



## **CONNECTING THE COMMONS AND THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY: why and to do what?**

# Who are we?

- Activists, researchers and entrepreneurs from Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE, i.e. co-ops, mutual societies, non-profit associations) and Commons, together with public stakeholders.
- Creation of an eco-system that favours the emergence of commons, with the support of SSE and concerned public stakeholders.
- French, open to the world



# What is our vision?

- Everywhere forms of collective ownership and governance to create, preserve or give access to goods and services "in commons". In line with the development of technology and changes in demography and ecology on a global scale.
- *Commons* as a shared and **open** resource, a group of involved actors and a mode of governance.
- *Commons* share values and methods with Social and Solidarity Economy and cooperatives => a more responsible, democratic and inclusive society.



# SSE/Co-ops and commons : What can we learn from each other ?

- The commons represent cultural, social and democratic forces that ESS should consider
- Reciprocally, the institutional and organizational resources of the SSE can be sources of inspiration for the commons.
- *La Coop des Communs* aims at cross-fertilization and alliances.

# What do we do?

- « Vers une République des biens communs? ” : colloque Cerisy
- Connection with a research programme Encommuns
- Social protection/future of work/social and solidarity economy/commons
- Governance and democracy
- Business models
- Bank in commons?



**Towards a fair sharing economy:  
The role and place of cooperative platforms**

**December 5, 2016**

**Conference in the European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels**



See the records and presentations on  
<http://confrontations.org/reports/towards-a-fair-sharing-economy-the-role-and-place-of-cooperative-platforms?lang=en>

Open2017 London 16 2 2017 Building the  
international platform co-op movement



# Objectives

- **Shedding light on the future and for public decision-makers**
- **Showing diversified models of more collective, "commons-based" solutions.**

Often take the form of collective organizations present in the social and solidarity economy: cooperatives, associations, mutual societies.

Open2017 London 16 2 2017 Building the international platform co-op movement



# Concrete examples of platform cooperatives

**Reactions and contributions from :** EESC, Co-op UK, Procomuns Barcelona, representatives from Cooperatives Europe, REVES (European cities for SSE), ETUC, lawyers (Guido Smorto), economists (Coriat, Carballa, Martin Belmonte), CECOP and Smart...





# Questions to be addressed:

- **Diversity of forms of entrepreneurship:**  
consubstantial with the European social model
- **Regulation: element of competition policy,** favoring certain models and creating barriers to others
  - *Ownership of data*
  - *Products which cannot be sold*
  - *Social rights and the remuneration of workers*

# Towards a permanent working group in Europe?

## ■ Definition of needs:

- ownership and legal status and regulations of the platforms, right of workers, property (cooperative platforms)
- integration of the common interest in the platforms (multistakeholders cooperative platforms)

Sub-question: management of public services.

## ■ Regulation

## ■ Coalitions

# What does it mean “a-capitalist” for SSE?

The organizational resources of the SSE are based on their a-capitalist structure, i.e

- Legal group of individuals,
- Power to members and not to capital,
- Ownership is shared or
- **Inalienable (collective) heritage**
- Not-for-profit oriented or limited profit
- **Part of the added value is held in reserve => indivisible reserves (intergeneration)**

Cf the principles of sustainable communities described by Elinor Ostrom



# What means “open” for co-ops?

- Cooperatives are open to all who are eligible, ie those who have the needs to which the cooperative is supposed to respond
- The "Commons" and the « community » in the 7th cooperative principle
- « Open » as « general interest »?
- «Open » as open source : free redistribution, access to source code and creation of derivative works?
- The common: copyleft in open source/ indivisible resources in co-ops?



# What means Open co-operativism?

Michel Bauwens: a new sort of co-operative market sector in collectively oriented enterprises?

- not for profit
- multi-stakeholder
- co-operative workers co-produce commons beyond individual interests of members
- collaborative partnerships between cities government and citizens to develop commons to meet basic needs and protect common wealth.



## Value in the Commons Economy Bauwens & Niaros, 2017

Open and contributory systems: contributors co-create value as a commons which can be used by all those that are connected to networks, but the income is generated by a fraction of the contributors connected to the marketplace.

1/ 'reverse co-optation' of value, from the 'old' system to the new. Can the emerging commons-centric economy, which creates value in and through the commons, use capital from the capitalist or state system, and subsume capital to the new logic? Enspiral's 'transvestment' strategy, i.e. the transfer of value from one modality of value creation to another. This is implemented through the use of external investments with capped returns and the insulation of their purpose-driven activities from capitalist extraction.

2/one step further within the confines of the already existing commons economy: Can broader streams of value be recognized, and become the basis of a new distribution of value that recognizes the commons and its distinct species of value-creation? Sensorica internally creates a value-sovereign distribution through its open value accounting system.



# Platform cooperativism/open co-operativism

- Platform as a cooperative, a common good, owned by the interested parties who manage them (workers, users,
- Open co-operativism: Creation and preservation of common goods through, for example, multi-stakeholder cooperatives. Beyond the sole interests of workers and users, a new sharing of value is sought.



# How can we continue?

The future and development of both commons and SSE depend on a fair regulation. How could we join our forces not to be only “in the edges”?





Thank for your attention

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