

Cooperatives, cooperative elites, and politics in central Europe in the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century

Scientific symposium

10. – 11. 2. 2022, Praha

Cooperative movement was one of the key elements in the economic, social, cultural, national, as well as in political development of East-Central Europe in the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. Cooperative contributed – in their specific way – to the shaping of both the modern urban and rural environment. They also acted as important institutions in a process of integration of lower social classes into newly formed (or forming) political nations. As such, cooperatives have been researched by the modern economic and social historiography, but they have also been topics of several sessions of the World congresses of economic history in the last two decades.

The proposed symposium focuses on cooperatives as a whole because their economic and social roles cannot be studied separately without understanding their cultural, national, political, and other roles. A very important factor is research in a field of elites (local, regional, and national) and their roles in founding and leading of cooperatives. Therefore, cooperatives are seen as interest groups that are crossing their original economic borders. By joining a broader field of a social and cultural environment, cooperatives get into interactions with a public administration and find themselves in the gravitational field(s) of politics. The spectrum of mutual relations between cooperatives and political subjects is very diverse. It includes the phenomena of lobbying and merging of cooperative and political elites etc. The cooperatives also join (or are drawn) into the mechanism of satellite organizations of political parties (together with labor, youth, women, and other unions, etc.). Besides the goal of deepening our knowledge about the cooperative movement's development, the symposium also focuses on the importance of the social and economic roles of cooperatives. Finally, we hope to contribute to the more objective understanding of the cooperative movement, which is still much biased following the infamous legacy of the state-socialism era and the unsuccessful transformation of cooperatives in the 1990s.

The Call for Abstracts for the scientific symposium “Cooperatives, cooperative elites and politics in central Europe in the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century” in 10. – 11. 2. 2022 in Prague.

The symposium is organized by

**The Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences
and by the National Museum of Agriculture in Prague.**

HISTORICKÝ ÚSTAV

Akademie věd České republiky



Národní
zemědělské
muzeum

Application deadline: 8. 11. 2021

Information regarding acceptance: 19. 11. 2021

The organizers do not reimburse travel expenses and do not provide accommodation. However, the organizers can negotiate the accommodation in the facilities of the Czech Academy of Sciences, if the capacity is available.

Symposium languages are Czech and English.

The organizers reserve the right to run the symposium in a distant form via established video conferencing tools in the case of the growing epidemic of COVID-19. However, personal attendance in Prague is highly preferred.

Please send an abstract of up to 300 words to Jan Slaviček (slavicek@hiu.cas.cz) by 8. 11. 2021 at the latest.

Selected papers will be published in 2022 as part of a collective monograph. Other papers will be published in a monothematic issue of a selected scientific journal after the successful peer-review. The organizers reserve the right to select the papers.

The following topics of interest are highly welcome:

1. Cooperatives as factors of economic and social modernization
2. Cooperative elites in the then social networks
3. Cooperatives and politics
4. Cooperatives, state administration, and local and regional self-government
5. Cooperatives' roles in forming modern political nations
6. Cooperatives and national struggles
7. Integration of cooperative movement
8. Professional biographies of important cooperative representatives and theorists
9. Case studies of cooperatives overlapping importantly into politics, culture, etc.

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Organizing committee:

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