

Event description

K. Brégianni

Academy of Athens

On January 21, the second hybrid closed workshop, Reconfiguring Social Economy Institutions: Cultural Embeddedness, Property Transformations, and Variables of Spatial Governance, with a specific focus on Cooperatives and the Spatial Politics of Economic Transformation – From Commons to Capital (Eastern Mediterranean Case Studies), was successfully held at the Central Library of the Academy of Athens.

The correlation between commons, community practices, and the social economy was highlighted, as well as the contradictions inherent in this relationship. The current context of privatization of commons makes this issue particularly relevant, as in the workshop were analyzed the economic parameters of communal practices in relation to the prevailing economic climate in periods of transition (Antonis Antoniou) and post-war Greece (Manolis Arkolakis), while development prospects for the future were highlighted (Nikos Stravilakis). The meeting also concluded with a presentation on aspects of the interwar social economy (K. Breyianni). Organization: Katerina Breyianni, KEINE Academy of Athens.

Thanks are due to the staff of the Central Library of the Academy of Athens, and the Network Department.

Summary

An intercontinental workshop was held with the participation of researchers from Greece, Europe, and Australia. Through a rich and thorough discussion, the ideological and cultural background of the exploitation of common goods and the articulation of community practices and the social economy in the late Ottoman Empire was highlighted. Questions were raised about the role of religion and religious institutions, as well as about support for traditional institutions of cooperation that developed under the adverse conditions imposed by large land ownership.

The analysis of aspects of the interwar social economy was concluded, and reflection took place on the range of activities and the developmental dynamics demonstrated by social economy institutions in the economic context of the Great Depression, with its multiple challenges of national and international origin. The role of the authoritarian regimes of the interwar period and

international organizations in redefining the role and action of social economy institutions was highlighted.

Attempts were made to emphasize the risks in the current context of commons privatization. The global and national parameters that determined economic and industrial development after World War II were also identified: current concerns about the economic and institutional parameters of the functioning of the social economy were discussed, focusing on the transitional features of our era.

Differences and interactions were identified between market mechanisms and the development prospects created by investments in green energy: Based on international experience, the role of social economy institutions were correlated. An effort was made to establish the necessary correlations and parallels in order to highlight the need to strengthen green energy through social economy institutions.