

P5 Study Programme: version 3 – May 2016

1. Co-operative identity - definition, values & principles

critique - any problems with these? Improvements/extensions (eg. Alex Bird proposal)? Different definitions eg. Parnell. Is P5 a co-operative? Is TCG a co-operative? Is John Lewis a co-operative?

What are Mutuals? When is a mutual a co-operative or not a co-operative? Building Societies, mutual insurers/pension providers, credit unions.

2. Classifications of mutuals

Classification by Member Role(s): workers co-op, users co-op, workers & users co-op, workers & investors co-op, etc.

Classification by Structural Composition: primary, secondary, tertiary, hybrid etc.

Member Classes/"Multi-stakeholder"/solidarity co-op/

3. Legal Forms

What is meant by "legal form"?

co-operative autonomy. Jurisdictions. Incorporated/unincorporated. Registered/regulated. UK legal forms, eg. partnership, CLG, CIC etc. etc.

Liability.

Co-ops v. community benefit societies. Mutuals register – FCA. Register not changed retrospectively.

4. Federal structures

The value of federation. Nicaraguan coffee-growers. Mondragon.

CWS - "Productive Federation" - CWS/CRS - Co-operative Group/"Independents" - United Co-ops/TCG

Co-operative partnerships eg. "English & Scottish Joint CWS"

Other structures eg. joint venture with private enterprise. Private enterprise wholly-owned by a co-op.

Outsourcing - creeping de-mutualization/

5. Finance

co-op shares v. private enterprise shares

co-operative banking

co-ops and taxation

6. Governance & internal democracy

Representation, delegation, appointment, reserved places, consensus v. voting. Democracy in hybrids.

7. The FairShares Model

Uses co-operative principles as a basis for social enterprises in the broader sense. The model has built-in protection of democracy and fair and equitable sharing of surplus wealth.

9 brand variants: solidarity enterprise, solidarity co-op, solidarity association, employee-owned company, worker co-op, labour association, user-owned company, user co-op, user association.

3 constitution "templates" - co-operative constitution, company articles and association articles.

8. Ownership & Intellectual Property

Co-ownership; Joint ownership; collective ownership; shared ownership

Intellectual Property. Copyright. Creative Commons.

9. Co-operative Politics

Co-operative Union - Co-ops UK - Co-op Party

Co-op Party structures

10. Co-operative Commonwealth

Concept of "commonwealth" - history of the idea. How far did CWS get? Mondragon. Can co-ops transform society?