The Italian Co-operative Movement

- Most co-ops per capita
- Decentralized but integrated
- Co-op consortia
- Five cross-sector federations
- Co-operative expansion
The Region of Emilia Romagna

- 4 million people
- 7,500+ co-ops (2/3 are worker co-ops)
- 30-40% of GDP
- 2 out 3 are members of co-ops
- 10% employed by co-ops
- Cross-sector collaboration
- “Full employment”
- High standard of living
3elle
Imola

- Founded in 1908
- Employment for art students
- 306 employees, 156 members
- Manufacturer & exporter of windows & doors
- €69 million in sales ($98.8 mill)
- €69 million in net assets
- Interco-operation

erbin@cooperativefund.org
Giovani Relagatori Social Co-op
Imola

- Founded in 1983
- Employment & training for marginalized individuals
- Bookbinding, printing, small parts assembly & archiving
- 25 permanent employees
- €1.25 ($1.79) million in sales
- Key loan from Legacoop
- 60% of customers are co-ops
Coopfond
Bologna

- “External mutuality”
- Lending & equity
- Technical assistance
- Cross-sector role
- Funded by co-ops through contribution of 3% of surplus
Legacoop Imola
District of Imola

- Cross-sector federation
- Coordination, Advocacy, Training, Funding
- Growth 1982 - 2007
  - 52 co-ops - 84 co-ops
  - 18,336 members - 65,604 (258%)
  - 2,910 direct employees - 6,863 (136%)
  - €164,743 revenue - €2.4 billion (1,365%)
- Industrial Expansion
Other Examples
What’s Unique?

- Clear co-op identity
- Strong co-op organizations
- Investment in co-op devmt
- Innovation & co-opreneurship
- Co-operative economy
- Co-op enterprise as a multigenerational asset
Worker Co-ops in the U.S.

- 223 firms (1% of co-op enterprises)
- 5,514 members*
- 2,380 non-member employees**
- $219 million in annual revenue (08)

University of Wisconsin, 2009 • http://reic.uwcc.wisc.edu

These are conservative estimates based on survey responses. *Includes part-time workers. **As measured by FTE, and some co-ops reported membership but not employee figures.
Valley Alliance of Worker Co-ops
Pioneer Valley of Western MA and Southern VT

- 11 worker co-ops
- 60+ members, 20+ apprentices
- Tradition of collective mgmt
- Multisector: copying & book-binding, auto repair, internet services, renewable energy, bicycle transport, wool spinning, bodycare products...
- ±$6.7 million ann revenue (08)

www.valleyworker.org
Collective Copies
Florence, Amherst & Belchertown, MA

- A Worker co-op copy shop
- Founded 1983 from Strike
- 13 worker members, union shop
- 3 locations in western MA
- $1.4 million in annual sales
- 2:1 pay ratio highest to lowest
- Health insurance, IRA, 2-4 wks vac.
- 10% of gross profit to community

www.collectivecopies.com
Pioneer Valley Photovoltaics
Greenfield, MA & New Britain, CT

- Founded 2002
- Design & installation of renewable energy systems
- Home, business, government contracts
- 14 employees
- $2 million in revenue (08)

www.pvsquared.coop
Green Mountain Spinnery
Putney, VT

- Founded in ±1980
- Converted to co-op 2006
- 9 members, 2 non-members
- Wool processing and spinning
- Yarn, clothing & pattern sales
- $480k annual revenue (08)

www.spinnery.com
WAGES Co-operatives
San Francisco Bay Area, CA

- Founded in 1994
- 4 worker co-ops
- 50 total member-owners
- Green cleaning services
- Members earn 50-100% more than in conventional firm
- Household incomes up 40%
- Leadership & Business Skills

www.wagescooperatives.org
Isthmus Engineering
Madison, WI

- Founded in 1980
- Automated assembly, machine and handling systems
- Conversion from partnership
- 25 members, 24 non-members
- $10,000 member share
- $20-25 million annual revenue
- All members serve on board

www.isthmuseng.com
Co-operative Home Care Associates
South Bronx, NY

- Founded 1985
- 1,600 employees
- Home care services
- $60 million annual revenue

www.chcany.org
Equal Exchange
West Bridgewater, MA

- Founded 1986 with 3 members
- 87 members, 100+ total staff
- Offices in MA, MN & OR
- Fairly traded coffee, tea & chocolate + domestic products
- 4:1 pay ratio
- External “social” investments
- $34 Million in sales (‘08)

www.equalexchange.coop