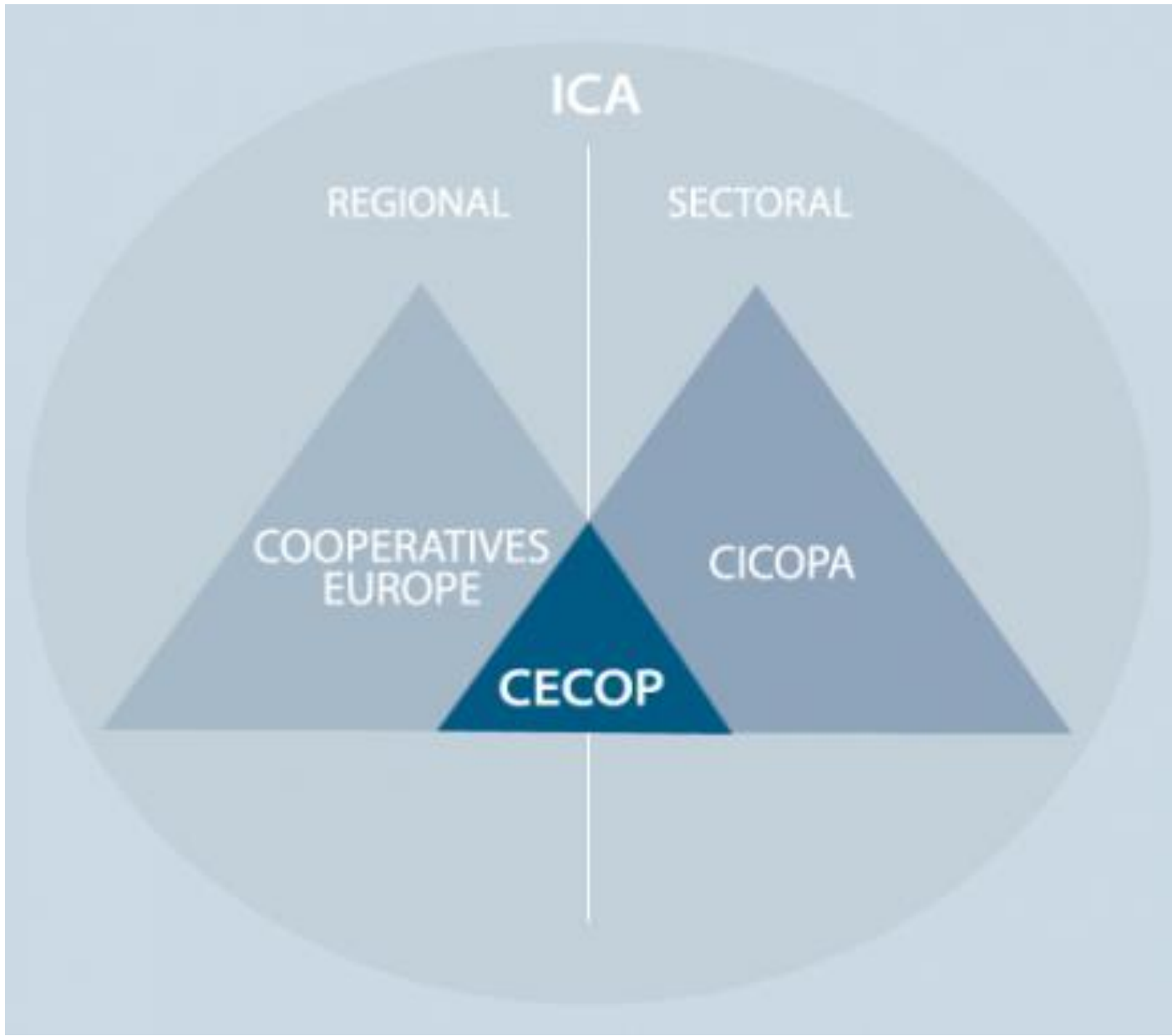
23 September 2017, Athens

## Cooperatives and the Social and Solidarity Economy in Greece and around the World

Bruno Roelants



**coop** International Organisation of  
Industrial and Service Cooperatives  
A Sector of the International  
Co-operative Alliance





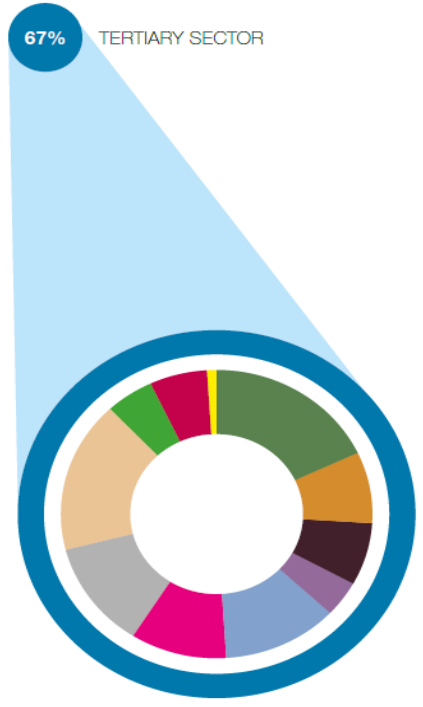
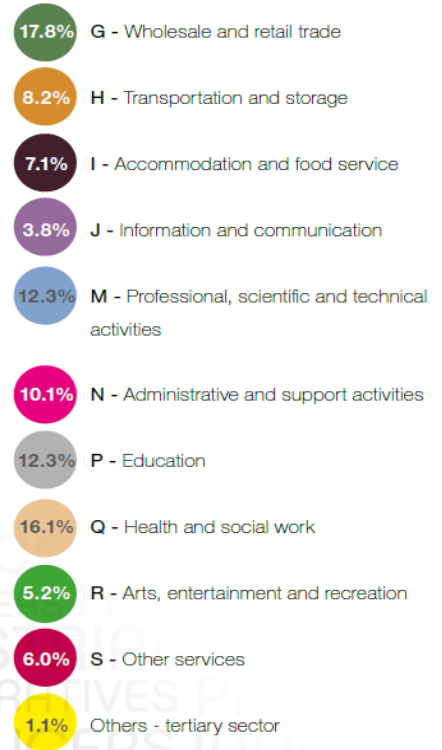
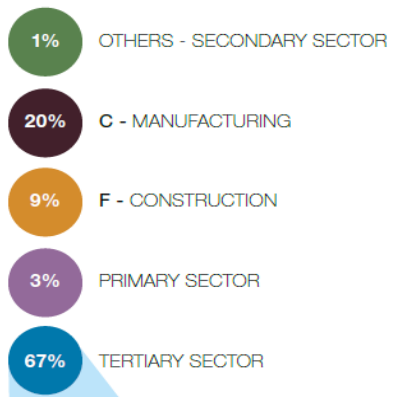
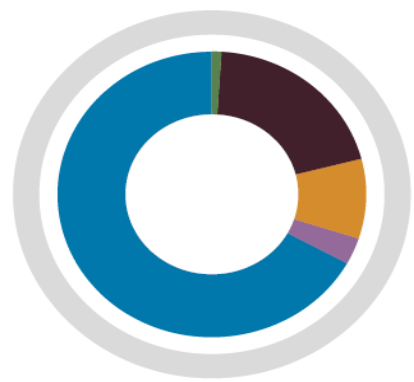
**CICOPA  
represents  
around 68 000  
cooperatives in  
industry and  
services around  
the world**

**95% of them are  
SMEs**



## **Main types of cooperatives in CICOPA:**

- **Worker cooperatives**
- **Social cooperatives**
- **Cooperatives of independent producers and freelancers**



**Cooperatives have over one billion members in the world**

**15% of the world's adult population**

**5% of GDP of the 10 biggest economies**



# COOPERATIVES AND EMPLOYMENT

## second global report

• 2017 •

Contribution of cooperatives to decent  
work in the changing world of work



**Cooperatives provide  
employment to 280 million people  
in the world**

**9.5% of the world's employed  
population**



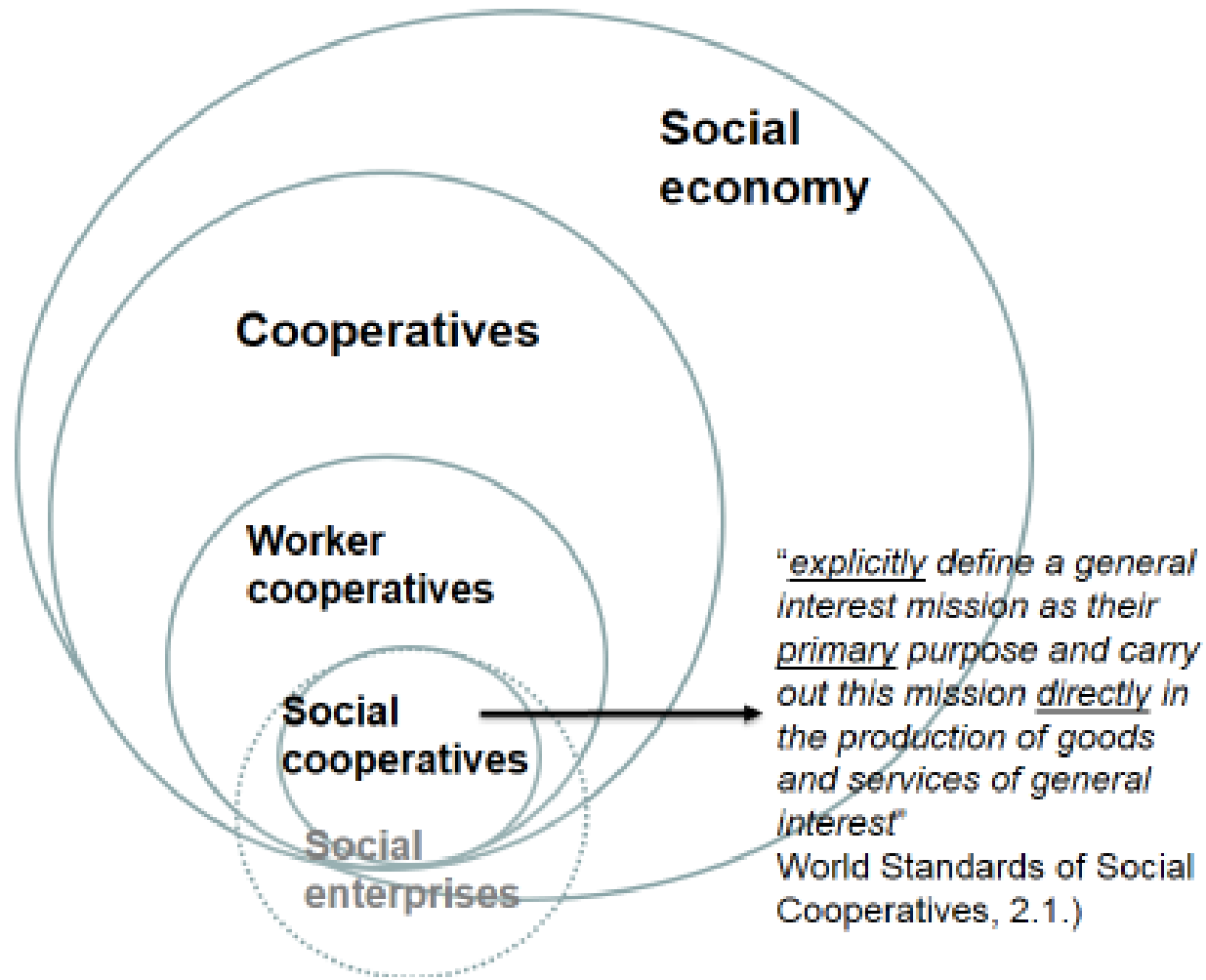
**Cooperatives are based on standards (one definition, 7 operational principles and 10 underlying values) enshrined in the *Statement on the Cooperative Identity* (1995), reproduced in full in ILO *Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation*, 2002 (n° 193)**

- CICOPA has established complementary standards for:**
- **Worker cooperatives (2004)**
  - **Social cooperatives (2011)**

**National cooperative legislation is mainly aimed at :**

- **regulating those cooperative standards**
- **creating promotion policies for the entrepreneurial development of cooperatives**

**National social economy legislation is mainly aimed at providing a wider legal and promotional framework to cooperatives, mutuals, associations, foundations, « social enterprises » etc.**



**The Greek social and solidarity economy law mixes those different levels**

**The risk is that it may not be effective in regulating and promoting social and solidarity economy enterprises and jobs**

# **The Greek social and solidarity economy law creates an artificial division between:**

- **Mutual cooperatives**
- **General interest cooperatives**

# The artificial division

- **Is not in abidance with ILO R193**
- **Is not conducive to developing cooperatives nor the social economy**



**Screensud (Naples) was liquidated and successfully transferred in 2015 to 12 out of its 50 original workers and transformed into a cooperative**



# CHNC worker cooperative in Quebec: a radio bought out by its workers in 2005



# Worker buyouts: a growing trend



**SPAIN: at least 136 cases since 2008**

**ITALY: at least 56 cases since 2008**

**FRANCE: 101 cases in 2014 alone**

# Business Transfers to Employees under the Form of a Cooperative in Europe

Opportunities and Challenges



# Transition from the informal to the formal economy:

## The “Sí Se Puede!” (We can do it!) cooperative, New York

65 worker-members





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