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## Nota di contenuto

Cover; Title; Copyright; Contents; List of figures and tables; Notes on contributors; List of abbreviations and acronyms; Introduction: cooperative finance and sustainable local development; PART I Stakeholder-oriented versus profit-maximizing banks; 1 Cooperative banking: a Minskian perspective; 2 Governance and performance: reassessing the pre-crisis situation of European banks; 3 Competition and market power within the Italian banking system; 4 Cooperative capital: why our world needs it; PART II From cooperative banks to local societies  
5 The case for proactive cooperative banks and local development: innovation, growth, and community building in Almeria, Spain  
6 Cooperative banks and community development in Japan; 7 Homo dictyous transforms homo oeconomicus: the social network culture of Hellenic cooperative banking in Crete; 8 Innovative approaches to generating and using cooperative capital: observations from France and Germany; PART III Microfinance and local development; 9 Re-discovering a paradigm: the promotion of savings by credit unions within the UK policy context of asset-based welfare  
10 Microfinance and poverty reduction in Bangladesh: challenges and opportunities  
11 Microcredit: a model for activating poverty zones in Mexico; Conclusions: a tale of two models; Index

## Sommario/riassunto

This book examines the opportunities opened up for financial cooperatives by the recent financial crisis, and explores the role of these institutions in promoting and sustaining local development. The global financial crisis has not only shown the limits of the mainstream theory of markets and rational expectations, but has also generated a great deal of disillusionment with the banking system and underlined the importance of a healthy society for the welfare of the individual. Consequently, new and innovative ways of providing finance are needed, especially for strengthening the development