

COST Sharing and Caring

**Working Group 1:
Collaborative Economy
Practices and Communities**

Troyes, France
June 24, 2017

Agenda

- 9:30 - 10:30 Introduction to agenda, country reports, & participants
- 10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 - 12:00 Mini workshop on ethnography by Penny
- 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 - 14:00 Planning of ethnographic research
- 14:00 - 14:45 Planning next steps & wrap up
- 15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break
- 15:30 - 16:30 Keynote: Nicole Alix, La Coop des Communs

Objectives

- **to systematically analyse practices of digitally-mediated collaborative economies**, building on in-depth ethnographic studies of selected cases that provide insights on the practices involved and on the forms of community around these practices
- **to produce an online repository of case studies, as well as initiating a directory of people** involved in various aspects of the European collaborative economy
- **to develop a theoretical framework** to interpret and classify the different cases; to provide a systematic and comprehensive theoretical perspective that aligns the collected findings and can serve as a taxonomy and guide for further research

Tasks & Deliverables

- Coordinating online and face-to-face ethnographic research on selected case studies
- Development of a socio-technical theoretical framework for the collaborative economy
- Online repository of case studies and online directory of people
- Peer-reviewed publication on the theoretical framework and taxonomy

Country reports: State of the Art

- Few established **definitions**: EC, OuiShare
Sharing economy & collaborative economy
- **For-profit and non-profit** aspects of the phenomenon
- **Platforms and smartphones** are key enablers, but many reports note the existence of much older arrangements, too (libraries, tool sharing in local communities...)
- **Stakeholders**: governments, local authorities, start-ups, non-profit organisations, grassroots/self-organised initiatives...

Types of Collaborative Economy ('Verticals')

- Accommodation – House sharing
- Mobility – Car/Bike Sharing
- Goods exchange – secondhand clothes/household items
- Finance
- Food
- Community projects
- Time banks

Country reports: Case studies

- International for-profit efforts (Airbnb, Uber...)
- Local communities and non-monetary arrangements
- From the materials, collaborative economy appears to be a mostly **urban phenomenon** – what about less densely populated areas?
- Our timing gives us an opportunity to study both **emerging and already maturing arrangements**

Ideas for ethnographic research (in groups of 4)

- **What themes/cases should we focus on?** Think of interesting practices, communities and/or platforms that we could study across Europe.
- What **resources** are in place to work on this case? Who will do the research?
- What are the meaningful **'minimum requirements'** for carrying out the case? What needs to be done & when?

Plans for Next Steps

- Scoping the case studies & timing
- ‘Toolkit’ to guide the ethnographic work
- Mapping out existing & in-progress case studies
- Bibliography (methods + domain)
- Working forward with the country reports?