



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/2015

BIN 2114 Co-operatives as organisational form - in demanding markets

Programme

Single courses

Responsible for the course

Per Ingvar Olsen

Department

Department of Innovation and Economic Organisation

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

7,5

Language of instruction

Norwegian

Introduction

The course concerns organizational, economic and judicial issues related to co-operatives as organizational form - in challenging markets. The course is directed towards employees and elected representatives of co-operative firms and others who need knowledge about cooperations as organizational form.

Learning outcome

Knowledge objectives:

The course will provide participants with knowledge of economic and organizational theories regarding choice of ownership- and organizational forms - i both business- and economic perspectives. In addition to this it will give the participants basic knowledge about business related judicial issues - including "the Law of Co-operative Enterprise" and other relevant judicial conditions.

Skill objectives:

The course will train participants in the use of concepts and theories applied to real world cases associated with co-operatives as organizational form that are suitable to obtain a deeper understanding of business challenges and opportunities

Attitude objectives:

The course shall contribute to clarify participants' attitudes regarding the importance of organizational freedom and organizational plurality in a complex and sustainable market economy. The course will also contribute to the clarification of overall political perspectives as well as the more pragmatic and operative with respect to the choice of organizational forms of economic enterprise.

Prerequisites

No particular prerequisites to participate in the course, but participants should have basic insights and experience from organisational and management leadership work.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Fjørtoft, Tore og Ole Gjems-Onstad. 2009. Samvirkeforetak : reglene om økonomiforhold, skatt og avgift. Gyldendal akademisk. kap 2,3,4,6 og 7
Hansmann, Henry. 1996. The ownership of enterprise. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press
Johnstad, Tom. 1998. Samarbeid og samvirke : utvikling og organisering av samvirke. Tano Aschehoug

Articles:

Engh, Jone. 2007. Ny lov om samvirkeforetak. Nordisk tidsskrift for selskapsrett. 4

Recommended reading

Books:

Olsen, Per Ingvar. 2010. Norsk mat etter supermarkedsrevolusjonen. Unipub

Other:

Olsen, Per Ingvar. Samvirke som organisasjonsform i lys av økonomisk teori. Upublisert arbeidsnotat

Course outline

1. module: Through the first module the participants should have learned basic theories that explain major economic- and ownership issues in relation to co-operatives as organizational form. They should have acquired insights into core legislative regulations and the use of these in different areas of business. Finally, participants should have learned theory about the organizing of market economies and about problems related to the relationship between coordination and competition. Core issues in the module are:

Economic theory in relation to the cooperative form

Ownership of enterprise theory

Business law and the law of cooperatives

Theory of markets, network and competition

2. module: Through the second module the participants should be trained analysis in the form of case analysis and project work where theories presented in module 1 should be applied and discussed. Core issues in this module are:

Equity financing and distribution of returns in cooperatives

Corporate organizing of co-operatives

Mergers, restructuring and dissolution

Co-operatives of enterprises

Computer-based tools

No particular requirements

Learning process and workload

The course is organized in two modules of three days of teaching each. It is expected that a couple of evenings are being used for project work. It is also expected that the participants have obtained an overview of the course literature before the beginning of the course program.

The course contains a combination of lectures, case based teaching and discussions and project work. It is expected and encouraged that participants contribute with their own experiences and relate these to theory and other examples presented in the course. The participants should during module 1 establish project groups to conduct the project work that will eventually produce the course exam.

Total time requirements in the course corresponds to 7,5 ECTS.

Examination

The course is completed with a project term paper that counts 70% of the course grading. The project paper may be conducted individually or in groups of maximum 3 students. In addition to this there will be individual grading of class participation and project presentations accounting for 30% of the final course grade (Participation in class 1/3 and project presentation 2/3).

Examination code(s)

BIN 21141 - Term paper; accounts for 70 % of the grade to pass the program BIN 2114, 7,5 credits

BIN 21142 - Process evaluation; accounts for 30 % of the grade to pass the program BIN 2114, 7,5 credits

Examination support materials

Re-sit examination

Continuation exam by next ordinary course implementation

Additional information