



Oskar Kiesswetter

The Italian social cooperatives as a job creation engine aimed at disadvantaged workers

The Italian cooperative sector was set up at the same time as in other European countries. However, the way it evolved gives it unique characteristics at the international level.

It involves a social mission that is being carried out by the cooperative firms. Along with the traditional support for the members, this mission led to the development of a second support mission, of a particular kind. The social significance of the cooperative sector is even acknowledged and established in the Italian Constitution, which makes it all the more special. It is within this context that the 'cooperative sociali' appeared more than twenty years ago. Today, they run a particular kind of cooperative firms dealing i.a. with the labour market integration of disadvantaged people.

At this workshop, the speaker will present the main normative, economic and social aspects of the Italian social cooperatives and, using practical examples, will explain how such forms of business can face the challenges of the market.

Brief profile

A specialist in business management, Oscar Kiesswetter has been managing innovative cooperative firms in their planning and start-up phases for several years. He is also building up their management teams.

As a publicist, he signed a whole series of Italian and German publications on the current developments of the cooperative movement in Italy.

He spent several years on the Committee of the Federation of cooperatives LEGACOOBUND based in Bolzano.