

## Abstract

This thesis studies the Social Solidarity Economy (hereinafter referred to as the SSE) as a set of practices and as an approach starting from cooperative traditions, civil society, collective action. We will investigate the evolution of the phenomenon in Greece from a sociological point of view, through the historical traditions of our country where we find similar practices.

More specifically, SSE as a concept and content and its agents will be studied through the lens of the theory of social movements and collective action so that we can draw on concepts, analytical tools and methodological perspectives which are able to shed light on the socio-political dimension of SSE on which we will focus.

Through the study around the frameworks of the SSE, we will investigate causal relations and the purposes around which the collaborative SSE projects with economic activity in Greece are constituted. On the one hand we will delve into the dialectical relationship between their repertoires of collective action, their functions and strategies and the socio-economic environment in which they appear on the other. The analysis of the SSE in the light of social movement theories will be attempted through a qualitative analysis of the discourse of its actors (producer cooperatives, social cooperative enterprises, non-profit organizations, informal groups with economic activity) in order to capture the conceptual framing of the action, the motivations, the general perceptions of those involved in these actions.

The development of a typology in relation to the available theories of social movements is a desirable development, since nothing similar has been attempted in the past and would constitute a contribution to the understanding of the SSE from a sociological point of view. The latter is one of the main drivers of the proposed thesis, since the available literature on the subject in terms of volume and intensity is much more focused on an 'alleviative' side of the SSE, in relation to public policies, labor market integration, ecosystem sustainability, and the ambivalent notion of resilience.