



**LIV SIDEA CONFERENCE**



**XXV SIEA CONFERENCE**

**FIRST JOINT CONFERENCE**  
**“Cooperative strategies and value creation in sustainable food supply chain”**  
**13rd – 16th September 2017**

**BISCEGLIE - TRANI**

**FIRST CALL**

The food supply chain connects three important sectors of the European economy (agriculture, the food processing industry and the distribution sectors) that are essential for economic, social and environmental welfare as well as for the health of European citizens.

In the longer run, a better functioning food supply chain is crucial for consumers and for ensuring a sustainable distribution of value added along the chain, thus contributing towards raising its overall competitiveness. However, sectors of the food supply chain are facing new and complex global challenges: agricultural prices volatility, globalization processes, growing asymmetrical information, asymmetry of bargaining power, increased concentration of wholesalers, retailers and supermarket chains, gaps in access to technology and innovations, food consumption patterns, resources scarcity, excessive of food waste, food security and food safety issues, climate change, environmental protection, etc.

To face most of this challenges, and considering that in market economies one of the main success factors of competitiveness is the ability to cooperate, the food supply chain is evolving towards new organizational forms characterized by a greater degree of coordination, in form of either vertical or horizontal integration of explicit and implicit contracts between players of different levels of the food chain.

Cooperative enterprises constitute a relevant and, at the same time, differentiated set within the agro-industrial system. Therefore, there is a growing need to investigate through appropriate taxonomies the set of co-operative forms and, to understand the contribution of cooperation to resources exploitation in the different stages of the value chain and in different territories.

In this view, ‘cooperation’ conceived as fair collaboration among the involved actors in the food supply chain either horizontal (cooperatives between farmers, food processing or distribution companies, producers associations, etc.), or vertical (along the food SC), diagonal (research and innovation networks, networks between firms and research institutions, etc.) or mixed (buying groups, consortia, group purchasing organizations, transnational networks, etc.) and between territories and/or their stakeholders, represents an effective strategy to address the aforementioned challenges and to give efficient and effective responses in terms of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

In addition, cooperation represents a source of added value and a strategic development tool also for territories, in order to pursue social cohesion, economic development and environmental protection, and for the integration of different areas with a focus on innovation, territorial identity, territorial and transnational alliances, and of the most vulnerable social groups.

To this aim, strengthening cooperation is a major priority of the European Commission that aims at promoting lasting vertical and horizontal market-based relationships between the operators of the food chain and collaboration of different actors in rural areas. In particular, the CAP 2014-2020, provides financial supports to all cooperation forms among different actors in agriculture sector, forestry sector and food chain and other actors of rural development policy, including producer groups, cooperatives and interbranch organizations.

Given these considerations, cooperation in all its forms represents a valuable paradigm to define new horizons of development and build new organizational models of value creation according to a sustainable approach not referred to a single unit but to the entire supply chain.

Consequently, research perspectives affect the value added distribution issues along the value chain, the agricultural supply regulation, the social responsibility, the ability to offer a higher degree of food safety, and the promotion of organizational and social innovation.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Joint SIDEA-SIEA Conference will offer the opportunity for a scientific discussion on the key factors and strategies of cooperation among players and territories and value creation in the food supply system. The different tracks, in fact, will allow to investigate this issue in all its forms, through the analysis of the main production and consumption patterns, organizational models, forms of territorial, sectoral and environmental cooperation, and policy instruments, by which to add value to the supply chain.

In particular, the Conference tracks will be articulated in the following topics:

## **1. Cooperation patterns of production and consumption**

- a. Agro-food cooperatives
- b. Producers Organizations
- c. Clusters, networks and districts
- d. Operational Groups in the European Innovation Partnership
- e. Technology and manufacturing districts
- f. Food supply chain and district contracts

- g. Sustainable food supply chain management
- h. Sustainable fishing and aquaculture
- i. Sustainable models of food consumption (new cooperative structures)
- j. Associations for the protection and enhancement of the quality of the productions

## **2. Organizational models and strategies**

- a. Environmental, economic and social sustainability of food production models
- b. Creating shared value in the food supply chain
- c. Cooperative relations in agro-food supply chains
- d. Value-creating networks (firms and areas)
- e. Innovation and integration in the agro-food cooperatives
- f. Regulation and organizational change in the governance of agro-food cooperatives
- g. Vertical markets and cooperative hierarchies
- h. The resilience of the cooperative form
- i. Governance of Alliances and Cooperatives

## **3. Territorial cooperation and local development**

- a. Governance structures and mechanisms in rural territories
- b. Smart land and smart agriculture
- c. Rural and urban areas governance
- d. Inland and coastal areas governance
- e. Areas and local sustainable communities
- f. Social farming and social inclusion
- g. Integrated design of *filieres* and territories

## **4. Policies for cooperation in the food supply chain**

- a. Policy instruments and tools for food supply chain development
- b. European networks, research and innovation
- c. Innovation Policies
- d. International trade, food security and development
- e. Policies for food quality and safety
- f. Circular economy and green agriculture
- g. Efficiency of distribution and food waste

The themes indicated above are non-exhaustive examples of the topics that can be proposed for the parallel sessions of the Conference.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Conference will be structured around four days and will be divided into two plenary sessions on the Conference theme. They will be connected to related topics on which you can submit communications for the parallel sessions.

The first day will have a pre-conference on general topics and Registration of Participants.

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

	<b>Wednesday 13 September</b>	<b>Thursday 14 September</b>	<b>Friday 15 September</b>	<b>Saturday 16 September</b>
<i>Morning</i>		9.00: Welcome of the Authorities  9.30: Plenary session  10.30: Discussion  11.15: Coffee break  11.45: Parallel sessions  13.00: Lunch	9.30: Plenary session –  10.15: Scheduled speeches  11.15: Coffee break  11.45: Scheduled speeches Discussion  13.00: Lunch	10.00: Fiera del Levante – Conference “Cooperation between University and Public Administration for the development of the agro-food sector”
<i>Afternoon</i>	16.00: Registration of Participants  17.00: Informal welcome coffee  17.30: Pre-congress invited lecture	14.30: Parallel sessions  16.00: Coffee break  16.30: SIDEA member Assembly  18.00: Concluding remarks	14.30: Parallel sessions  16.00: Coffee break  16.30: SIEA member Assembly  18.00: Concluding remarks	
<i>Evening</i>	20.30: Free dinner	20.00: Social dinner	20.00: Social dinner	

## DEADLINES

**March 15:** Submission of *abstract* (max 500 words) that should include: objectives, methodology, expected results and references (references will not be included in the word count) in EasyChair (<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sideasiea2017>). Title, author(s) and corresponding author should be included as well.

**March 31:** Notification of acceptance to authors.

**May 31:** Registration and submission of *papers* (max 10 pages) on EasyChair platform.

**July 31:** Notification of referees comments on short papers.

**A selected number of papers will be addressed to the Editorial boards of SIDEA’s and SIEA’s Journals(AFE-Food Economy-REA)**

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Francesco Contò (Chair)  
Giuseppe Marotta  
Caterina Contini  
Biancamaria Torquati  
Mario D'Amico  
Teresina Mancuso  
Rocco Roma

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Francesco Contò  
Roberta Sisto  
Mariantonietta Fiore  
Piermichele La Sala

## **CONFERENCE VENUES**

**BISCEGLIE - TRANI**

For further information, please send an email to [sidea-sica@unifg.it](mailto:sidea-sica@unifg.it)