



Agricultural Cooperation Development in North Macedonia

Public support, strategies, EU role, social representations of co-operatives in North Macedonia

Dario Caccamisi. 13 May 2012, Georgian co-operatives working group



From 2016 to date

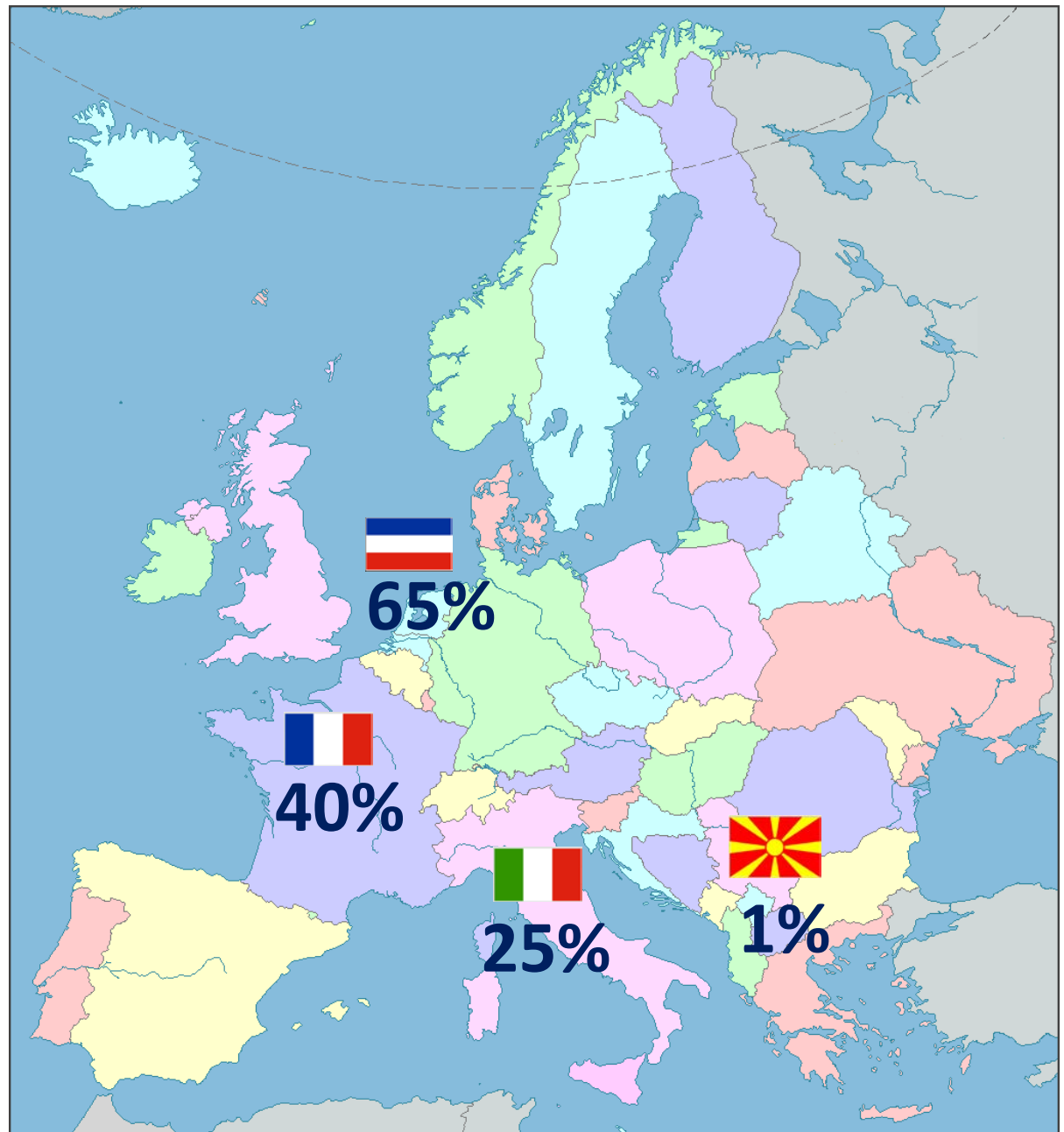
2016 was the *big-bang*, with the direct intervention of the EUD to improve the situation of agricultural co-operatives in North Macedonia.



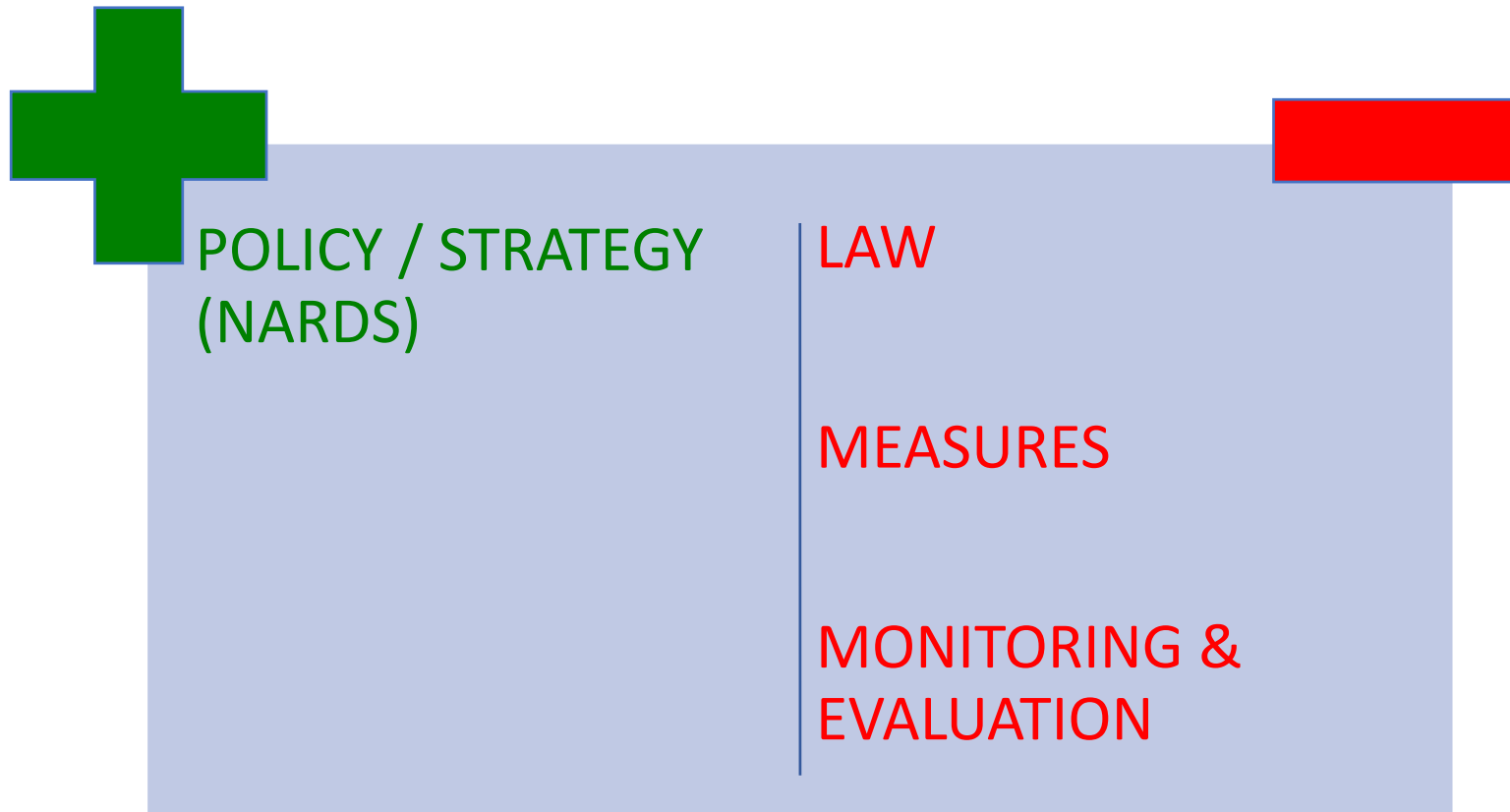
2016: 103 agricultural co-operatives in North Macedonia. The 30 registered co-operatives in the map, other 42 “unregistered” co-operatives and 33 “non-active” co-operatives. Prevalence on the left bank of River Vardar and south.



Contribution of co- operatives to the domestic agricultural output



POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK



POLICIES (NARDS)

Central role of co-operatives

Improvement of market position

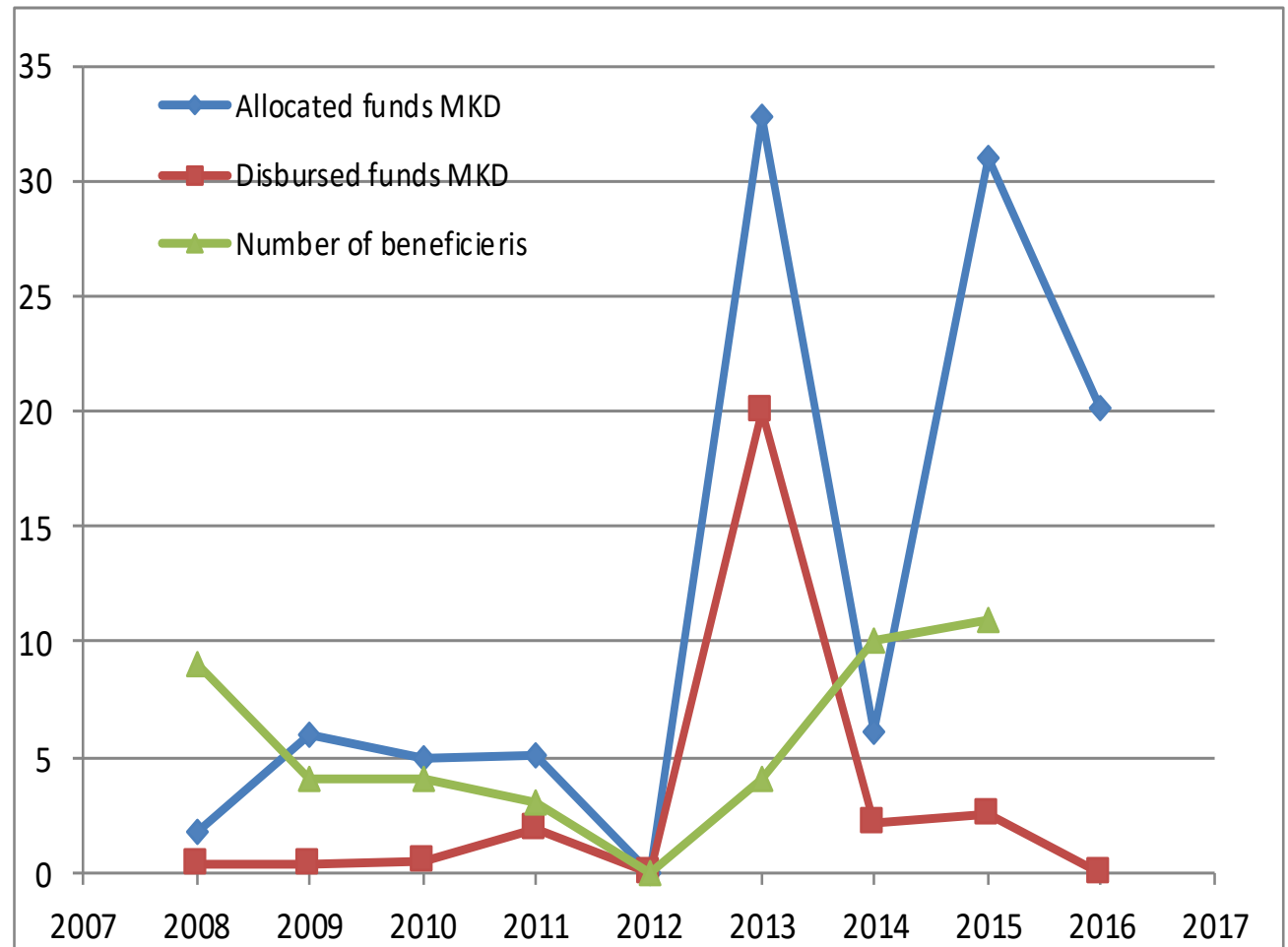
Joint marketing of products on the market

Standardisation at all stages of production and marketing

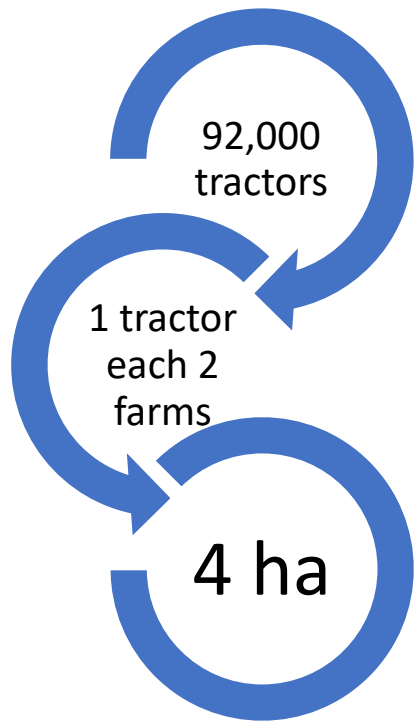
Environmental protection

Stabilisation of markets

MEASURES



Mechanisation, 2013



**10 Co-operatives,
313,000 Euro**





MEASURES

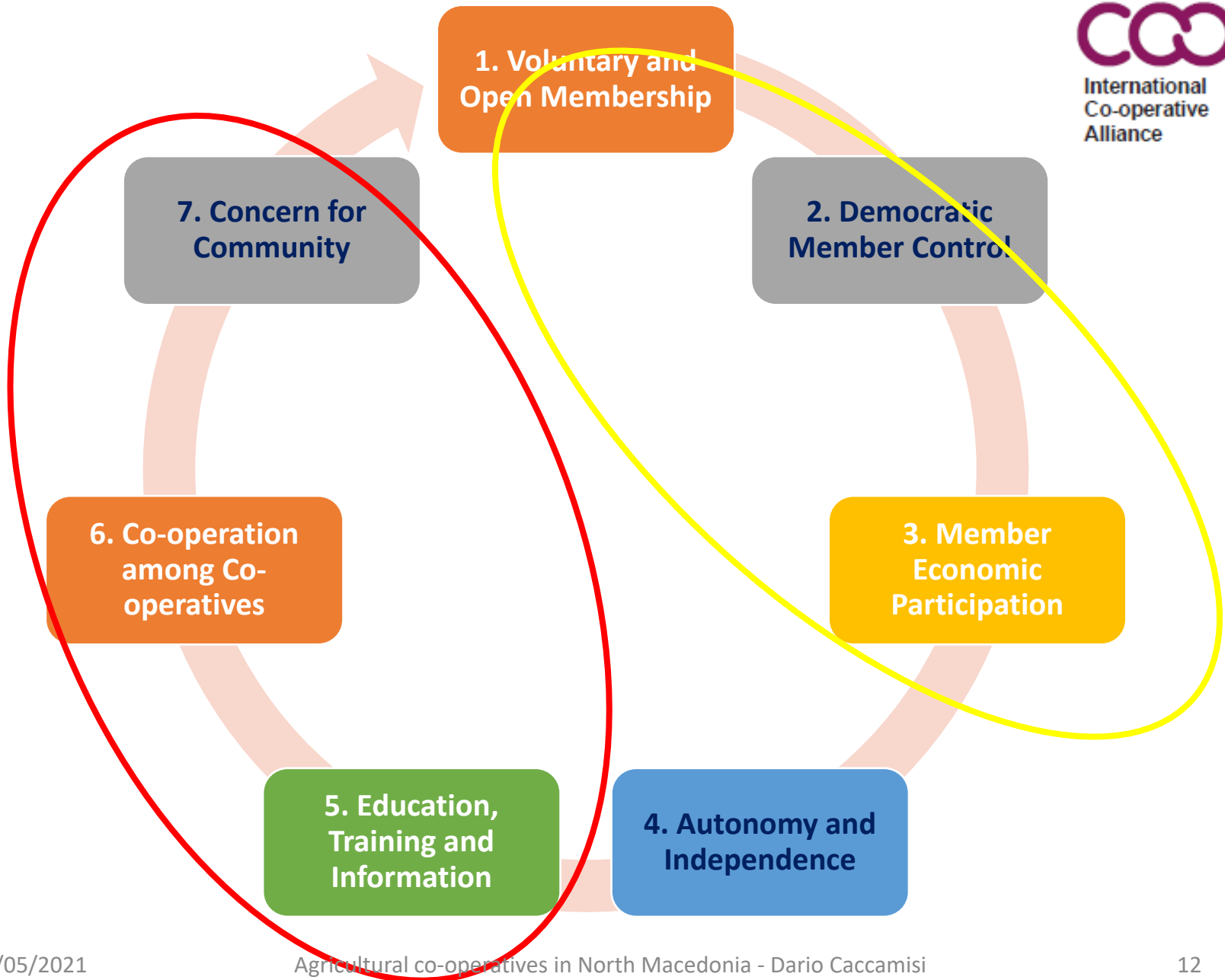
- Production focus, no attention to marketing
- No systemic approach
- Limited target of co-operatives
- Lacking focus on improvement of human resources and management
- Inefficient management of funds

SPRINKLE DISTRIBUTION OF AID

LEGISLATION

Not
consistent
with trade,
labour, fiscal
legislations

- Co-operative principles are listed but not committedly pursued
- No mutualist concepts, equity property
- Conflicts between general law on co-operatives and law on agricultural co-operatives
- Not market-oriented
- Drawing attention to controls, penalties
- Complex member registration procedures
- Is «20 members» large scale co-operative?



Members' Pay-out Ratio

Differences between co-operatives and private companies (ex. LLC) are not evident

16%

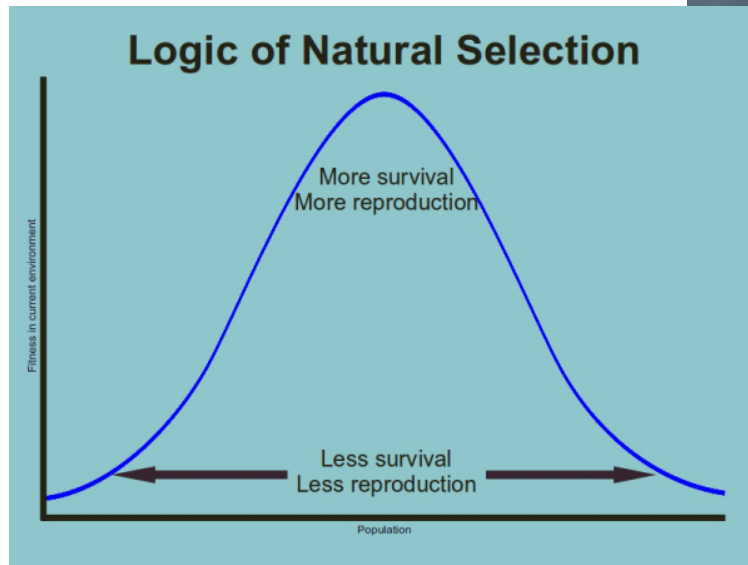
Transactions with members <50%



Open-door to new members?

REVOLUTION VS. EVOLUTION

- **Revolution** – a sudden, radical or complete change
- **Evolution** – a process of continuous change from a lower, simple, or worse to a higher, more complex or better state.



enable individuals to
orientate themselves and
interpret their world

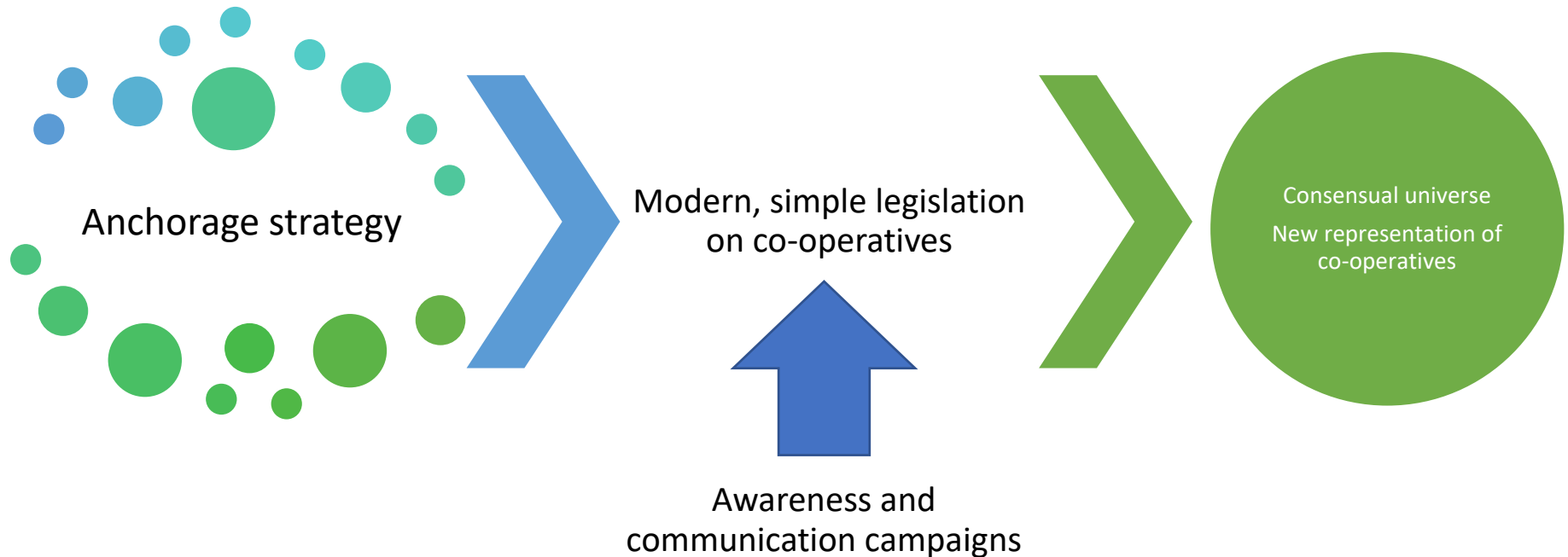
Social Representations

provide a code that enables
communication among the
members of a community

[Moscovici, 1961]

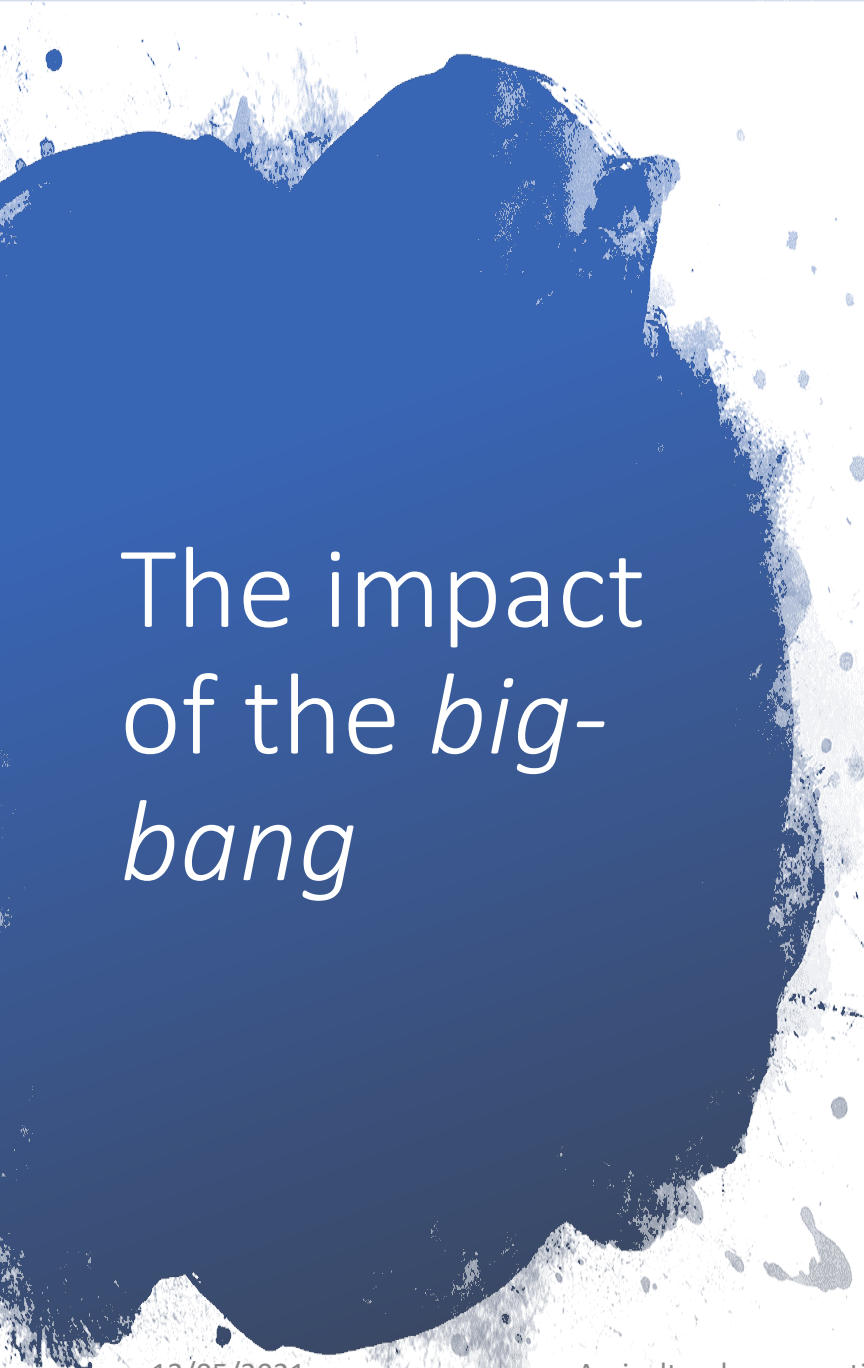


“Anchorage strategy” for the legal framework of co-operatives in Macedonia



Objectivisation

to transform concepts into objective individual entities, to materialise the idea of co-operation
(organisations, brand, facilities)



The impact of the *big- bang*

- "Support to Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in North Macedonia", funded by the European Union, a 2 million euro grant for the establishment of new co-operatives and improvement of existing ones.
- A total of 21 agricultural cooperatives were established throughout the financial support by the project.
- May 2020 there are **60 agricultural cooperatives** registered in the Official register of agricultural cooperatives in the Ministry for agriculture, forestry and water economy (MAFWE), 44 of which are active (NSARD 2021-2027).
- New **single law on co-operatives** is under approval by the Parliament.

- Support is key to expand the sector
- Co-operative are still a sectorial phenomena
- Improvements are possible
- Consistency between focused actions and clear strategy is crucial



Lessons
learnt