

Co-operatives – The Creative Alternative Event Evaluation Summary

Number of Delegates: 75 Evaluation Forms Received: 26

How did you hear about the event?

<i>Mailing</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Word of Mouth</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Twitter</i>	<i>LinkedIn</i>
2	12	6	1	1	1

Other (please specify) Brighton New Media Mailing list (1)
Didn't Say 2

Before attending the event, how would you rate your awareness, knowledge and understanding of creative organisations and co-operatives?

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Creative Organisations	2	5	14	3
Co-operatives	5	5	11	3
Didn't Say	2	-	-	-

Now that you have attended the event, how would you rate your awareness, knowledge and understanding of the topic/subject?

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Creative Organisations	5	9	9	0
Co-operatives	6	10	7	0
Didn't Say	3	-	-	-

How would you rate the following?

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Didn't Say</i>
The initial info / instructions	5	9	10	0	2
Administration	6	12	5	0	3
The programme	3	11	10	0	2
The speakers	4	10	9	0	3 ~
The workshops	4	11	9	0	2
The venue	6	14	4	0	2
Refreshments	6	13	4	1*	2
Overall content	4	13	6	0	3
Networking opportunities	3	10	10	1	2

* Vege option was very limited mostly cheese sandwiches. Partly my fault as didn't see the vegan options

* Flora is not vegan

~ Some good, some not so

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Did you feel it was pitched at the right level?

<i>Yes</i>	<i>Too complicated</i>	<i>Too simple</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Didn't Say</i>
22	0	2	1 <i>Very varied</i>	1

What are the two key things that you will take away from this event?

- More people are doing things like web development as co-operatives than I'd have guessed
- There's a lot of diversity in how co-ops can run
- Legalities – structure
- Importance of having the right staff / good recruitment
- Ideas for co-op structure and management
- Difficulty in working together
- Co-ops working for co-ops
- Co-ops are hard!
- It could be the future, (but story needs to be told better!)
- There is a big sector of which I knew very little
- Small co-ops do put co-operative principles into practise
- Co-ops are thriving in different ways around the country
- Co-operatives are continually evolving and restructuring
- Generally co-operators love working in co-ops
- Similarity but important small differences with other agencies
- Potential benefits of collaboration
- Non-socialist capitalist ethics
- Finding a co-operative to join – potentially
- Food for thought in starting one
- The co-op experience of others over time
- Contact with vital person
- Enthusiasm for co-ops
- The need to provide co-ops with skills and support in personnel issues
- The potential for co-ops in digital economy
- There is not 'typical' co-operative
- Hearing how the different types of co-operative groups started up
- A co-op is whatever you decide you want it to be amongst your members, that they take many different forms ie ethical or more business orientated
- It is important to have shared values with people you form it with
- The advantages of co-ops
- The frequency of co-ops
- Get the right people in your co-op
- Set standards from the start
- How to set up co-ops
- Structure
- A view of other co-ops
- Websites and ideas to follow up
- I live in a housing co-op and I really want to work in one too
- There are a number of co-operative business models that can work
- It's a challenge to be a co-op but potentially very rewarding!

What, if anything, could have been improved?

- Everything seemed rather vague
- More depth in the workshops
- Details of technicalities of co-ops, eg workers co-ops can be non-mutual?
- Sound poor
- Nothing – it was great!
- Yes, sources of reference
- Quality of speakers
- Linking people's interests in some way so people with the same interests could meet and network – this is difficult
- Start with the ice breaker and have a bit more interaction over speeches
- More open meeting process
- Morning workshop (co-op development) could have more creative content or been interactive
- Allow filming so others can view and be inspired
- There could have been some smaller more interactive sessions

Was there anything covered that you would like to explore in more detail?

- Eco-housing co-ops
- I would love to get different types of co-op at a conference on one table to explain the different types of co-op. It all gets very confusing.
- The process of starting a workers' co-op
- Conflict resolution
- Technical, legal, governance
- Remote working – how this can work successfully in a co-op
- Governance and decision making
- Selling co-operative principles
- Co-op finances (in a creative context)
- Start-up step by step per industry
- More focus on funding
- Co-operative agencies and employment laws relevant to co-ops
- One of the big challenges of the co-op models seems to be around accountability. How do you get maximum performance out of the model and hold people to account whilst maintaining the flat hierarchy. There are obviously mechanisms that successful co-ops have implemented. More on this would be great.

Was there anything not included in the event which you would have liked to see as the topic for a future conference?

- Funding issues
- Co-operate don't collapse: the competitive alternative/recession busting
- Why not work with big companies
- Where does ambition sit in co-op?
- Networking
- Financial management options
- Ethical co-ops
- The difference between different types of co-op

Any additional comments:

- The speakers were mainly good though there initially seemed to be a lack of focus on ethical business though this did come in more with Revolver.
- Ethical co-ops
- Loved the tube orchestra – brilliant
- Thank you Co-operatives SE – the opportunity to share and learn from other co-ops is much appreciated - keep up the good work!
- Helping to connect creative with other established or new co-ops
- Proposal writing for funding
- Got better as it went on
- Very well organised
- Great day! Great venue! Inspiring! Good food too! Would have loved to attend both workshops but they were on at the same time.
- Great event – thanks for organising!