

THE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE EVOLVING REGIONS BUCHAREST-ILFOV

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Abstract: The present article talks about one of the main organizations of SE, the cooperative societies. So, the sections from this study are oriented towards the economical characteristics of the cooperatives, the analyze of the economical activities in the context of the financial crisis that started after the year 2008 and also on the social importance of this organization inside the SE. A special part is dedicated to the presenting and identifying of the main problems that the cooperative sector is dealing with in present, from this point of view being identified two major elements: the present legislation and the difficult economical context. The results of the research underline the fact that the cooperative societies from the mentioned regions are characterized both by a negative evolution and also by the impossibility of assuring their own survival by the classical economical activities, being this way obliged to ask support from other new income sources. The data that are used in the study come from the qualitative and quantitative research made in the year 2010 for 235 entities in the regions Bucharest-Ilfov and South-East*.

Keywords: cooperative societies, social economy, consumption cooperatives, craft cooperatives, agricultural cooperatives.

1. The cooperative societies' profile

The cooperative represent altogether with the associations, foundations and CARs, one of the central dimensions of the SE field (CIRIEC, 2009, p. 7; Arpinte and colab., 2010, p. 139).

Cooperatives as organizational structures of social economy based on their specific forms of entrepreneurship with their own social and economic actors are focused to increase the quality of life of vulnerable people (Zamfir, E.; Fitzek, S., 2010, p. 4).

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*Abbreviations: SE - Social Economy; CAR - Houses of Mutual Aid; EU - European Union; B-IF - Bucharest-Ilfov; VMG - Guaranteed Minimum Income; MMFPS - Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family; SME - Small Medium Enterprises; SE region - South- East region.

At the same time, the cooperative societies represent the only SE form that benefits of an official recognition in the EU on the basis “of the European Status of the cooperatives” adapted in the year 2003 (MMFPS, 2010, p. 24). According to this document, the main objective of the cooperative consists of “the development of the economical and social activities of the members (...) with the purpose of goods providing or services or works making (...) to answer the needs of their members” (MMFPS, 2010, p. 24).

At the European level, the SE field is represented by two million entities where there work over 11 million persons, 70% of them activating in ONGs, 26% in cooperatives and 3% in mortalities (Arpinte and the al., 2010, p. 143).

The cooperatives’ activity in Romania registered after 1990 a strong stretch of the activity, on the basis of a dramatically lowering of the cooperatives’ number and of the personal employed by them.

The quantitative realized research in the Integrate-resources for the women and the Roma groups that are socially excluded project, concerning the characteristic organizations specifically to the SE field, active at the level of the development regions B-IF and SE supposed also the investigation of a small sample of cooperative societies. Its volume of 235 of these kind of entities and its way of selection, do not admit the extra polarization of the researches results for the entire formed population from the existing cooperatives at the level of the two developing regions, the results of this exploring act offering a particular image over the characteristic and the activated activities by this kind of organizations.

Table 1
The cooperatives’ distribution included in the research on developing regions

Region/District	Frequency	Percentage
B-IF	39	16,6
Bucharești	15	6,4
Ilfov	24	10,2
SE	196	83,4
Brăila	18	7,7
Buzău	55	23,4
Constanța	46	19,6
Galați	27	11,5
Tulcea	18	7,7
Vrancea	32	13,6
Total	235	100,0

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

The research data show that 61,4% from the investigated cooperatives in the two developing regions interviewed were created after 1990 while only 30,6% of the total (72 units) represent cooperatives that were created in the period of the communist regime (table 2). At the same time, 37% of the investigated cooperatives (corresponding to a number of 87 units) were created after the year 2005, these entities being created in the years that followed of the law's 1/2005 adopting concerning the organizing and functioning of the cooperation. This supposes the existence of many kinds of cooperative societies: handcraft cooperative societies, consumption cooperative societies, prizing cooperative societies, farming cooperative societies, houses cooperative societies, fishing cooperative societies, transport cooperative societies, forests' cooperative societies, other forms cooperative societies (MMFPS, 2010, p. 41).

The 2005 regulation replaced the Law no.109/1996 concerning the organizing and the functioning of the consumption and accreditation cooperatives which at its turn took the place of the Law Regulation 67/1990 concerning the organizing of the consumption and accreditation (MMFPS, 2010, p. 33). From the point of view of the organizing form, 191 entities of the investigated ones were created as cooperative societies of the I degree, and 29 of them represent the II degree cooperatives¹.

Table 2

The distribution of the cooperatives' societies after the year of formation

Period	Frequency	Percentage
1848 - 1944	15	6,4
1945 - 1964	41	17,4
1965 - 1989	31	13,2
1990 - 1994	39	16,6
1995 - 1999	8	3,4
2000 - 2004	9	3,8
2005 - 2008	74	31,5
2009 - 2011	13	5,5
NR	3	1,3
Total	233	99,1
Missing	2	0,9

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

¹ Law no.1/2005 concerning the organization and the functioning of the cooperation asks the organization of two types of corporatist societies: I degree cooperatives, which are exclusively by the association of some physical persons and the II degree cooperatives which are created by the I degree cooperatives or physical or judicial persons.

The statistical data at the national level, show that the highest level in the raw of the cooperative societies is of the consumption cooperatives (48%) and the handcraft cooperatives (41%), while the farming cooperatives hold 8% of the total and all the other cooperatives' types register 3% (MMFPS, 2010, p. 51). In the investigated sample in the developing regions B-IF and SE, the level of the cooperative handcraft and consumption societies is approximate equal (being in both cases around the value of 40%) and the farming cooperative societies represent 11% from the sample. The rest of 7% from the total of the cooperatives that made the researches objective is represented by other kinds of cooperative societies, from which most activate in the financial field or services.

Table 3
The type of the cooperates society

Cooperative's type	Frequency	Percentage
Handcrafts corporatist society	95	40 %
Consumption corporatist society	93	40 %
Farming cooperative society	26	11 %
Other forms	17	7 %
Total	233	98 %
NR, Missing	4	2 %
Total	235	100,0

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

The main activity field of the investigated cooperatives is represented by the commerce (83 cases). In the services sector activates 56 cooperatives having activity objectives from the most different ones (financial activities, maintaining services, equipments repairing, spaces renting etc), while in the handcraft field of production and repairing there are registered 49 cooperatives. In the same time, 24 cooperatives from the investigated ones declared the agricultural field as representing the main activity sector.

For the both developing regions, the cooperatives that activate in the commercial field represent 35% from the total of the investigated ones while the activities from the production and repairing area represent 37% from the total, the rest of the cooperatives having as a main activity field in the services field (table 30). In the developing region B-IF is registered a bigger level of the cooperatives that have as main activity objective the commerce (almost half of the total) and a bigger percentage of the cooperatives that assure their incomes especially from the renting of the spaces (approximate 30% from the total of the cooperatives from that region).

In the case of the registered cooperatives in the SE region we meet a much equilibrated distribution as concerning their activity fields, where the handcraft sector holds a bigger level approximate 30% of the cooperatives from the SE region that participated to the research activate in the production or goods' repairing).

Table 4
The main activity fields of the cooperatives (the first mention)

Field	The number of he cooperative societies	%
Commerce	83	35%
Equipments	24	10%
Other services	21	9%
Handcraft activities	19	8%
Dressing, confections, textile industry	17	7%
Spaces renting	16	7%
Farming	25	11%
Financial activities	9	4%
Maintaining services	9	4%
Constructions	3	1%
Public distributing	1	0%
NR	8	4%
Total	235	100

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

An interesting aspect that is underlined by the qualitative studies that were made before the quantitative research refers to the identification of a tendency in the cooperative societies to assure themselves new income sources by developing some convex activity fields with the basic ones. There are to be mentioned in this category especially the renting of the spaces that the societies have for x persons. In most of the cases the cooperative societies' surviving depends on this income source in the lack of some other economical activities. This reorientation process of the cooperative societies towards new activity fields and new sources of income appeared as an answer of these entities at the decline of the classical activities.

Over 60% from the cooperative societies included in the research from the SE developing region and 76% from the active ones in the region B-IF are members of a national union. In the vision of the cooperatives' represented, the most important functions of the national organisms are the ones of representation and promoting of the member cooperatives' interests.

Especially in the relation with the state or other organizations, the support of the cooperatives to keep their patrimony and the promoting of some normative papers that are useful for them.

The evolution of the total number of employees in the investigated cooperatives lowered between 2008-2010 with almost 9% to the value of 4448 persons, while the medium employees level that are necessary for a cooperative registered an easy going down from 20 to 19 persons (table 5). For the cooperative societies that were analyzed and are from the two regions, the data show contradictory opposing evolutions: while the number of the employees from the cooperatives that activate in the districts from the SE developing region lowered with approximate 700 persons, in B-IF the number of the work places in the cooperatives raised with over 150 jobs (table 5)

Table 5
The evolution of the employees' number in the investigated cooperatives

	2008	2009	2010
Total number of employees	4843	4581	4448
The number of the employees (level)	20,1	19,7	19,1
The total employed number in B-IF	507	639	761
The total number of SE employees	4336	3942	3687

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

The cooperatives with the biggest number of employees are registered especially in the districts from the SE developing region, the biggest three cooperatives being registered in the Buzau and Vrancea districts (table 6). On the other hand, almost 60% of the cooperatives that made the researches objective have less than 10 employees and 3% of these do not have personalized staff. As concerning the types of cooperatives, at the level of the 2010, the most part of the employed personnel is registered in the case of the handcraft cooperatives that reunite over 71% from the total of the work places (3187 work places) while in the consumption cooperatives work only 17% from the total of the employed staff registered at the level of the cooperatives (765 persons). In the accreditation cooperatives there are to be found 3% from the total of the work places registered at the level of the inquired cooperatives, and in the agricultural cooperatives a little over 2%¹.

¹ The difference to 100% is given by the number of the work places from other types of cooperatives or by non answers.

Table 6
The cooperative societies with the biggest number of employees in 2010

The cooperative	Type	Town	Employees no.
Cooperative society Confex	SCM	Buzău	390
Cooperative society Confex	SCM	Râmnicu Sărat	170
The income	SCM	Focșani	160
The hygiene	SCM	Brăila	140
Eva Lux	SCM	Galați	140
Motor Service	SCM	București	107
The glass' technique	SCM	București	100
The hygiene	SCM	Tulcea	91
The gathering	SCM	Tulcea	90

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

For the next period, the cooperatives' represented do not expect to significant changes of the employees' number in the units they are part of. Almost two thirds of them, declare that in the year 2011 do not predict a raise of the employees' number in the units that they represent while only 10% of the respondents consider such an evolution as being freezable.

As concerning the members' number for the main types of cooperative societies, the researchers results show that the sector of the handcraft cooperatives is the best represented. For the year 2010 the societies of the inquired handcraft cooperatives reported a total number of 3742 of cooperative members. The farming cooperative societies, although a little less significant as number in the comparative sample, the consumption cooperatives had for the same year a bigger number of members than the latter ones (2275 comparing with 2066 persons). Actually, the farming cooperatives represent if we take into account the medium members' number, the cooperation form with the biggest structure (in all a farming cooperative had in 2010, 87 members while the handcraft cooperatives and the consumption ones had 39 respectively 22 members).

2. The economical activities of the cooperative societies

The economical crisis that made its presence felt after the 2008 meant for most of the corporatist societies the lowering of the production and the orders which led to the lowering of the business' level and unemployment accentuating this way the decline of the corporatist movement. For many cooperative societies the survival became the main worry in this difficult period, when most of the societies faced restructurings of the activities or even with the closing of the units:

“We have to hold on in front (...), we have to survive! May It I'm wrong and this world to go in the right direction but for now (our strategy) is the survival.” (Tulcea, handcraft cooperative society)

‘The crisis affected us negatively badly because the production to what was left dropped enormously. As for example the furniture cooperative does not make any furniture. It was produced for the export but the wood got more expensive and all the pieces of the furniture did not correspond to the price and they had to stop the production. They all are in unemployment.’ (Galati, a handcraft cooperative society)

But the crisis' effects weren't the same strong for all the cooperation's sectors. The results of the field research made in the developing regions B-IF and SE underlines the fact that, from this point of view, the most affected by the economical activity's stopping were the consumption cooperatives, which business figures lowered substantially between 2008-2010 on the reason of low level orders. The total business figure for the 2010 year of the cooperative societies from this sector were situated to 90% from the value that was registered in the year 2008 which underlines a significant lowering of their activities.

In the case of the handcraft cooperative societies that answered to the questionnaire, the total business figure registered an easy lowering in the year 2009 and after, in the 2010 year registered a positive evolution. A similar path had the farming cooperatives for which the 2010 meant the recovery of their economical activity (table 7). This way, in the 2009 year was registered a minimum of the activity at the level of the cooperative societies, so as 2010 to bring an mild recovery somehow in opposition with the evolution at the macro level of the Romanian economy.

Table 7
The business figure of the investigated cooperatives

The cooperative	Type	Town	Employees no.
Cooperative society Confex	SCM	Buzău	390
Cooperative society Confex	SCM	Râmnicu Sărat	170
The income	SCM	Focșani	160
The hygiene	SCM	Brăila	140
Eva Lux	SCM	Galați	140
Motor Service	SCM	București	107
The glass' technique	SCM	București	100
The hygiene	SCM	Tulcea	91
The gathering	SCM	Tulcea	90

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

The research data show a dramatic lowering of the consumption cooperatives' benefits and of the handcraft ones too during 2008-2010. The total profit for the 2010 that was reported by the inquired consumption cooperatives is situated to a less than a third from the one registered in the 2008 while the handcraft cooperatives' profit lowered with more than 50%. But the agricultural cooperatives registered in exchange spectacular evolutions having at the end of the 2010 an almost double total profit comparing with the one registered in 2008. This good evolution made that in 2010 the total profit of the farming cooperatives included in the research to go over the consumption cooperatives one, even though, with two years before it represented only a little over 25% from the consumption cooperatives. The negative evolutions registered at the profitability level by the consumption and handcraft sectors offer an obvious image about the way in which the economical crisis from the last years influenced the cooperatives' activity. The profit resulted from the economical activities that were made by the cooperatives, in most of the cases, is shared with the cooperative members or is reinvested.

As concerning the evaluations of the present situation, over three quarters of the cooperative societies' represented that took part to the research consider that the main cause for the profit's lowering is represented by the economical problems that were caused by the economical crisis and the lowering of the orders for the offered products and the services. In the same time, the field legislation and the taxing system were mentioned as main causes for the profit's lowering in just few cases, which places the perceived factors of the economical problem years that the cooperatives passed through, almost exclusively at the level of the structural factors, macro-economical that influenced all the activity fields.

The inquired cooperatives' represented' expectations as concerning the profit's evolution for 2011 are uncertain. Almost half of the cooperatives' represented declared that they do not expect to essential changing of the cooperative societies' profit from which they are part comparing with the situation from 2010, while only 20% of them predict a positive evolution of the profit.

Table 8
The total profit and the medium profit of the investigated cooperatives

	2008	2009	2010
Consumption cooperatives – total profit	1648685	693251	526555
Consumption cooperatives – medium profit	17727	7454	5661
Handcrafts cooperatives – total profit	4562479	2438300	2170409
Handcrafts cooperatives – medium profit	48026	25666	22846
Farming cooperatives – total profit	356591	93837	639523
Farming cooperatives – medium profit	13715	3609	24597

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

The data concerning the researched cooperatives' situation for the 2010 (table 35) illustrates that the highest level of the cooperatives that registered economical loses is to be found at the consumption cooperatives while no farming cooperative wasn't in such a situation. Anyway, the big number of non answers to this question do not allow us to have an exact image about the investigated cooperatives' situation.

Table 9

The situation of the cooperatives that participated to the research for the 2010 year

	Profit	Loses	Zero economical situation	Non-answer
Handcrafts cooperative society	39	7	0	47
Consumption cooperative society	44	19	8	22
Farming cooperative society	13	0	2	11
Total	96	26	10	80

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

The most profitable ten cooperative societies from the ones included in the research gathered in the year 2010 a total profit of 2,7 million lei meaning 80% from the total registered profit by the analyzed cooperatives (3,3 million lei). From these ten ones, the most profitable, eight are handcraft cooperatives and one entity has the status of a farming cooperative, respectively consumption cooperative (table 35). The analyzed consumption cooperatives are generally small entities with low economical activities comparing with the handcraft cooperatives which are mostly entities with a wide organizing structure and a bigger number of employees and in some cases makes large, wide activities. These characteristics concerning the dimension and the developed activity's characteristics transpose at the level of the economical characteristics of the cooperatives in more reduced values for the general indices such as the business figures or the registered profit.

Table 10

The most profitable ten cooperative societies from the two developing regions in 2010

Name	Type	District
Enriched Cooperative Society	SCM	Buzău
The Farming Society Cereanim Smeeni	Farming cooperative society	Buzău
Unirea Cooperative Society	SCM	Tulcea
Clothes	SCM	Bucharest

Name	Type	District
Hygiene Cooperative Society	SCM	Tulcea
Studio Arhis	SCM	Constanța
Offers	SCM	Vrancea
The sports	SCM	Vrancea
Electro- household	SCM	Constanța
Pantelimon	Consumption cooperative society	Ilfov

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

From the point of view of the economical activities' evolution, the cooperative societies crossed in the last two years, probably, the most improper period after 1990. On the basis of a negative evolution of the sector, the economical crisis that came in 2008 underlined the productivity problems' hardening, of the competitively and economical efficiency that the cooperative societies were registering. The period of the last three years meant this way a selection period of this type entities where their surviving was given by their capacity to adapt to the new relations and by the managerial sector abilities. The units that managed to register profit in this period (about 45% from the investigated ones in the developing regions of Bucharest-Ilfov and SE) are strong societies that found rapid solutions for the economical improper situation.

3. The sector of the social economy

The social role of the cooperatives and their place in the SE sector is to be felt in the organization characteristics, the activities' characteristics, the way the decisions are taken and the principles of distributing the profit (Kerlin, 2006, p. 249; Thomas, 2004, p. 245). Starting from this characteristic we may identify two main components that are at the basis of the social dimension of the Romanian cooperatives: the assurance of some benefits for the members and for the community and the occupation of the persons that come from disadvantaged groups.

The benefits for the cooperative members may be parted in two categories that are strongly correlated: the providing of a work place and financial benefits. The qualitative research period inside the project as well as the previous studies on the SE problem (Cace and colab., 2010) underlined the fact that for the most part of the handcraft and consumption cooperative societies, the member state is confronting with the employee one. In other words, the most part of the cooperative members work inside the cooperative, in some cases this professional blocking having an obvious social function. The most part of the handcraft and consumption cooperatives' members are older persons and they have qualifications that can't be valued any more on the work market in some other fields than the corporatist one. So, the cooperatives offer the work integration of some social categories which without these would be in risk situations for social exclusion.

As concerning the work registering , one of the most often mentioned functions in the characteristic literature for the cooperatives is exactly the one of facilitating the occupation of the persons that come from disadvantaged groups (Kerlin, 2006, p. 254; Spear and Bidet, 2005, p. 196). The encouragement of this social function is assured in most of the West European countries by means of the legislation and the institutionalized constitution that assures fiscal facilities for the organizations that assure the integrate in the work field of the persons from the risk categories (Spear and Bidet, 2005, p. 197). A model to mention more often, from this point of view in the characteristic literature is represented by the social cooperatives existent in Italy. The activity of the social sector cooperatives that was registered legally in 1991 is oriented on two big types of activities that are aside the ones that are offered by the public institutions: social services and training activities (Thomas, 2004, p. 248). This way, the Italian social cooperatives have a main part for *the welfare state* representing a real model in the context of the stretching tendency of the status implication in the direct providing of the services and the social benefits.

In Romania, the regulations concerning the integration in work of the disabled persons are mentioned in the Law 448/2006 concerning the protection and the promoting the rights of the disabled persons altogether with the after regulations and adding. This normative paper underlines the organizing of the *protected units* (organizations with a special status that have at least 30% disabled persons) and the obligation for the organizations with more than 50 employed persons to employ for at least 4% disabled persons, on the contrary, being mentioned the obligation of the payment from their part to the state budget of some money sums and the obligation of purchasing goods and services produced by the protected mentioned units.

Anyway, the real situation as concerning the integration in the work field of the persons that belong to some disadvantaged groups by means of the cooperatives is still dedicatory. The research data underline the fact that only 16 cooperatives from the total of 235 investigated in the two developing regions have among their employees disabled persons and only six of them have among they employees Roma ethnic persons and only in the case of four of them were employed young persons coming from the placing centers (table 37). Not even at the level of intent the situation is to be better. In only 19 of the analyzed cooperatives is intended the employment for the future of some disabled persons or VMG ex beneficiaries and in only 23 of them young persons originating from placing centers. According to the offered evaluations by the respondents, the main factors that facilitated the employment of the persons from vulnerable groups were represented by the competencies of the underlined persons and by the decisions taken in this sense at the level of the organization's management. According to the declarations of the respondents, the facilities offered by the state seem to represent a too weak support from this point of view. Starting from these data, we may conclude that in the two analyzed developing regions, the part of the

cooperative societies in the support of the integration on the work market of the persons from social risk categories is still reduced, which leads to the fact that one of the fundamental dimensions for the SE developed activities by cooperatives not to be correspondingly represented in the present activities of the researched units from the two developing regions that we refer to.

Table 11
The employment of the persons that belong to the vulnerable groups in cooperatives

	Organizations that have among their employees at least a person coming from the vulnerable groups	Organizations that intend to employ persons from the vulnerable groups
Disabled persons	16	19
Roma ethnic persons	6	17
Young coming from the placement centers	4	23
VMG beneficiaries	2	19
Persons that were imprisoned	2	11
Total (N)	235	235

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

Less than 40% from the analyzed cooperative societies offered or continue to offer help for the persons in need (table 38). Most of the times, these support forms are addressed especially to the cooperative members or to their families and are given in special situations. Most of the help forms that the cooperatives offer are as emergency help of which the members may use in special situations such the payment of some medical services and burial services. There is to be noticed the very high percentage (58%) of the cooperatives' societies that do not offer no support form for the ones that are in a difficult situation.

Table 12
Does the cooperative society offer help forms for the persons in need?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, in present	56	23,8
Yes, it had these kind of activities in the past	37	15,7
It never offered	138	58,7
NR	4	1,8
Total	235	100,0

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

Above the present activities made by the corporatist societies in their characteristics and field of activity, the social impact for the functioning of these entities is still very tight. This note remarked also by the research results underline once more the difficulties that this sector registers. The rise of the social impact of the cooperative societies can be realized only by the pre developing of the whole sector. Without an evolution of the corporatist sector activity we can't talk about the existence of a strong social part for the corporatist societies. This way the identified models at the European level such as the one of the social cooperatives that functions in Italy, may create real paths to follow.

4. Problems and ways of developing of the corporatist sector

Starting with the research built by means of the quantitative research, that illustrates the fact that the cooperatives sector is still looking for the part that it has to take in the ES sector, we will concentrate on the identification of the problems that the represented of the system consider as being responsible for the present situation and on the drawing of some links that they can fight the present situation.

The opinions of the cooperative societies' represented underline the lack of some adequate forms of support from the part of the state institutions for the developing of this sector. In the last years, 9% from the cooperatives benefit of different support ways: 10 got subventions from the state budget or from the local budget, 3 benefited of tax lowering and also another three benefited of not paying back the financial help (table 39). So, there is to be noticed the conclusion of the lack of some efficient support mechanisms to facilitate the developing of the cooperatives' sector in the conditions of the activity level lowering registered by them in the last activity years.

Table 13
*The support received by the cooperatives
between 2007-2010*

Financing type	No. cooperative societies
Subventions from the state budget	7
Subventions from the local budget	3
No pay back financing on the basis of the financing demand	3
A lowering of the taxes' and fees' payment	3
Free consultancy	3
Infrastructure works , the building's modernization	2

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

In the vision of the represented of the cooperative societies that took part to the research, *the Government and the National Unions* represent the institutions from which there are expected help forms (table 13). The local public authorities, represented by the distinction councils and the Maries are less responsible for the offering of the best situation for the organizations' developing. From the cooperative investigated societies 78% wish to have low taxes and imposts', 71% of them consider to be necessary the giving of some fiscal facilities for the creation of new places of work and 64% consider that the offering of some subventions would encourage the developing of the organizations in this sector. In the same time, over 70% from the corporatist societies wish to get technical consultancy for the accessing of the non paying back funds. There is rounded a strong lack of financial autonomy of most of these entities in the conditions in which no more of two thirds of the cooperates sector represented sustain the necessity of the granting for giving some encouraging packages of financial kind for the organizations' activity.

Table 14
Who should help the organization (% cumulated for the answer types "in a big measure" and "in a small measure"

institution	percentage
Government	70%
Unions/the National Federations	69%
The district council	32%
The miry	37%

Source: The Integrate data base (ICCV), 2011.

Besides the received support from the state institutions, the legislation that paints the organizing frame and the cooperatives' activities represent the second point through which one may come with actively for he support of the corporatist sector's developing. The Law no. 1/2005 concerning the organizing and the functioning of the cooperative with the after changes and completions reorganized the activities plan of the cooperative societies but let some aspects unsolved such as the property right for the fields where the buildings are that the cooperatives hold. This aspect is to be noticed in the vision of the sector's represented as the main problem point of the law, not letting the corporatist societies to develop.

"In our Law, there is said that the fields that are given for use will be given for being registered which didn't happen (...). Here we have also fields that we use on which many have been throwing an eye ... persons that want to take them in different ways" (Vrancea, consumption corporatist society)

The new appeared legislative modifications as a result of the Law 1/2005 adopting created discontents and malfunctions in the developing of the cooperatives' functioning that had to reorganize themselves in the virtue of the normative act regulations. In the vision of some of the represented of the corporatist sector, the adopting of this law is responsible even for the going down of the corporatist societies:

"The cooperation's decline isn't something new, it is existent from before the crisis, from the moment when this damn law 1/2005 appeared. This law did nothing else but to part the movement, we were having some cohesion... there are also people that because the Law helped them to get some patrimony for themselves, were really glad of its existence (...) who respects the cooperation has very big restraints concerning the benefits than the Law 1/2005 brought." (Tulcea, handcraft corporatist society)

The adopting of the Law 1/2005 concerning the organizing and the functioning of the cooperation didn't manage to offer to the corporatist sector the necessary base for developing but it rather contributed to the maintaining a "preserving" state of things offering the necessary judicial help for functioning but not also the necessary "push" for the passing out from this going back situation. The points that are still left unsolved and that create discontent between the corporatist societies such as the judicial status of the fields that those hold buildings on and perform their activities, need quick qualifications for being possible the situation of the corporatist sector on stable fundaments and for being possible the recovery of the whole sector.

5. Conclusions

The qualitative research results about the active corporatist societies at the level of the developing regions B-IF and SE create a general feeling of negative evolutions and underdeveloped. These affirmations confirm the conclusions of the previous studies about this field (Cace and colab. 2010; MMFPS, 2010) and give serious question marks concerning the medium and long term evolutions of this SE sector.

The corporatist sector that entered in a strong decline after 1990 doesn't manage yet to assure itself the surviving level by the developing of the classical economical activities, being forced to look for some other new sources of income, the surviving of the corporatist societies depending on their adapting and innovating capacity. The strategy that is followed by most of the corporatist societies is one of survival and points to the providing of the necessary resources for the continuing of the activities in the rough present economic context. According to the 2008 Annual SMEs Report, the most significant loss of employees for South West Oltenia region occurred in the craftsmen cooperatives, which lost 16% of their employees in 2006, about 8% in 2007 and 2008 and 11% in 2009 (Arpinte, D.; Cace, S.; Cojocaru, Ș., 2010, p. 72).

In the conditions of the lowering number of the corporatist societies and of their members' number as well as the activities' restructuring, the sector's incomes are hard to be guessed. The main barriers from this point of view in the vision of the corporatist societies' represented that took part to the research are represented to the difficult economical context and by the field's legislation. From this point of view, the reviving of the corporatist societies can be realized only in the conditions of the raising of the economical activities started by them and of the legislative changing.

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