

INTRODUCTION

*S*INCE AMERICAN SCIENTIST ELINOR OSTROM won Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for 2009 (along with the institutionalists Oliver Williamson), the economic science has made a significant step forward from, until then, the dominant way of thinking which was limited to public-private analysis and opposition. Considerations of common goods were also actualized by failure of state and private ownership to solve successfully the issues of sustainable development and protection of exhaustible natural resources. Analysis carried out by Elinor Ostrom, Vincent Ostrom and their followers has shown that there is room for different forms of management of resources and relations with them, that depend on the character of resources, and the possibility of polycentric governance. Elinor Ostrom has discovered, based on large number of field researches in different geographic areas (California, Nepal, the Philippines, Spain, etc.) that theretofore ruling thesis about the tragedy of the common property (Hardin, G. 1968) can be disputed, and that alternative and polycentric governance models often produce good economic results along with the care of the sustainability of the (common) resources.

In this context, we also monitor the *revival* of the researches in the field of cooperative sector, with the abundance of the models accompanying them. The success of cooperative sector in many countries (such as Italy or Germany) shows that in the modern world there is room for different ownership and management models. Editors have assembled a creative team of associates from seven countries that in this issue of LIMES PLUS journal allow readers to confront the scientific analysis of the phenomenon of the cooperative sector and the common goods, and to meet their specific development characteristics in different countries, and sectors (from agriculture to banking). Field studies were carried out in countries with different traditions (from Italy with a strong cooperative sector to Poland, where after the Soviet cooperation model we can follow the development of new forms).

The first text (Vojislav Babic, Sinisa Zaric, ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNING THE COMMONS: THE CASE OF SERBIAN COOPERATIVES) shows the research of the commons from the point of testing the characteristics | 5

of organization and governance in the context of the debate about collective action and its advantages. The second article by Nikola Trendov and Professor Lasla Vaš, GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE “RES-GROUP” IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT OF APPLE PRODUCTION IN PRESPA REGION, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, analyzes specific problem and the impact of cooperative principles on the efficiency of the organization and on reduction of the costs of post-contractual behavior. It is very inspiring the third article of this thematic issue, in which the authors explore the Italian model of cooperative banking. In some national economies and financial systems, the memory of the once present financial organizations of the cooperative type, often aimed at addressing the needs for financing projects of their members and communities, almost faded away. Authors Sansone and Formisano, in their text THE ROLE OF CO-OPERATIVE BANK: PERSPECTIVES FROM ITALIAN MODEL, presented the case of this kind of bank that operates very successfully in the city of Casino and its surroundings. Stojan Rajčevski, scientist from Bulgaria, is a long-time researcher of experiences of the activity of forest cooperatives. In the article, FORESTRY COOPERATIVES IN STRANDZHA (1922 – 1944), Rajčevski shows the efficacy of the rules and decisions in forest governance in the region Strandza, in a way that we would today call sustainable development. Further course of history interrupted such a long life possible institutional solution. There is no harm in remembering that Elinor Ostrom with her associate in their research (Nagendra, H. Ostrom, E., 2012) points out the importance of „decentralized” government arrangement that will protect the long-term viability of multifunctional forested landscape. Polycentric governance demonstrates its strengths in complex problems of mankind. Unlike forestry cooperatives in Bulgaria, researchers around the circle of Elinor Ostrom and Vincent Ostrom indicate a strong forest cooperative sector in the United States, especially in Arkansas. Radmila Grozdanić, Jovanka Bajčetić and Danijela Vukosavljević have pointed out the fact that polycentric governance forms provide significant opportunity for women’s entrepreneurship in Serbia. The article WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT: SERBIAN CASE is dedicated to this issue. In many of these polycentric forms, particularly in the area of managing common resources supplies, a very important role is played by the trust. In addition to the fact that a concept of trust is a key moment of the categories of social capital, it is also important from the standpoint of functioning and economic efficiency of

the cooperative forms and other models. The authors from Poland, Aleksandra Grabowska and Agata Jakubowska in the article THE ROLE OF TRUST IN CREATING COOPERATIVES. EXAMPLE OF EUROPE– SELECTED ASPECTS have presented significant arguments that point out the interdependence of the trust levels and the transaction costs levels and the role of trust in cooperatives. Sure, it would be very inspirational to conduct a comprehensive study on the existence and functioning of the cooperative forms in the South Slavic countries, and on the management models of common stock, i.e. common goods. One of those phenomenon, Ceklin fishing on Lake Skadar, was researched by Professor Branko Kostić, showing all the impotence in the lack of specific institutional arrangements and legal inability to recognize the common good. The review of this important study was done Dr. Rajko Bujković. At the end of this thematic issue of the respected journal LIMES PLUS we can find thematic bibliography organized by Sanja Ugrčić, master of economics, and Dr. Vojislav Babić.

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