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# The Collection of Good Practices Related to Commons

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## Document Summary

Commoning Europe project funded by Erasmus+ investigates different approaches to the commons at European level, in terms of relations between Commoners and Public Institutions and in relation to overcoming legal, organizational and other difficulties. The project intends to investigate different approaches to the commons at European level, in terms of relations between Commoners and Public Institutions and in relation to overcoming legal, organizational and other difficulties. Partners of the Project are “Biblioteca di pace” (Italy), Campi Bisenzio (Italy), Fagaras (Romania) and Ankara Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services (Turkey), BRAL (Belgium) and Open UP (NL). The Initiatives Document is an output of the Commoning Project.

This document was co-created and it is the product of close cooperation among projects target groups and project partners in addition to their shared experiences and good practices. The output was developed in these steps:

- Research of good practices: each partner conducted a local/regional research about the commons’ management and local/regional initiatives.
- Sharing good practices: partners presented their good practices of initiatives and discussions were held.
- Evaluation and selection of good practices: good practices of initiatives presented by all project partners were commented on, evaluated and selected.
- Preparation of the common document and completion of it: partners filled the template for the selected initiatives and lastly the responsible partner of the output finalized the document with the contribution of all partners.

This document is addressed to officials, administrators, namely policy makers and commoners in project partner countries and in other EU member countries. Desired impact of the document includes reinforced awareness of the theme of commoning, increased skills on participatory techniques and methods to reinforce social cohesion, creation of a common framework to develop the Common goods and sharing at European level of policies and legal instruments.



## Introduction

The commons are, historically and primarily, products. These goods are managed not by the government and not by the market but by a third pillar, a process of commoning in the hands of the users of the good, the commoners. Common, commoners and the rules and agreements that the commoners devise for the use of the good are together a triptych that gives substance to the commoning process.

According to the classical view, a **Common Good** distinguishes itself from other products by its intrinsic properties that make it unsuitable for management by the government or the market<sup>1</sup>. Management by the market is difficult in this view because the nature of the commons makes it difficult to restrict access to them. Thus, it is difficult to collect a price for its use. Secondly, the Commons are assumed to be goods whose scarce, available quantity decreases with use, which is not the case with public goods. For example, you can only catch and eat a fish once, so the quantity of fish decreases when you consume it. In contrast, for example, is public lighting. The amount of light does not decrease if another person appears on your night-time walk. For a long time it was assumed that the Commons was synonymous with badly managed goods and over-exploitation. Aristotle already wrote that goods that are shared by the greatest number of people are cared for least<sup>2</sup>. This view was not based on empirical research at all, yet it opened the way en masse for the division and privatisation of the Commons.

Elinor Ostrom's research was needed to reinstate the Commons<sup>3</sup>. Ostrom researched resources all over the world that were neither centralised nor privatised but managed by communities of users. She spoke of "**Common Pool Resources**" or CPRs. With her research, she demonstrated that it is a misconception to think that 'Common' is synonymous with 'unmanaged'. CPRs are often well managed provided that users have the opportunity to make their own arrangements that regulate the use of the Common. She also cites other studies that teach us how nationalisation of communally managed forests has had disastrous effects in many countries.



<sup>1</sup> See e.g. [Living Economics: Rivalry and Excludability in Goods](#).

<sup>2</sup> Quoted in Elinor Ostrom: Governing the Commons, the evolution of institutions for collective action.

<sup>3</sup> Elinor Ostrom: Governing the Commons, the evolution of institutions for collective action.

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Although Ostrom's work is historically very important, according to this view the phenomenon remains rather marginal. It is about land, sometimes water for irrigation or fish stocks, that sort of thing. In Ostrom's work, such a CPR appears as a form of management that has proven its value in certain cases, but is at most ancillary to the market and government action.

Both the Common Goods and the CPRs are situated in a context of scarcity. It is true that scarcity has been decreasing recently. Many products come onto the market at bargain prices because the marginal cost price, the price of producing one extra unit, is very low or is even moving towards zero. This applies to food, electronics, renewable energy or ICT products... Many authors predict an **era of 'abundance'**. To such an extent that an economist like Jeremy Rifkin predicts that by the middle of this century the free market will no longer be the dominant form of production<sup>4</sup>. In a context where the marginal cost of production tends towards zero, a company can no longer make a profit.

Profit margins then evaporate. **Private property**, traded on the free market, **then loses its raison d'être**. There can be no free market if the price is zero. Rifkin does not immediately predict the total end of the for-profit company, but he outlines a scenario in which such companies retreat into niches, while elsewhere their place is taken by other forms of production, without a profit motive: cooperatives, non-profit organisations or 'prosumption', production by the consumer himself, based on easily applicable and modular open source recipes. Rifkin speaks of 'collaborative commons': "... the new economic paradigm will likewise continue to be a hybrid venture of the government, the market and the Commons, although by midcentury the Collaborative Commons is likely to define much of the economic life of society."



<sup>4</sup> Jeremy Rifkin: The Zero Marginal Cost Society, the internet of things, the collaborative commons and the eclipse of capitalism.

## Introduction

But there is a caveat to this cheerful vision of the future. Companies can create an artificial scarcity if they succeed in establishing or approaching a monopoly. This scenario is by no means out of the blue; consolidation and mergers in various sectors are so strong that this much grimmer picture of the future is already looming: one in which control of essential resources and of the production of goods and services is controlled by a very limited circle of the super-rich. The accompanying concentration of power over many social and political processes is evident and also threatens the sustainable development of Europe.

A different interpretation of the Commons concept that has been emerging in recent decades responds to this harmful tendency. It is no longer the intrinsic characteristics of a good that determine whether it is a Common or not; according to this vision, the Commons is a concept that is generalisable to an alternative view of society. This view points out that the mass privatisation of common lands that Europe has experienced since the Middle Ages, the so-called 'enclosures', did not result from a change in the characteristics of those lands but simply from a change in power and dominance of some groups. It was a form of violent expulsion of people from the land that their ancestors had always worked and managed, in community. In response, the Commons became an alternative, non-capitalist vision of the future, "...less a description of the resource and its characteristics and more of a normative claim to the resource. In these situations, the claim is to open up (or to re-open) access to a good-i.e., to recognize the community's right to access and to use a resource which might otherwise be under exclusive private or public control-on account of the social value or utility that such access would generate or produce for the community.<sup>5</sup> Dardot and Laval propose the term '**Le Commun**'<sup>6</sup>, **commoning as a political principle** and as a flag for all kinds of movements that want to fundamentally transform society, radically democratise access and ownership of goods, secure the right to the city and the basic conditions for life. Commoners proclaim the bankruptcy of the capitalist system; capitalism, in their view, is incapable of ensuring affordable access to solutions for real needs, within the ecological limits of our planet.



<sup>5</sup> Sheila Foster et Christian Iaione: The City as a Commons. In: Yale Law and Policy Review.

<sup>6</sup> Pierre Dardot & Christian Laval: Commun, Essai sur la Révolution au XXI<sup>e</sup> Siècle



## Introduction

Moreover, the confidence that the state will guarantee access to basic services and products is already almost as low as the confidence in the market among many people. The twinning between politicians and business is such that the spectre of further privatisation is not out of the blue. That is why more and more groups of commoners are proclaiming the community as the owners of our energy, our water, our land, our knowledge... The 'Commun' goes even further than the mere management of these goods. It rejects any form of domination. A politics "du Commun", according to Dardot and Laval, concerns all spheres of society and all decision-making processes. By definition, it must be present in all spheres where people act together and establish rules that guide that action.

Another counter-movement to the Commons concept is '**Community Wealth Building**'<sup>7</sup>. This movement, which is prevalent in the US, relies equally on commoning components such as sharing, inclusion and democratic co-determination but focuses on how these components are used to produce for the wealth of the community. The movement promotes management practices that aim to entrench and perpetuate enterprises, jobs and capital, or to improve public services. So-called 'anchor institutions' play a central role. These are organisations that produce services or goods for the local population, at feasible prices, and that are owned by the population, so that the continuation of this production is relatively secure locally. Much attention is paid to inclusion: minorities must also be given the opportunity to become co-owners of enterprises. We often see these anchor institutions take the form of cooperatives. This approach promotes a 'democratic economy'<sup>8</sup>, a form of non-profit entrepreneurship in which sharing is promoted as an alternative to private ownership. Here we are talking about all forms of production practices that aim to satisfy the needs of the local community, while respecting ecological limits and democratic rights.



<sup>7</sup> [www.communitywealthbuilding.org](http://www.communitywealthbuilding.org)

<sup>8</sup> [www.democracycollaborative.org](http://www.democracycollaborative.org)

## Introduction

With the concept of '**Urban Commons**'<sup>9</sup>, Foster and Iaione provide a synthesis between the normative claim of 'Le Commun' as the 'right to the city', the management issues of the Common Goods or Common Pool Resources, and the production focus of the Community Wealth approach. Recognising that the city itself is a Common allows us to look at the conflicts between different kinds of users of public space or urban buildings in reconversion as a modern version of the "Tragedy of the Commons"<sup>10</sup>: a conflict of congestion of a good in a context of an unclear, unsatisfactory or shifting regulatory framework and vision of the use of that space. Why do people have more right to the street when they are in a car? Other users also claim the right to an equal share of it. Should we open up urban green space to visitors or preserve it as it is, as a good that has value independent of people? Why is a building allowed to remain empty while people sleep on the street? The concept of the 'Urban Commons' allows us to look at the social function of property in the city: property such as empty buildings is not sacred, but is subordinate to the needs of the local community and must be used in the production of wealth for that community, as a Common that can be appropriated by them. Last but not least, Foster and Iaione also integrate a component of democratic, multi-actor governance in the concept of the 'Urban Commons'. Here, the state is given a new role as facilitator and redistributor. Power is decentralised and shared with users who, within a new incentive framework, can set up collaborations with each other and with institutional partners to manage the Commons and create wealth.



<sup>9</sup> Sheila Foster en Christian Iaione: The City as a Commons. In: Yale Law and Policy Review

<sup>10</sup> [Tragedy of the commons - Wikipedia](#)

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# Initiatives from Italy

Prepared by:

Biblioteca di Pace

and

Municipality of Campi Bisenzio





## Giardino Nidiaci



**City/Country:** Florence/Italy

**Year of establishment:** 2013

**Thematic area:** Area for children and families, managed as a commons, vital for the whole district

### Short description:

The Nidiaci is in the historic centre of Florence, an area with few spaces for children and families. In 1920, the American Red Cross bought the area to make it a “place for popular education with special regard to the children of San Frediano”, then the poorest district of the city, assigning the task to the lawyer Umberto Nidiaci.

The area – a large garden and a three-floor building – were used as housing for the poor, a centre for children and young people, in a complex legal situation (the garden alone officially belonging to the Municipality of Florence from 1954).

A real estate speculator, currently under investigation for a series of alleged crimes, took over the building and part of the garden, drove the children out in 2012 and sold the property as luxury flats and parking spaces.

This led to widespread protests in the district, and in 2013 the Municipality granted the public part of the garden to the residents' association, which has since then managed the area as a Commons.

## Giardino Nidiaci



### Activities:

The primary activity is keeping a space open to the families of the district. Dozens of initiatives have arisen spontaneously – by way of example only, a football school, the district orchestra open to all, music lessons, Italian language lessons for foreign parents and during the pandemic, distribution of food supplies to 160 families of the district.

### Who runs the initiative:

To sign an agreement with the Municipality, the residents set up an NGO (Associazione Amici dei Nidiaci in Oltrarno, now Amici dell'Ardiglione). The association is managed by a board elected by members. Though an attempt is made to involve as many people as possible in the association, the garden is equally open to non-members. Decisions are usually taken by the board, but based on constant consultation with all those sharing the garden.

**Participants:** The participants are the majority of the families of the district with children under 11 years, plus many others of all ages who are involved in the local community. Here a special role is played by Florence's self-managed football team, the *Lebowski*, which has set up a free football school in the garden, involving dozens of families.

## Giardino Nidiaci

The background and social status of participants is extremely mixed – native Florentine craftsmen, “economic” immigrants (Egypt, India, Senegal, Latin America...), “cultural” immigrants (British, American, etc.). The constant interaction among parents creates an extremely inclusive experience. Active participants are mostly Italian, the majority of a working class background. The Commons also involves the schools of the district, with various projects.

Relationship towards the authorities: originally conflictual, currently collaborative. Authorities seek to stay on good terms with a community which represents a whole district and is not linked to any specific political area, however they contribute little to finding shared solutions.

Innovative aspects: Firstly, the Nidiaci is an example of a Commons which coincides with the community living in a specific area.

One of the most interesting aspects is also the solution to the crucial problem of *borders*: a commoner plants a tree, and finds it uprooted next morning by two hundred passing drunken revellers, whom he cannot keep out without *privatising* the area. How to make an *open community*?

The Nidiaci found a solution to this in the donation document of 1954, which “reserves the area to children”. This means the area can be kept *open to all* (to all children, without any distinction whatsoever) yet governed by clear rules: the area is open to *children, to those accompanying children and to those creating activities for children and for those accompanying children*. The Nidiaci can for example ban smoking in the area, yet permit yoga classes for parents.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <http://www.nidiaci.com/>

Facebook page : [Giardino di Nidiaci - Centro Giovani Nidiaci](#)

Instagram: [centro\\_giovani\\_nidiaci](#)

- **Contact info/Location:**

Address: Via dell'Ardiglione 32, in Florence's Oltrarno district

Email [giardinonidiaci@gmail.com](mailto:giardinonidiaci@gmail.com)

Phone: +393896863378 (Ms Valentina Casadei)

## Mondeggi Fattoria Senza Padroni



**City/Country:** Italy/Florence

**Year of establishment:** 2014

**Thematic area:** Cultivation with ecological methods, involvement of the population, benefit of all

### Short description:

The Mondeggi experience began in 2014, to prevent the sale to private individuals of a property of the Province of Florence, of about 200 hectares, for sale because it was in deficit. The committee Terra Bene Comune of Florence started a public initiative to recover the farm, destined to a progressive degradation, not only of the cultivated part, but also of the farmhouses and a monumental villa. In order to give solidity and recognizability to the experience, the Charter of Principles and Intentions was approved and meetings were organized in the territory and recreational events in the area of the farm, to bring people back to live Mondeggi and rebuild emotional ties to the inhabitants of the surroundings. On October 14, 2014 the auction of the last attempt of the Province for the sale of the farm was unattended, and the farm passed under the administration of the Metropolitan City of Florence. The citizens involved in the care of the farm began to urge the Municipality of Bagno a Ripoli - where Mondeggi is located - and other local bodies to develop a shared project for the future of the farm as a Commons, to be presented to the Metropolitan City. Over the years, the experience was consolidated and the institutions (the Municipality of Bagno a Ripoli and the Metropolitan City) are evaluating how to officially recognize it.



## Mondeggi Fattoria Senza Padroni



The recovery of Mondeggi takes place through the use of peasant agriculture, organic and respectful of the environment, also open to the inhabitants of the area. The agricultural project includes about 10,000 olive trees, 10 hectares of vineyards, 1,000 square meters of saffron, beekeeping, cultivation of fruits and vegetables and hops, and breeding of small animals. The farm, besides producing oil, wine and honey, can also provide bread making and beer production. The project is characterized as dynamic, inclusive and resilient. Mondeggi is frequented and “cared for” by everyone, even by those who are approaching farming for the first time. The Farming School, free and self-managed, goes in this direction. Started in 2015, it has seen among its teachers, professors of the Agricultural Schools and the University, Latin scholars who have evoked the agriculture of Virgil, but also farmers rich in experience. For an education that is both theoretical and practical. Finally, Mondeggi is based not only on agricultural work, but also on being together. In this context, we find summer schools organized in collaboration with schools and in support of families. Schools where children and young people experience sowing, bread-making, animal care and discover the forest as a nature reserve. And in any case, creating community means being able to welcome the most fragile and the weakest, to promote mental health. The land is therapeutic, but only if it is open and social, without walls and borders.

The initiatives are managed by the group of residents in the farm, 30 people, but they always try to involve in the decisions all the collaborators who live in the surrounding area, about 300. For this purpose, once a month, everyone meets in a plenary assembly. A custom that slows down decision making but strengthens participation and the sense of community.



## Mondeggi Fattoria Senza Padroni

Participants in Mondeggi's activities in different ways, alongside residents and external collaborators, include associations, schools and universities, similar experiences of commoning present in the Florentine area, on a regional, national level and even abroad.

Relations with the authorities have not been easy, although on both sides there have never been gestures of explicit rupture. Recently, the Metropolitan City of Florence has expressed its intention to give recognition to Mondeggi, as long as it is formally constituted. A positive signal has come from the organizers: they are thinking of applying for registration with the Italian ledger of recognized associations.

The main innovative aspect is the ability to open up to the territory, to offer everyone a place to meet and participate and at the same time to be a haven, that has favored the birth of other experiences of self-management in the surrounding area.

### **For more info:**

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://mondeggibenecomune.noblogs.org>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mondeggi.benecomune>

- **Contact info/Location:**

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Email: [mondeggi@inventati.org](mailto:mondeggi@inventati.org)

Phone: (+39) 351 5577981

## Ex-asilo Filangieri



**City/Country:** Naples/Italy

**Year of establishment:** 2012

**Thematic area:** Art and culture

The Asylum since 2 March 2012 is an open space where a shared and participatory management practice of a public space dedicated to culture is being consolidated, in analogy with civic uses: a different use of a public good, no longer based on the assignment to a specific private subject, but open to all those subjects who work in the field of art, culture and entertainment who, in a participatory and transparent manner, through a public assembly, share the projects and spaces coexist. The Asylum spaces have been gradually recovered and rearranged with different artistic and cultural purposes:

- theater
- the cinema room
- the library
- study rooms
- the visual arts laboratory
- the exhibition gallery
- the tailoring
- the refectory for dance and performing arts
- an urban garden

## Ex-asilo Filangieri



So the Ex-Asilo Filangieri is the realization of a shared use of a space following a commitment by workers of the show business in its recovery and rearrangement. It has cultural and artistic purposes and is fully placed in the framework of the commons. We can certainly define it as an Urban Common, which combines the political elements relating to the management of a common good with aspects such as the response to educational poverty or the cultural development of the host community

From 2012, the use of the spaces and the programming of events take place in a participatory manner, through a public management assembly and through specific thematic working groups open to all, which are not limited to the scheduling of events but which tend to foster the meeting and exchange between artists.

Those who participate in the assembly and in the governing body of the Ex Asilo Filangieri are artists and subjects active in the cultural field who plan and activate actions linked as much as possible to the needs of the territory.

The first act that allowed the use and regulation of the space was the "declaration of civic and collective urban use of the Ex Asilo Filangieri" which was collectively developed during a public working group held every week from May 2012 to December 2015:  
<http://www.exasilofilangieri.it/dichiarazione-duso-civico/>

## Ex-asilo Filangieri

The Municipality of Naples, thanks to the activation of this asset, has elaborated and introduced in the Statute of the Municipality the legal category of "common good" within the "Purposes and fundamental values" of the same Statute (Resolution no. 24 of 22/09/2011).

There are two main innovations: first of all this property has not been entrusted for the umpteenth time to a single private body (be it a company or a cooperative) that manages it according to predefined purposes but has been entrusted to citizens, to local artists who want to make it alive and giving something back to citizenship in terms of culture and artistic vivacity.

Secondly, the decision-making process of the Ex Asilo Filangieri turns out to be very innovative and deeply democratic.

The basic body is the management meeting held every Monday at 19.00 and is open to all citizens. During the assembly, the ordinary management of the spaces is organized with regard to programming, communication and logistics. In particular:

- The cultural needs of the community are compared, each working table tells the path taken, the desires, and the paths to follow;
- The artistic, cultural, self-training and socializing proposals are welcomed and discussed and addressed to the related thematic tables;
- Discusses about the temporary use of spaces based on the different artistic and cultural needs of individuals, groups and the community;

## Ex-asilo Filangieri

- The shifts for cleaning the space are coordinated and attendance is organized during the evening appointments of the week;
- Financial statements derived from self-financing are made public.

The decisions of the assembly are generally taken on the basis of consensus and never by majority.

The assembly is open to all those who participate: anyone can cross the space and the political path of the Asilo.

The thematic tables are places of permanent discussion that encourage meeting, exchange and cooperation, where proposals are discussed and activities are planned and coordinated.

Today the active thematic tables are:

- Stage arts table
- Armory table
- Infrasound table
- Cine table

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <http://www.exasilofilangieri.it/>

- **Contact info/Location:**

Address: Vico Giuseppe Maffei 4 – Napoli

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## Patti di collaborazione



**City/Country:** Italy/Florence

**Year of establishment:** 2015

**Thematic area:** Urban, development, inclusion, environment

The civil economy consists of an alternative political-strategic approach, in order to actively involve citizens. The collaboration agreements are the tangible manifestation of the meaning of civil economy, because through them the active citizens (single or in associations) can collaborate with the Local Administration in the implementation of management, maintenance, improvement of urban common goods, within regeneration projects, through actions aimed at community use of public property, with a character of inclusiveness and integration, as well as regeneration of the same good.

The agreements (Patti) are not to be intended as a substitute for essential services, which must be guaranteed by the Municipality itself according to the laws and regulations in force, but as a lively alternative for involving citizens, who offer their time and professional skills to the community, by carrying out the activities and supplying the equipment and materials necessary to complete the interventions.



## Patti di collaborazione



In 2019 the Municipality adopted a specific Regulation for the management of collaboration between Administration and active citizens for the care, the shared management and the regeneration of common goods (Regolamento per la gestione della collaborazione tra Amministrazione e cittadinanza attiva per la cura, la gestione condivisa e la rigenerazione dei beni comuni), in order to officialize many activities that highlight the value attributed to this instrument. This Regulation is the regulatory tool to systematize this innovative way of doing politics and to allow citizens to take care of the common goods of their city and give them new life, by signing a collaboration agreement with the Administration. In order to present one's proposal, which may arise spontaneously, or in response to a request from the Municipality, the forms available on the institutional website have been prepared.

Citizens and associations make their skills available and, through a codified procedure, they obtain the materials and insurance coverage necessary for the management of the identified asset and the practical implementation of the planned interventions. Currently thanks to this instrument, schools' services, gardens, flower beds, the municipal washhouse, shared spaces and buildings, dog areas, etc. have been enhanced, but there are many other possibilities for the involvement of active citizens.

The path and the perspective in which the Municipality of Campi Bisenzio places itself in the context of public policies to respond to the needs of the community requires commitment and enthusiasm. The councilor for participation and common goods says that: 'The essential element for a community life is certainly reciprocity. Reciprocity is the value that allows us to create quality relationships that trigger the virtuous mechanisms of give and take. On the territories it means trying to experiment innovative actions with the collaboration of those who are actively participating'.

## Patti di collaborazione

**For more info:**

- **Law references:**

Legge Regione Toscana 24 luglio 2020, n. 71 "Governo collaborativo dei beni comuni e del territorio, per la promozione della sussidiarietà sociale in attuazione degli articoli 4, 58 e 59 dello Statuto":

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/atto/regioni/caricaDettaglioAtto/originario?atto.dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2021-02-13&atto.codiceRedazionale=20R00349>

Regolamento per l'attuazione del principio di sussidiarietà orizzontale e la valorizzazione dei beni comuni urbani:

<https://www.comune.campi-bisenzio.fi.it/regolamenti>

## Patti di collaborazione

- **Social media:**

<https://www.labsus.org/2019/03/i-beni-comuni-nelleconomia-civile-lesperienza-di-campi-bisenzio/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvEkIclwkgI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNCWZEP1sbE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XijKNcX4bu8>

- **Contact info/Location:**

Address: Ufficio Economia Civile - Comune Campi Bisenzio. Map: In Campi Bisenzio

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## Emporio solidale - l'Aggeggione



**City/Country:** Italy/Florence

**Year of establishment:** 2017

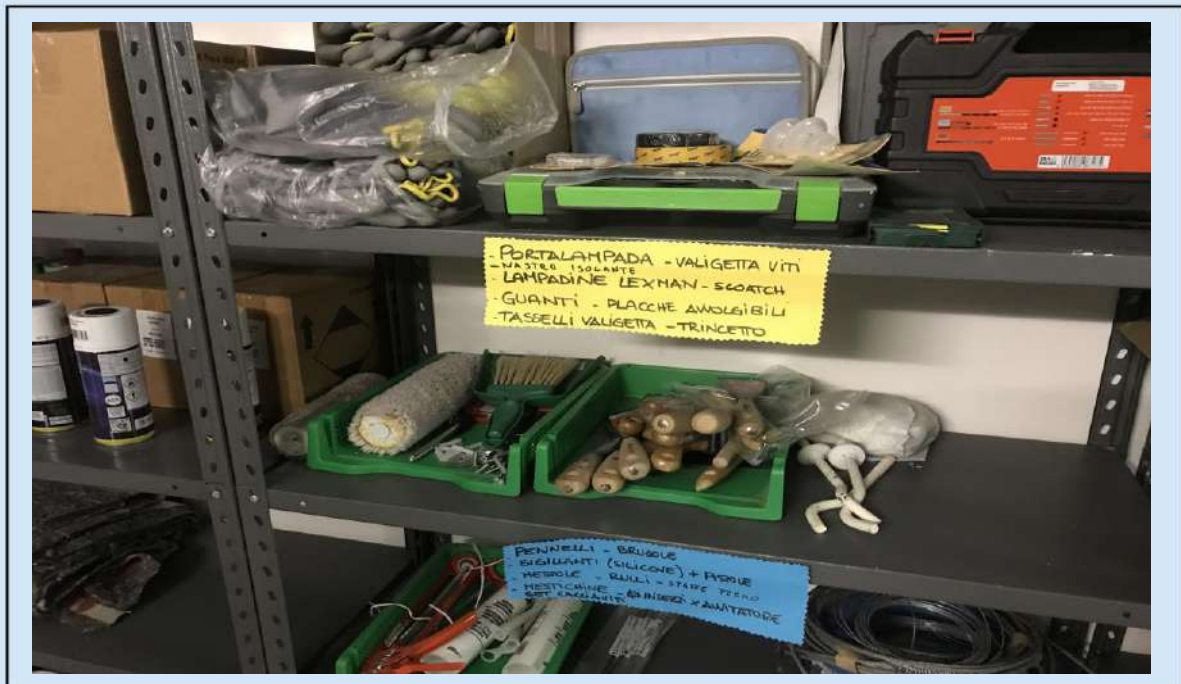
**Thematic area:** Urban, development, inclusion, environment

### Short description:

The 'Solidarity Emporium -Do-it-Yourself' of Campi Bisenzio was born in 2017 from the project "#il troppobuono - the CDC of Campi Bisenzio" and is linked to the previous path undertaken in 2009 by the Distribution Center Citizen (CDC), involving a wide network of subjects that sees the Municipality of Campi Bisenzio and associations of the territorial network as protagonists in the realization of objectives linked, among other things, to the distribution and sharing of non-perishable goods (furniture, tools, clothes...).

People or families in difficulty, who need to carry out basic maintenance work, small renovations or decoration works can turn to the Solidarity Emporium.

## Emporio solidale - l'Aggregazione



Thanks to this project, citizens can use the necessary tools and materials made available free of charge for free. Those who use the service then reciprocate in terms of "social return" through civic volunteering and social commitment, making their time and professionalism available. In fact, upon collection of the material, the citizen signs a 'delivery / loan form' and at the same time makes himself available to participate in the voluntary activities of the Emporium and to reciprocate the service with his own time and professionalism.

The Emporium l'Aggregazione guarantees opening to the public every Saturday from 10.00 to 12.00, but is available for opening on other days and times for activities and initiatives consistent with the aims of the project.

## Emporio solidale - l'Aggregazione

### For more info:

- **Law references:**

Legge Regione Toscana 24 luglio 2020, n. 71 "Governo collaborativo dei beni comuni e del territorio, per la promozione della sussidiarietà sociale in attuazione degli articoli 4, 58 e 59 dello Statuto":

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/atto/regioni/caricaDettaglioAtto/originario?atto.dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2021-02-13&atto.codiceRedazionale=20R00349>

Regolamento per l'attuazione del principio di sussidiarietà orizzontale e la valorizzazione dei beni comuni urbani:

<https://www.comune.campi-bisenzio.fi.it/regolamenti>

- **Social media:**

<https://www.piananotizie.it/un-emporio-aggregazione-da-festeggiare-domani-a-san-donnino/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvEkIclwkgI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XijKNcX4bu8>

<http://met.cittametropolitana.fi.it/news.aspx?n=326212>

<https://www.quinewsfirenze.it/campi-bisenzio-covid-il-sindaco-promuove-il-fai-da-te-solidale.htm>

- **Contact info/Location:**

Address: Ufficio Economia Civile - Comune Campi Bisenzio. Italy - Campi Bisenzio - Via Pistoiese 185 <https://goo.gl/maps/5fn9oozU58KgbdT>

+39 055 8959202 - 623

Email: [benicomuni@comune.campi-bisenzio.fi.it](mailto:benicomuni@comune.campi-bisenzio.fi.it)

Phone: +39 055 8959202 – 623 To contact the Emporium directly: +39 3475774931



# Initiatives from Belgium

Prepared by:  
BRAL vzw Stadsbeweging  
voor  
Brussel





## Cycloperativa



**City/Country:** Brussels/Belgium

**Year of establishment:** 2013

**Thematic area:** Mobility and community building

**Short description:** Cycloperativa is an association from Brussels-City where you can learn to fix your bike and to work together. “Cycloperativa” refers to three terms: cyclo for a bike; cyclopes for the mythological figures who fight for their cause; and cooperative for the cooperative values the association stands for. The bike repair shop is run by volunteers and spare parts cost next to nothing. Cycloperativa promotes the bike as a means of transportation in Brussel to improve the environment, active mobility and quality of life while boosting local knowledge, networks and solidarity in a mixed neighborhood. Their most important activity takes place in their workshop on Monday evening. Everyone in the neighborhood can join the workshop for free. You can come with your bike to repair it. They provide you with the equipment. You can fix your bike yourself, and if you have any questions, their mechanics will help you. They recuperate materials second hand and you can use their tools. This equipment comes from bike shops they contacted. They collected, sorted and cleaned the material to use in their workshop. You can also buy spare parts for your bike for a contribution of your choice. They also have new bicycle parts, for which you pay a fairly low price. Other activities include the mobile workshop. Then, they take their toolbox, and head to the park or somewhere else. People can meet them there to fix their bikes with them. Local schools, youth or neighborhood centers can request a mobile workshop and they can come to local events as well. With the Brussels environmental administration, they focused in 2016 on recuperating and the revalorisation of bike spare parts. They organized creative ateliers to reuse unusable spare parts.

## Cycloperativa



By upcycling, they made table lamps, chairs and decorative objects from old tires, chains, bike frames and wheels. Lots of generations meet at their place. It is intercultural. You can tell by the neighborhood, it's very mixed. The volunteers are fifty-fifty men and women and mostly middle class. Their team consists of five female mechanics, a rarity in the cyclist world. The people who make use of the facilities are often youth with migration backgrounds. These two groups of people meet and work together, making it an inclusive initiative. The biggest event of the year is their cargo bike party, 'Feest de la Charge'. The entire day is dedicated to cargo bikes. They organize a competition to bike uphill of the (in)famous Palace of Justice in Brussels with a cargo bike. Everyone and anyone can join the party: regular cyclists, bicycle couriers, tourists, people who don't ride a bike but are interested. It's a congenial event, in a wonderful atmosphere. They also support the Critical Mass in Brussels, a monthly bike ride through the Brussels Region with many cyclists from all rides of life to promote cycling in Brussels. Their association promotes local products in the form of a customized beer of Brasserie de la Senne which helps to fund their work.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://cycloperativa.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Cycloperativa/>

- **Contact info/Location:** Address: rue Van Artevelde 124, 1000 Bruxelles

Email: [saluke@cycloperativa.org](mailto:saluke@cycloperativa.org) , rue Van Artevelde 124, 1000 Bruxelles

## CLTB, Community Land Trust Brussels



**City/Country:** Brussels/Belgium

**Year of establishment:** 2011

**Thematic area:** Housing

### Short description:

Brussels is proud to host the first European Community Land Trust (CLT) of Europe. Rising house prices and a lack of social homes has created an affordable housing crisis in Brussels. It leaves people on the lowest incomes with little choice but to rent low-quality accommodation or leave the city. Community Land Trust Brussels believes that stable, quality housing is essential to people's well-being. They support the development of a city in which all low-income people have access to live in affordable housing. The CLTB has completed five projects, housing 450 people in 103 homes. Six more projects are in preparation. Community Land Trust Brussels (CLTB) offers low-income residents of Brussels the possibility of buying and living in affordable, sustainable, and quality homes. While the residents become owners of the home, the land remains in the common hands of the CLT. The homes are bought by people with low incomes. Most of them (over 80 per cent) have a migrant background. Community Land Trust Brussels considers the land as a common good so that housing can remain affordable from one generation to the next. Homes are sold at 30-50 per cent below market equivalents with the cost of the home subsidized according to the household's ability to pay. This approach fights speculation and can guarantee that prices stay low in the long run. The CLTB develops housing in close contact with the community they build in. Residents play a central role in the governance of the organization and in the design and management of the housing projects.



## CLTB, Community Land Trust Brussels



### Finished housing projects:

- Mariemont - L'Ecluse, Chaussée de Ninove 38, 1080 Molenbeek
- Verheyden - Le Nid, Rue Verheyden 121, 1070 Anderlecht
- Vandenpeereboom –Arc-en-Ciel Rue Vandenpeereboom 22 et Rue des Etangs Noirs 121-133, 1080 Molenbeek St-Jean
- Indépendance, Rue de l'Indépendance 15-17 et rue du Ransfort 95, 1080 Molenbeek St-Jean
- Calico, Rue du Delta, 1190 Forest

Both residents and non-residents have the opportunity to participate in a cohesive and caring community. The CLTB projects follow the “three-party-management” concept. (1) Residents or residents-to-be, (2) authorities, and (3) associations or other representatives of civil society actively partake in the projects. This multi-stakeholder governance combining representatives of the government, the broader neighborhood and of the (future) residents in the board makes it into an ‘urban commons’. The CLTB also improves the surrounding neighborhood in which it is active and strengthens community life. The CLTB, therefore, is also a “community wealth building” initiative, maintaining control over the important resource (real estate) in the hands of the local community. This professional NGO is strongly committed to expanding the Community Land Trust model throughout Europe and beyond. They advocate for the model to address the growing problem of rising housing prices. In 2021, they won the golden World Habitat Award of UN-Habitat for their work.

## CLTB, Community Land Trust Brussels

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://www.cltb.be/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Community-Land-Trust-Bxl-351800664936072>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/communitylandtrustbrussels/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BrusselsCLT>

- **Contact info/Location:**

Address: Gulden Vlieslaan 72, 1060 Sint-Gillis, Brussel

Email: [info@cltb.be](mailto:info@cltb.be)

Phone: 02/840 61 49



## Tournevie



**City/Country:** Brussels/Belgium

**Year of establishment:** 2015

**Thematic area:** Economy

### Short description:

Tournevie runs an affordable and ecological tool library and a shared wood and metal workshop in Brussels. It offers a unique mix of circular and affordable services to citizens and associations who want to do odd jobs or repair, make or build something, and in the most social and ecological way possible. In concrete terms:

1. Tournevie offers access to +/- €100,000 worth of quality tools for only €40 per year (€20 for 1 month), with loan periods of 1 to 2 weeks. Commercial alternatives only allow you to rent one drill for one day for that price, and sharing platforms do not have such a wide range.
2. Tournevie offers introductory courses to learn how to use woodworking and metalworking machines, and puts a professionally equipped 350 m<sup>2</sup> workshop at people's disposal to practice and work on projects. Professional support is also available.
3. Tournevie offers sustainable, reused and/or locally sourced materials to carry out these projects, in standardised formats and conditions, so that they can be used easily and at low cost.

## Tournevie



With this, Tournevie lowers all the thresholds that exist today for people who want to carry out projects at minimal cost and with minimal impact on the environment, climate and use of materials: in terms of cost price, infrastructure (workshop), knowledge (training), and available materials in one place. Tournevie also offers an intangible advantage, which is a solution to the risks associated with shared use of tools. Wear and tear, repair and maintenance are built into the model, so the user does not have to worry if something goes wrong. The tool collection and the workshop are considered a commons, with the volunteers and the paid coordinator acting as stewards in order to maintain and expand the tool collection, safety etc. through a set of transparent internal and external rules. Tournevie brings people from all kinds of backgrounds, knowledge levels and preferences together around a social cause that responds to the needs of just about every citizen. In this way, Tournevie acts as a bridge between people with a wide range of (project) ideas. This ranges from exchanging tips to working out new (building) projects together. It is an open commons so anyone can join. Therefore, Tournevie is a tool in its own right, which allows people and organisations to realize their projects.

They are a non-profit initiative run almost entirely by a group of dedicated volunteers, although it has a paid coordinator for the workshop and one for the tool library. On average, 550 users and around 20 volunteers are involved in the initiative. Members are 50-50 male female and generally between 25 and 50 years old and come from very different socio-economic backgrounds. The volunteers come from all over Europe and have very different motivations for helping out. Some like working with their hands, others are looking for social interaction after retirement, again others are looking to develop their skills and yet others want to participate in a commons project that reduces resource use.

## Tournevie

Important decisions are made in consensus by the people who are most active in the organization, but any volunteer or member can make suggestions and carry out projects on the condition that they are in line with our strategic objectives, that they take the lead (rather than leaving the work to others) and that they always inform and involve others who are impacted by these actions where necessary.

They work with municipalities (Ixelles), citizens and civil society (Communa) alike. They partner up with the government and receive support from the Brussels region, Brussels communes, the Flemish and French community governments and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. Their main base of operation is in Maelbeek, but they have a smaller antenna in Ixelles, which is closed for the moment, but may reopen in the future. They seek to open up new Tournevie antennas elsewhere in Brussels.

The goal of Tournevie is to open up tool libraries in every Brussels municipality, which can only happen with financial help of local or regional governments. Rather than having one huge central hub, it's much more user-friendly, practical and useful to have a tool library in each neighborhood. The initiative helps to massively reduce waste, while stimulating repair and creating an alternative to the throwaway society. And it can be done by citizens self-organizing around a commons at a very low financial cost to the community and its users.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://www.tournevie.be/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tournevie/>

## Plan B Josaphat



**City/Country:** Brussels/Belgium

**Year of establishment:** 2020

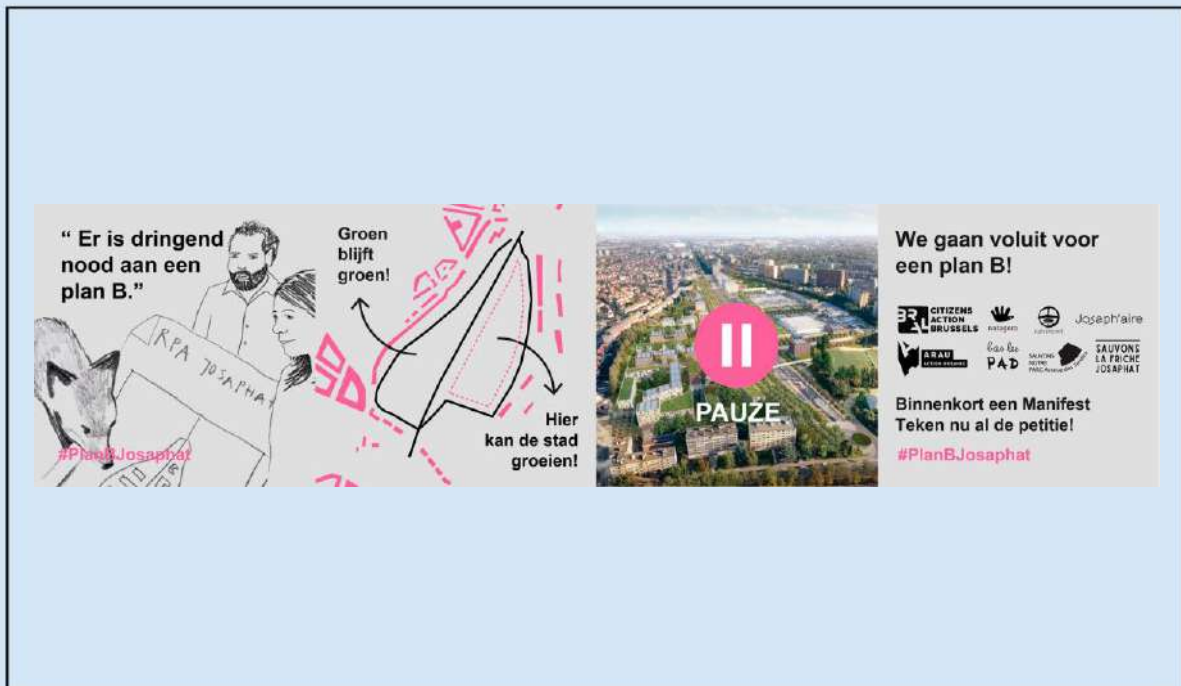
**Thematic area:** Environment, housing

**Short description:** Plan B Josaphat is a platform of associations, neighborhood committees, urban movements and activists trying to establish a new sustainable development plan for the former brownfield 'Josaphat' located in the North of Brussels. Ever since this old Schaerbeek-Josaphat marshaling yard fell out of use in 1994, nature has slowly taken back this site, a typical example of 'rewilding'. The area is divided into two parts: a rough, Western part where nature has resurfaced is able to flourish and an already built-up developed Eastern part. The Josaphat area is an important urban common in Brussels, a natural resource in terms of biodiversity and climate change that is now at risk of being erased by the redevelopment proposed by the Brussels' regional government. Plan B Josaphat proposes a co-creative planning process that protects the established nature and biodiversity in the area as well as provides ample housing to respond to the need for affordable housing in the city.

They launched a petition which has reached over 19.300 autographs and they created a social media campaign. They also wrote a manifesto in Dutch and French explaining their reasons to protest the plans of the government. In their manifesto, they offered an alternative, a 'plan b' for the brownfield Josaphat. Their main principle is simple: conserve nature and expand the city on the already built-up Eastern part. They called for co-creation with the government to make a better plan for the site, and offered several scenarios to create a better solution for the site.



## Plan B Josaphat



Plan B Josaphat had pointed out the many reasons why the government's plan did not suffice the biodiversity crisis, the climate change crisis with the city being prone to a severe heat-island effect and the necessity to infiltrate water into the soil. But the platform does not remain blind to the necessity of affordable housing in Brussels. They estimated that reconstructing the empty housing around the site and constructing on the eastern part of the site could lead to pretty much the same amount of housing as the ones that the government wants to build on top of breeding spots of migratory birds and bees.

'Plan B' combines grassroots protest with a co-creative attitude towards the government. They firmly protest the current plans of the Regional government, but they invite the government to cooperate for the future development of the area. In a video shared widely on social media, the platform reached out to the government. While the government mildly adapted its plans in an updated version. This was not a sufficient reply to the objections of the platform. In the ensuing public enquiry, the platform mobilized again en masse and called people to react unfavorably to the new plans of the government. This led to almost 2.000 official reactions of the public to the inquiry, which must have been a record for Brussels. It seems inevitable that the government will have to adapt its plans to the requests of the citizens in the near future.

## Plan B Josaphat

Plan B Josaphat concerns ARAU, BRAL, Bruxelles Nature, collectif Bas Les PAD, Comité Leopold III, Comité Mediapark, Josaph'aire, Natagora, Natuurpunt Brussel, Sauvons La Friche Josaphat, Sauvons le parc Avenue des Jardins, and author David Van Reybrouck. The video was made by the Brussels collective Dérive. The platform probably contained at its peak more than 30 volunteers and professionals. The Facebook group of Sauvons La Friche Josaphat, one of the activist groups, counts over 7.000 members. The platform combines people from the middle class from all ages, including nature volunteers, urbanists, youth, ... What is interesting about this initiative, is that it is a coalition between individual commoners and professional grass root organizations; the alter-politics performed by the coalition, working on an alternative for a development plan that would destroy this important urban common.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Dutch Manifesto: <https://bral.brussels/nl/artikel/het-manifesto-van-planbjosaphat-er>

French Manifesto: <https://bral.brussels/fr/artikel/sauver-la-biodiversit-de-la-friche-josaphat-tout-en-accueillant-de-nouveaux-logements>

Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/gouvernement-de-la-r%C3%A9gion-de-bruxelles-capitale-sauvons-la-friche-josaphat>

English video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsQwheXVI0w>

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/444448972824904>



## Wijk in Actie/Quartier en Action



**City/Country:** Brussels/Belgium

**Year of establishment:** 2017

**Thematic area:** Community development/urban renewal

### Short description:

Wijk in actie/Quartier en action is located in a small, former neighborhood shop in a very diverse and poor area of the city. You can find it in the Districts of Brabant and Gaucheret in Schaarbeek, and is split up by the northern railways. There are a lot of houses of poor quality, an increasing and already high population density, a high level of unemployment, low incomes, low education level, and so on. Moreover, due to its location, this part of the city is a transit area for commuters, customers of shops, visitors of prostitution etc. A good part of the population feels abandoned. Too often the problems of the neighborhood overshadow the potential of the residents.

The location has been "commoned" by a group of residents of the area. The residents renovated the place entirely and turned it into a community center. The residents govern the place and created a place to meet where they organize several activities such as a repair café, a gift shop, education aid and ... a place to meet. The place is now the heart of a growing network of solidarity between the residents. The neighborhood center Quartier en Action is run by "la Team", a group of 7 to 10 volunteers of mixt background when it comes to age, and qualifications but with rather precarious socio-economic situations. Together they take decisions about all the activities that are run in the neighborhood center.

## Wijk in Actie/Quartier en Action



They organise a clothing fair where everyone can drop off clothes they no longer need and can take what they need. They call up the elderly in the neighborhood to see how they are doing, if they need anything and to break through the isolation. They explain to mothers how they organise school support every Wednesday afternoon to children in primary and secondary school. They organise a repair café where residents can bring their broken appliances or other equipment and where a handyman helps to fix them. They have also organised a big street party during car free and everyone was amazed at how many children lived in their neighborhood and how lovely it was chatting with each other, getting to know one another. By organizing concrete actions, people discover one another and themselves. They make each other stronger and exchange experiences. Solidarity becomes a reality. The non-profit association EVA vzw has been active for many years in these districts. They noticed that the problems present there often smother the potential of the residents. EVA partnered in the project CitizenDev that sought to bring out the potential and the assets of residents to catalyze and develop communities. By giving the impulse to create the community center, the residents were empowered to search for solutions together and to combine the efforts to urge for improving and learning in their neighborhood. Citizens are responsible for the ins and outs of the community center.

The core group of Wijk in actie consists of about 7 people. There is a second circle of helpers of around 20 people. The focus lies on self management by deprived people, and the emancipatory potential of the community center. For: members of the core groupe mostly of economic lower class, retired or jobless, sometimes with migration history.

## Wijk in Actie/Quartier en Action

This initiative proves that commoning also exists in deprived areas, and is also being driven by people with migration history and in lower economic situations. It also proves that a prime social goal (coping with precarity) combines with environmental concerns (repair café, gift shop). The initiative collaborates with several governments : Innoviris (oproep Co-Create), het urban renewal contract Brabant Noord – Sint-Lazarus, Renovas en the municipality of Schaarbeek. The partners are Bral, CLTB, Saint-Louis, ULB, Maison Biloba Huis, Brede school Noord en diverse local partners and residents of the district of Brabant.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://www.citizendev.be/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100017388937458>

- **Contact info/Location:**

Phone: 02/274 01 90

Email: [secretariaat@evabxl.be](mailto:secretariaat@evabxl.be) ,

Address: Groenstraat 97, 1030 Schaarbeek



# Initiatives from Turkey

Prepared by:

Ankara Aile ve Sosyal  
Hizmetler İl Müdürlüğü





## Genç İşi Kooperatif



**City/Country:** İzmir/Turkey

**Year of establishment:** 2015

**Thematic area:** Scientific research, development and education

### **Short description:**

Genç İşi Kooperatif is a Scientific Research and Development Education Cooperative registered by the General Directorate of Cooperatives. It is also a social cooperative that does not distribute dividends to its members. It is a member of the 51<sup>st</sup> Vocational, Scientific and Technical Activities Professional Group of the İzmir Chamber of Commerce. It is a full member of the International Cooperative Union Youth Network. It aims to build an egalitarian, democratic and sustainable economy through cooperatives.

## Genç İşi Kooperatif



It operates as follows:

- Without a boss – The cooperative does not have a boss, it is based on horizontal relationships. The right of choice and voluntariness are essential.
- Equal pay for equal work – Each of the partners and volunteers working in the cooperative earns the same unit wage for the effort they spend.
- Fair share – The cooperative takes 20 percent of the earnings for administrative expenses and divides the remainder among the workers according to the time they have worked.
- Competent staff – The cooperative employs experts in the field. Each partner takes part in jobs that are compatible with their education and experience.
- Collective and participatory – Work and outcomes are collective, not individual. Studies are always carried out together with solution partners.
- Learning together – The cooperative does not offer prescriptions. The main thing is to find the solution together. They learn from our mistakes and work for the better.



## Genç İŖi Kooperatif

The cooperative program consists of three main components:

1. Developing the capacity of social solidarity economy components and especially cooperatives
2. Raising knowledge and awareness about cooperatives
3. Increasing its partners' access to decent work and livelihoods through the execution of activities

The cooperative carries out activities within the scope of cooperatives consultancy and advocacy, project development and implementation, field research and data analysis, strategic consultancy and capacity building. Some of its activities are as follows:

- Cooperatives Without Borders,
- Social Cooperative Training for Youth,
- Social Cooperative Organization Studies,
- Social Cooperative Training for Local Governments,
- Social Cooperative Training for Grassroots Organizations, Responsive Enterprises Conference,
- Youth at Work Project Field Research,
- Social Cooperatives Research Report,
- Employment, Education and Social Policies Sectoral Operational Program (IESP SOP) 7th Sectoral Monitoring Committee Meeting - Advisory Service

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://gencisi.org/en/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/gencisikoop>

Facebook: <https://tr-tr.facebook.com/gencisikoop/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/gen%C3%A7-i%C5%9Fi-kooperatif-youth-deal-cooperative-/?originalSubdomain=tr>

- **Contact info/Location:**

Mansurođlu, 286/1. Sk. No:1 D:215, 35030 Bayraklı/İzmir - [Map](#)

## Havsa Kadın Giriřimcileri Üretim ve İşletme Kooperatifi



**City/Country:** Edirne/Turkey

**Year of establishment:** 2019

**Thematic area:** Entrepreneurship, organic homemade food, marketing

### Short description:

The cooperative was established in 2019 with the support of Edirne Governorship and Havsa Municipality, by coming together with the will of eight women. The cooperative was established to produce products that can be sold by home-based women within the scope of production planning and to promote local flavors. It is aimed to support the existence of women in all areas of life and to strengthen them socially. The local bakery products that they produce at homes and sell in Municipal Neighborhood Markets are now made in the cooperative's workshop, and they are sold at sales points and sales points in different parts of the country, with the name approved by the Turkish patent institute and with the barcode system that should be in retail sales.

## Havsa Kadın Girişimcileri Üretim ve İşletme Kooperatifi



### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: [www.havsakadinkoop.com](http://www.havsakadinkoop.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Havsa-Kad%C4%B1n-Kooperatifi-692011481169474/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/havsakadinkoop/?hl=en>

- **Contact info/Location:**

Fatih cad Cumhuriyet mah. No: 168 kat:2 (5.553,59 km), Havsa, Edirne

## UDEF



**City/Country:** İstanbul, Turkey

**Year of establishment:** 2005

**Thematic area:** Culture, education, social inclusion

### **Short description:**

UDEF, a large civil society movement with the participation of 68 associations and UDEF volunteers in 75 cities in Turkey, has the identity of the largest international student association in the field of student studies in Turkey. The association's activities under the umbrella of UDEF include dozens of activities under the heading of education and social work. The content, time periods and responsibilities of these activities are determined in coordination between the associations and planned on site at the highest level. As part of social studies, social and sporting activities, history and cultural trips are organized. Activities such as international student meetings, international student picnics, summer and winter camps and holiday programs are organized so that guest students get to know the social, cultural and social structure of the country and do not feel alone in Turkey. The number of students reached by UDEF member associations is over 60,000. UDEF conducts orientation and advisory services, introductory meetings, country meetings as well as meetings of voluntary country representatives.



## UDEF



In addition to social, cultural and educational activities, associations within UDEF meet the needs of students in terms of residence permits, scholarships, accommodation needs, advisory and advisory services as well as bureaucratic problems.

Some of its activities are as follows:

- International Student Meeting: It is a program that aims to ensure that international students who come to Turkey for university and high school education are known and recognized by the public. These students who are guests in the country gain organizational skills, get to know the country better, introduce their own country and meet with Turks.
- International Student Symposium: The aim of the International Student Symposium is to draw attention to the phenomenon of international students who do not receive sufficient academic attention in Turkey and to create academic literature.

## UDEF



- Academic studies: The priority of the UDEF Academy is to identify, research and report the problems of international students in Turkey, and to send them to the necessary state institutions and non-governmental organizations, and to develop new national and local policies in this direction and to add new perspectives to the studies.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://www.udef.org.tr/en/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/udeforgtr>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/udeforgtr>

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_IVz5-dDs89Q\\_wo02bv07Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_IVz5-dDs89Q_wo02bv07Q)

- **Contact info/Location:**

Defterdar, 1 & Fethi Çelebi Çıkmaşı Defterdar Mahallesi Eyüp İstanbul Turkey 34050, Fethi Çelebi Cd, 34050 Eyüpsultan/İstanbul - [Map](#)

## Buğday Ekolojik Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği



**City/Country:** İstanbul/Turkey

**Year of establishment:** 2002

**Thematic area:** Ecological agriculture

### Short description:

Buğday Ekolojik Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği aims to create awareness and sensitivity for ecological life in individuals and in the society as a whole, and to offer solutions to the problems that arise as a result of the irreversible deterioration of ecological balances and to support a life in harmony with nature.

### Organizational Chart:

- General Assembly
- Board of Managements + Advisory Board + General Manager + Projects Coordinator = Strategy Board Members
- General Manager + Projects Coordinator
- Coordination Board (Composed of Working Group Coordinators)

The primary methods it follows while working for these purposes are creating examples, supporting existing ones, and ensuring the free circulation of information. Buğday Ekolojik Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği organizes events, workshops and conversations for those in need, where they can be informed in every aspect of ecological life and be inspired by the experiences in this field.



## Buğday Ekolojik Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği



Buğday Ekolojik Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği promoting sustainable farming methods that do not harm the environment and human health; protecting and sustaining productions in the traditional process; contributing to the survival of human communities whose settlements, production and consumption and lives are in harmony with nature; supporting examples living in this area, creating new examples and supporting their sustainability; redefining human needs in harmony with ecosystem cycles; support and implementation of production and consumption patterns and technologies that correspond to natural needs; It carries out projects to create areas of activity in order to inform individuals and develop their skills so that they can live in nature and their environment, and to develop and implement a tourism approach that provides information and culture exchange.

### Current Projects:

- %100 Ekolojik Pazarlar
- TaTuTa – Ekolojik Çiftliklerde Tarım Turizmi ve Gönüllü Bilgi, Tecrübe Takası
- Zehirsiz Sofralar
- Zehirsiz Kentlere Doğru
- Akdeniz Agroekoloji Kervanı
- Gündül’de Gıda Topluluklarıyla Agroekolojik Dönüşüm
- Haklara Destek Programı



## Buğday Ekolojik Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği



Some of the international associations of which it is a member are as follows:

- ACR+ Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management
- WWOOF – World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms
- ECEAT – European Centre for Ecological and Agricultural Tourism
- IFOAM – The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
- Pan Europe – Pesticide Action Network Europe
- European Community Seed Banks

**For more info:**

- **Social media:** Website: <https://www.bugday.org/blog/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bugdaydernegi/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bugdaydernegi/?originalSubdomain=do>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/bugdaymedya>

- **Contact info/Location:**

Osmanağa, Kısmet Apt, Mürver Çiçeği Sk. No:5 D:No: 4, 34714 Kadıköy/İstanbul - [Map](#)

## GENÇ BANK



**City/Country:** İstanbul/Turkey

**Year of establishment:** 2011

**Thematic area:** Participation in local life, empowerment of the youth

### **Short description:**

GençBank is a youth work model coordinated by TOG and hosted by local institutions since 2011.

The project, which is part of the international “YouthBank Network” and supported by the C.S Mott Foundation; It is a youth grant program that aims to empower young people, increase their participation in local life, support their personal development and make positive contributions to the places they live.

Institutions such as local youth NGOs, youth centers, youth work units of municipalities and district governors become the partners of the project in the local area where they are hosted. Thanks to GençBank, all young people between the ages of 15 and 25 come up with ideas for the problems or needs they see in their local area and implement these ideas with the support of their peers.

## GENÇ BANK



A group of young people who come together within the body of local institution partners in each locality become the executives of this grant program. The executive team, which carries out activities regarding the distribution of the grant they have, supports their peers' project ideas such as social responsibility, youth and education with small grants. The executive team mobilizes their peers through activities such as activating young people to produce social responsibility projects, enabling them to establish relationships with local governments, improving their social skills, consultancy and peer training during project implementation phases. Youth; strengthened in the areas of active participation and citizenship; they are supported to develop a solution-oriented approach by making social initiatives for the problems they see; they develop important skills for their future employment, such as budget management, project management, resource development, and acquire attitudes towards coexistence by breaking prejudices in the areas where they come together with young people from other localities.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GencBankTOG/>



# Initiatives from Romania

Prepared by:  
Municipiul Fagaras





## YouthBank Fagaras



**City/Country:** Fagaras/Romania

**Year of establishment:** 2013

**Thematic area:** Youth participation, community development

### Short description:

Launched in 2013 in Făgăraș, YouthBank offers young people the opportunity to work together and make decisions for the community they belong to. Every year in Romania, on average, 15 young people from each city where the YouthBank program is implemented, aged between 15 and 20, known as “the youngest bankers in Romania” constitute, promote and transparently manage a special fund for financing and implementing projects by high school students. It is a mechanism that encourages young people's behaviors related to: philanthropy, civic initiative and responsibility. Principles and values:

1. The program is run by young people;
2. The program is open to all young people;
3. Participation and equal rights;
4. Promoting understanding and respect for differences;
5. Clear and correct methods in the financing process;
6. Use clear language;
7. Developing skills and enriching the experience of young people;
8. Reflection and evaluation;
9. Celebration, fun!

## YouthBank Fagaras



### Benefits:

The YouthBank program believes in young people, their creativity and their potential to change the world around them, which is why:

- Encourages the involvement of young people in community life and taking active roles in supporting others;
- Offers young people the opportunity to spend their free time in a way that protects them from dangerous attractions and, on the contrary, to involve them in positive actions from which they have to learn;

YouthBank is an excellent personal development school. Through the direct involvement of young people in community actions, they gain confidence in their own strengths, acquire communication, negotiation, financial management and leadership skills. The activities of the YouthBank program provide young people with the right framework to develop their personal skills, to reach their full potential and to discover themselves. Because during the program young people have access to information, specialized training or activities that would not normally have been available to them, the development of young people is one of the main priorities of YouthBank.

## YouthBank Fagaras

YouthBank Făgăraș in figures:

- 2013 - 2021: 156 members / 6 highschools involved / 40 projects financed / more than 6.000 beneficiaries;

**For more info:**

- **Social media:**

Website: <http://youthbank.fundatiactf.ro>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YouthBank.Fagaras/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/youthbankfagaras/>

- **Contact info/Location:**

România - Făgăraș – B-dul Unirii 1C –

[Map](#)

## Participatory Budgeting



**City/Country:** Fagaras/Romania

**Year of establishment:** 2019

**Thematic area:** Citizen involvement, community development, mobility, accessibility, traffic safety, open spaces, educational and cultural infrastructure and health, digital city

### Short description:

Participatory budgeting aims to involve the citizens of Făgăraș city in a democratic, open, inclusive and transparent process of deliberation and decision to establish the optimal way to spend part of the local budget. The process involves the assumption by citizens of a role of active participants in defining and addressing the issues of the community to which they belong. Participatory budgeting is a process through which the ideas and initiatives of the Făgăraș community become reality.

Participatory budgeting has the following objectives:

1. Increasing the level of dialogue and collaboration between citizens and public administration;
2. Adjusting public policies to the needs and expectations of citizens, in order to improve the quality of life in Făgăraș city;
3. Increasing the degree of assumption and co-creation of the urban development process by the citizens;
4. Strengthening democracy by involving citizens in a community-wide decision-making exercise;
5. Increasing the transparency of the local public administration activity.



## Participatory Budgeting



Participatory budgeting helps citizens:

- Express the problems they face and propose solutions to solve them;
- Make their voice heard, be understood and see that their opinion really matters;
- Formulate their own ideas and initiatives to make life better and more pleasant in their neighborhood and city;
- Participate effectively in the public expenditure prioritization and management;
- Have the opportunity to turn their ideas into community projects;
- Actively participate in the implementation and follow-up of their projects;

Through this tool, the citizens of Făgăraș identify the small problems of their community and propose solutions to solve them in the form of projects. These proposed projects are evaluated by a committee appointed for this purpose by the Local Council of Făgăraș Municipality and, after validation, the projects are submitted to the vote of the citizens. The projects that meet the highest number of votes are implemented by Făgăraș City Hall.

Făgăraș Municipality launched Participatory Budgeting in 2019 and so far 5.583 citizens have registered on the <https://bp.primaria-fagaras.ro/> platform.

## Participatory Budgeting

### For more info:

- **Law references:**

<https://bp.primaria-fagaras.ro/regulament/>

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://bp.primaria-fagaras.ro/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bpfagaras/>

<https://www.facebook.com/bugetare.participativa.2019>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bpfagaras>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5FJ0RNmTfLXEZwtke-Osuw>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/bparticipativfgs/pins/>

- **Contact info/Location:**

România - Făgăraș - Republicii 3 -

[Map](#)

## Mândra Chic



**City/Country:** Brasov/Romania

**Year of establishment:** 2010

**Thematic area:** cultural identity, contemporary dowry, Romanian ethnography and symbolism, local and national values

**Short description:** Mândra Chic – quilting bee workshop is a fairy-tale place, in the village of Mândra, in Făgăraș County. A project aimed to recover and promote local and national values. An oasis of cultural resistance, a place where women who sew and crochet sprucely meet, where they study sources of heritage in Romanian ethnography, reuse parts of valuable but destroyed pieces, embroider, rediscover ancient techniques, innovate, adapt authentic values to contemporary language and shape, so that the story can be carried on. Mândra Chic is a complex concept, which includes a quilting bee workshop in which contemporary dowry pieces are created, but also a museum – a small cultural center, an international travel project, ethnographic or #culturalfashion collections, social, civic and environment campaigns, education scholarships, creative and local development workshops for children and adults. Everything is interconnected!

Mândra Chic's objectives: An identity approach meant to build bridges between the roots and the contemporary becoming of each of us! A plea project for the rediscovery, conservation and promotion of the Romanian, authentic, product, inspired by Romanian culture and origins and the support of the little local artisan. A project designed as a sustainable alternative to mass-produced products. A project that covers not only our body but also our soul. Authentic artistic infusion, in modern print, in most cases in the form of a cultural manifesto!

## Mândra Chic



### Mândra Chic Projects:

- **THE QUILTING BEE WORKSHOP:** Inside the workshop, contemporary dowry pieces are created in the form of a cultural manifesto, inspired by Romanian symbolism and tradition.
- **THE MUSEUM OF STORIES AND FABRICS:** The museum is a small cultural center and exhibition space for ethnographic, visual art or cultural fashion collections, host for social, civic and environmental campaigns, education scholarships and creative and development workshops for children and adults in the community, projects of local cultural identity. It is a family project, dedicated to the people and stories of the area, coordinated by Alina and Ioana Zară, which hosts collections of canvases – specific old dowry pieces, collections of stories, under different forms (postcards, volumes, exhibitions), Mândra Chic workshops but also projects dedicated, free of charge, to children in the community, guided tours, an international travel project and a traditional garden, specific to the village, with vegetables and fruit trees.
- **MOTHER RUȚA'S SHUTTLE AROUND THE WORLD:** “Mother Ruța's shuttle around the world” is an international travel project with over 1 million km in its portfolio. For more than 10 years, it has been tirelessly carrying the story of the local cultural identity, of old or contemporary dowry pieces all over the world and bringing the stories of the world home to the Museum of Fabrics and Stories in Mândra. In the Romanian press it is often classified as "one of the most tender international travel projects", and the Shuttle as "the most famous shuttle in the world, after Penelope's".



## Mândra Chic

### ATELIERELE DE VARĂ PENTRU COPII:

“Mândra Summer Workshops” is the soul project of the Museum of Fabrics and Stories, dedicated, exclusively and free of charge, to the children of the village. The project has been running annually, without interruption, since 2012. It is the way in which the initiators understand to return to the community Romanian essence, authentic dowry, stories, joy and wings to continue to fly.

The workshops are possible thanks to the beautiful people who bought products from the contemporary dowry workshop Mândra Chic.

A large part of the profit is reinvested, annually, in local education and development, through community involvement: they opened the “Mândra Chic Local Education and Development Fund” at the Țara Făgăraș Community Foundation - a large part of the money from the sale of objects made in the workshop are thus used exclusively in the project dedicated to children.

It aims to develop the active-creative side and the personality of each participant, help discover old roots, real authenticity, the world beyond the village and it offers children a special alternative to spend part of their summer vacation.

### Why is the Mandra Chic initiative innovative?

Because it rewrites, in contemporary language, to the understanding of the new generations, pieces of Romanian identity, it helps to carry the local symbolism and stories further, through time and space and creates a favorable context for transmitting manifest messages, as a form of cultural resistance!

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <http://mandrachic.blogspot.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100044440989268>

<https://fb.watch/b3ZjNKcfsq/> (Muzeul de pânze și povești)

Instagram: .....

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0Rvt9uik1> (Mandra Chic.ro zestre contemporană românească)

- **Contact info/Location:**

România - Mândra - Strada Principală 241, -

[Map](#)

## Asociația Copiilor Universului Magic



**City/Country:** Fagaras/Romania

**Year of establishment:** 2020

**Thematic area:** Community growth

### Short description:

Passionate people change the World!

A C U M (N O W) ... is a group of individuals who set up Asociația Copiilor Universului Magic (Magic Universe Children's Association). This project started from the belief that reality can be fastly changed by those who love what they do and do what they love. Such individuals radiate something one cannot put into words, something that nurtures communities and inspires change in people around. They refuse to accept "no can do" attitudes or "small town constraints" excuses and they have the belief that only subconscious beliefs may either set limits or give people and communities "wings". For the future of our society they think that what we feed our youth's minds is of extreme importance. All the activities developed by A C U M target leadership development for Făgăraș County and for Romania.

How do they do it?: They develop events and projects, some of which born out of youth ideas and they incubate them in such a way to make young people feel that their ideas and involvement matters and brings real value to the community, makes them feel that it is worth working for their ideas and passions to become reality and feel that here, „at home” they can be part of quality projects that are appreciated both at a national and international level.

## Asociația Copiii Universului Magic



A C U M team believes in a prosperous Făgăraș County with no pollution, to become Romanians' top travel destination, be it for hiking, running, cross country biking or any other way of actively enjoying nature. Because the area has two huge resources: the widest natural diversity in Romania and the youth starting to feel that they belong here, constaltly realizing that their passion creates reality around them, who start doing what they love and loving what they do.

Organization chart: 13 associate members. Board with 5 members: member, community vice president, action and field activities vice president, sustainability, efficiency and ecology vice president, president.

Present projects of ACUM:

- Cleaning the Galați Hills area, Făgăraș

The 2021 winter cleaning initiated by the 17 years old Cătălin Buta, done by 8 A C U M volunteers, resulting in 42 garbage sacks collected and the 2021 spring cleaning, a continuation of the winter project while joining a bigger cleaning event, Mănușa de Aur, with 35 A C U M volunteers involved, resulting in 115 garbage sacks collected.

- Development of new mountain tourist routes in Făgăraș Mountains and rehabilitation of the existing ones

Initiating and designing two new mountain tourist routes in Făgăraș Mountains, Babei Ridge and Hermeneasa Ridge, involving 46 A C U M volunteers. Organizations attracted and involved: The Mountain Rescue Service, ATEC Berivoi, SKV Țara Făgărașului, AMC Făgăraș.

## Asociația Copiii Universului Magic

Design and authorization of the new routes is ongoing and will be finalized in the summer of 2022. Rehabilitation of 55 km of mountain tourist routes, involving 45 A C U M volunteers plus a national level NGO, Asociația Montană Carpați.

A helicopter supported delivery of 22 de poles on the ridge of Făgăraș Mountains and volunteers planted them on 19 km of mountain tourist routes. Collaboration with the The Mountain Rescue Service, the General Aviation Direction of the Internal Affairs Ministry, with 8 A C U M volunteers and 27 volunteers from all Romania involved.

- Organizing outdoor sport events as context for developing the potential of young people, crew + volunteers, for transforming the touristic potential of the county and for introducing healthy habits in Făgăraș County community.

Alergăraș în Făgăraș – trail and urban running event, 480 participants from all over the country in the 1st edition, 126 volunteers, 17 km of path on the hills which needed mowing, unique effort in Romania. The feedback after this first edition shows huge potential for growth and impact in the community.

Făgăraș Rocks! – mountain running event, with 502 participants from all the country and abroad in the 2nd edition, 170 volunteers, 5 races crossing the Eastern part of Făgăraș Mountains, from 12 la 72 km. On the way to entering top 3 mountain running events in Romania and entering international circuits.

Central Stage – Cyclocross National Cup, 54 participants, 26 volunteers, 4 races on a 2.4 km completely crafted track. The idea and plan of a 18 years old young man and the work of a group of teenagers.

They used the opportunity to develop a events organizing team made of teenagers who feel themselves relevant this way, who feel their ideas worth manifested, who believe in themselves, in the team and Făgăraș city potential.

The Negru Vodă UltraSkyrace project – a 80 km mountain running ultramarathon race that crosses the Făgăraș mountains from North to South, on the path of the founder of the first Romanian state formation.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: [www.fagaras.rocks](http://www.fagaras.rocks) // [www.alergaras.ro](http://www.alergaras.ro)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/9acum/?ti=as>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/9acum/> // <https://www.instagram.com/fagarasrocks/>

- **Contact info/Location:**

România – Veneția de Sus - [Map](#)



## ALBASTRU



**City/Country:** Braşov/România

**Year of establishment:** 2020

**Thematic area:** Local identity, community involvement, restoration, vernacular architecture

**Short description:** "Albastru" ("Blue") is the name of an independent cultural project born around a series of movies, photos and meetings with passionate people.

The educational program in Şona, based on the meeting between architecture and the other arts, was planned for ten years and was initiated by the Monumentum Association, "Ştefan Câlţia" Foundation, in partnership with "Şona noastră" village association. Promoters of the initiative have been communicating constantly their love to the Transylvanian and Romanian heritage together with the need to protect all the valuable elements in rural areas.

Monumentum Association has created an impressive archive of photographs taken in over 100 villages in Southern Transylvania, photographs of houses, windows, courtyards and gates. Photographs that are now valuable to be able to reconstruct or restore everything that collapses or is destroyed by time or human action. One hundred years ago, entire villages were blue, or at least 50% of the houses were blue on the outside and 70% were blue on the inside. Ştefan Vaida, a member of the association, has painted around 8 blue houses and has many friends who have brought ultramarine blue to their yards or walls, in neighboring villages and coordinates restoration workshops in Transylvanian villages or hosts cultural events in his own backyard: brunches, concerts, conferences, workshops, screenings.

## ALBASTRU



How they did it:

During the filming of "The Blue Left Among Us" movie, the promoters identified many corners of Şona village that could have regained their former brilliance and color and began to dream. They organized a teaching-construction site with Monumentum Association volunteers, young graduates or students in the fields of Architecture, Restoration, Art History, Archeology, Cultural Tourism, who usually safeguard historical monuments around the country through the projects of the Monuments' Ambulance association and who decided to spend their free time in the fall of 2020 in Şona.

They chose two double gable roof facades, with an obvious need for repair, talked to the owners, the representatives of "Our Şona" village association and began the process of restoration of the facades that lasted about three weeks. On the teaching-construction site, plasters based on quicklime paste and sand were used, according to the traditional recipe; old fish scale tiles and old bricks recovered from the village were reused; ultramarine blue, steel rods for the tie beams and steel band clamps produced in the village ironworks were used during the works.

"Our Şona" village association was involved, through its representative, the volunteer Mihaela Frăţilă and contributed to the identification of houses with vernacular architecture, whose facades could be introduced in the restoration process. She maintained relations and communication with the owners of the houses, with the villagers. She opened the Lazarus Ironworks to make together with a blacksmith the tie beams for the facades.

## ALBASTRU

### Involvement of the local community in Șona

For the promoters, reusing is very important. The villagers donated traditional construction materials: handmade bricks, old fish scale tiles, in good condition, steel band clamps. The villagers were also the ones who lent tools to the volunteers or helped with advice. The villagers donated meals, local products, cakes baked by the local ladies, some participated in the construction site in order to learn the restoration techniques, they helped to remove the vegetation and opened their houses to lodge volunteers.

### The results of the restoration process

The facades of houses with vernacular architecture have been repaired. The promoters believe a lot in the architecture that uses local recovered materials, as the walls built by craftsmen more than a century ago present it to us. There were proud features, solid constructions, beautiful brick and stone combinations, carvings and beams masterfully carved. If local elements made it by now, we have a duty to understand them, to try to protect them, to preserve and repair them.

They do not know what 2022 will look like, but things have started to move around an idea and around a fabulous place, which has been waiting for decades to be saved.

### Benefits:

Rehabilitation of the built rural heritage and highlighting the intangible heritage of the rural area by carrying out appropriate actions to rehabilitate traditional buildings.

Reaffirming the importance of local identity and specificity, which implies the need to protect the cultural heritage and raise awareness within the community on the value of the latter.

### For more info:

#### Social media:

Website: <http://albastru.ro>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/albastru.ro/>

<https://www.facebook.com/asociatiamonumentum/>

<https://www.facebook.com/sonanoastra/>

- **Contact info/Location:**

România – Șona - <https://goo.gl/maps/41BCm6JxEFHscRRD7>



# Initiatives from the Netherlands

Prepared by:

Open UP Let Youth Be Heard





## Neighbourhood Centre De Meervaart



**City/Country:** Amsterdam, the Netherlands

**Year of establishment:** 2013

**Thematic area:** Citizens' inclusion

De Meevaart is a unique community center in the Indian neighborhood where residents with diverse backgrounds, interests, nationalities, ages and genders can find their place and perform activities. A place where visitors, users and employees feel ownership of the building and do their best to improve the facilities and the organization and to improve and maintain the atmosphere in the neighborhood.

Nearly 23,000 people live in the Indian neighborhood. People of 183 nationalities live together and meet each other in the neighborhood center De Meevaart. In addition to physical spaces, De Meevaart also needs an atmosphere in which everyone feels at home. The efforts of the volunteers are very important for this.

## Neighbourhood Centre De Meervaart



### Short description:

De Meevaart is a pioneer in creating new relationships between government, social workers and residents in the Indische Buurt. This takes place in consultation with the residents of the Indies neighbourhood, the local government and the institutions involved, i.e. co-creation. The management model and the management and exploitation plan are geared to this. De Meevaart wants to continue formulating activities and services in this triangle and to be seen as an equal partner by the government.

### Organizational chart:

De Meevaart is carried by volunteers because without the unbridled commitment of volunteers and interns. De Meevaart cannot exist. Their contribution makes it possible to keep De Meevaart open 90 hours a week for the many residents' initiatives.

In addition to the volunteers and interns, De Meevaart has a small business office that is run by a team of paid employees (2.3 FTE) and volunteers. They perform tasks in the areas of general management, communication, (financial) administration, room rental, technology, building management, system management, mentorship and support bite.

## Neighbourhood Centre De Meervaat

### Current projects

Together Forward, it's the Indian neighborhood's turn!

Samen Vooruit is a neighborhood initiative for further strengthening the Indische Buurt and the strength of residents, through co-creation with residents, professionals and the municipality on joint neighborhood programs.

Indian Neighborhood Desk

[www.indischebuurtbalie.nl](http://www.indischebuurtbalie.nl)

The Indische Buurtbalie is an online neighborhood platform. Any organization or resident can create a profile and become a member of the Indische Buurtbalie. After that, every member can publish on the platform. That can be an activity, you can register an organization or project, spread a message, express a wish, or even place something in the supply and demand category.

The Kitchen Collective – <https://www.hetkeukencollectief.org/>

This initiative combines experienced neighborhood chefs who have learned to cook in community kitchens on a voluntary basis, with a commercial local online meal delivery service that serves both vulnerable people and the middle class.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://meevaart.nl/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/demeevaart>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/meevaart/>



## De Nieuwe Meent



**City/Country:** Amsterdam/the Netherlands

**Year of establishment:** 2019

**Thematic area:** Citizens' housing cooperative

### Short description:

DNM is a housing cooperative rooted in the housing rights movement and branches towards an integrated urban common of the 21st century. DNM offers a mix of independent social housing units and shared apartments for living groups, all sharing communal facilities as well as offering public spaces accessible for the neighborhood and city.

This is why the cooperative is called Nieuwe Meent (from the old Dutch word for Commons): because the cooperative is organized entirely around the principles of shared use and management of resources. By combining affordable housing, shared living, social care and solidarity economy, the cooperative contributes to a more sustainable, inclusive and fair society.

The plot is located in Watergraafsmeer, Amsterdam Oost. It connects to a quiet residential area with an intimate scale and a distinctly green character, but also has a side to the Science Park station square. The free standing building is spatially well connected to both aspects of the environment and aims to be an inviting presence in the neighborhood.



## De Nieuwe Meent



### Organizational chart

#### Meentvergadering

The Meentvergadering is most important organ of the association. It brings together tenants, users, enthusiasts, and neighbours who can participate in work groups and take decisions by consensus.

#### Meentraad

This is the official meeting place of tenants and legal members of the association. The Meentraad will approve and carry out decisions based on the outcome of the Meentvergadering.

#### Meentbestuur

The Meentbestuur consists of a board of directors appointed by the Meentraad. Most powers are delegated as much as possible to self-organised committees of members.

#### Comité voor de meent

External advisors appointed by the Meentvergadering participate in the Comité voor de Meent, such as the original designers of the building, affiliated housing organisations, public officials or former residents.

## De Nieuwe Meent

### Workgroups

#### Community

Responsibilities: roadmap for new members, community building campaigns, diversifying dNM, organizing public events, onboarding new people, networking with coops and partners, relations with neighborhood, Nieuwland & municipality and more

#### Design

Responsibilities: relay with architects and sustainability advisors, research on architecture and sustainability, co-design process, synthesizing design decisions, pulling the design team and building team and more.

#### Legal

Responsibilities: developing admission policy, drafting contracts, contact with municipality, developing statutes, bylaws & house rules and more.

#### Finance

Responsibilities: bookkeeping, subsidies & funds applications, contact investors, coordinate crowdfunding campaign, setting up loans, liquidity plan and more.

#### Media

Responsibilities: documentation, supporting finance with crowdfunding campaign, newsletter and social media, maintain website, developing tools for DNM management and more.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://nieuwemeent.nl/en/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nieuwemeent>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nieuwemeent/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/woonco%C3%B6peratie-de-nieuwe-meent/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRG2uoxDDxE>

## Herenboeren



**City/Country:** Boxtel/the Netherlands

**Year of establishment:** 2012

**Thematic area:** Sustainable agriculture

### Short description:

A road towards nature-driven, socially connected, economically supported food systems for everyone in the Netherlands.

Herenboeren began in Boxtel in the Dutch province of Brabant in 2015. Working with each other and a professional farmer, this Farming Community has succeeded in developing a different method of food production. A place where food production takes place in synergy with regeneration of the soil, landscape and nature, community building and economic renewal.

What began in 2012 with a thought experiment has developed into a concept, a practice and a movement. The first Herenboeren Farm in Boxtel is up and running and, at the time of writing (late 2018), more than fifteen concrete initiatives are in development. The next Farm opens its doors in 2019.

## Herenboeren



How does it work?

At least once a year, an inventory is made within the cooperative of what the 200 member households want to eat. This involves the experiences of the previous season and that of the farmer. Which products do we want more of, which less and which new crops are we introducing on the farm?

The wishes of the members are discussed with the farmer via the board and compared to the physical condition of the land. Which crops are successful, which crops are doing less well (now) and which buttons can the farmer turn. Once or twice a year, this results in an up-to-date cultivation plan that the farmer can use.

This cultivation plan is ticked off in the general members' meeting that is held once or twice a year. This is also where the budget is established, the annual accounts are approved and current affairs on the farm are discussed. The members' meeting also decides on the contribution, making investments or organizing events.



## Herenboeren

### Management

All activities are prepared and carried out by an elected unpaid board. The board has a minimum of three members and ideally reflects the members. The board organizes, regulates, budgets and decides on matters for which it is competent. What that authority is, is stated in the articles of the association and the internal regulations. Both have been prepared by the board and ratified by the members. The board is also responsible for accounting, internal and external communication and maintaining contact with the farmer.

### The three principles of Farming Communities

The three principles of Farming Communities are explained in more detail below. The principles reinforce each other and overlap, which is precisely where the ultimate goals become clear:

#### Nature-driven food production systems

The starting point in a nature-driven food production system is the power and complexity, and the developing and coping capacity, of natural processes. Observe and read nature, make her work for you, work with her rather than against her; that makes the whole stronger.

#### Socially connected organisations

The local community makes these cooperatives or businesses possible, helps to devise and develop them and buys their products. These are also the people who reap the benefits of a livable, green environment, and of the social cohesion that results from these forms of local cooperation.

#### Economically supported businesses

Taking care of the land, each other and the bigger picture forms the basis of every Farming Community and shows how we can evolve from an economy of “takers” to an economy of “care takers”. In practice, this means reversing the supply chain.

This means that the farmer earns a fair wage and that food and a healthy living environment for the many are more important than monetary gain for the few.

### For more info:

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://www.herenboeren.nl/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/herenboeren/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/herenboeren>

## Energy Cooperation Westerlicht



**City/Country:** Amsterdam New West/the Netherlands

**Year of establishment:** 2019

**Thematic area:** Sustainable energy

### Short description:

EC Westerlicht is the energy cooperative of and for residents of Amsterdam New-West. Westerlicht brings residents of Amsterdam New-West together to encourage the switch to a sustainable energy supply. Westerlicht also produces sustainable energy itself by exploiting solar panels on buildings. Westerlicht helps residents to purchase solar panels in their own neighborhood and it provides information about better insulation and alternative energy sources. Westerlicht is committed to sustainability, to a clean and sustainable city, but also to an inclusive city. That is why we combine clean with together.

### Organizational chart

The organizational structure of EC Westerlicht is based on democratic principles. Members control the cooperative through a Board of Directors that they elect from among themselves. The Board of Directors makes the policies subject to approval of the members through the General Assembly.

The board was elected at the general members' assembly on September 24, 2019. The board is composed of a Chairman, Treasurer and a secretary.

## Energy Cooperation Westerlicht



### How does it work?

EC Westerlicht's Energy coaches will visit residents for free and together they will look at where you can easily save energy. They are volunteers who have received extensive training. They can look at where you can save for free and sometimes, they advise you to replace things to become more economical. They can be a godsend, especially for households with a low income and a high energy bill. With a few simple measures, savings can be made almost anywhere.

### Business model: Energy certificates

An energy certificate is a loan to the cooperative. The loans are available in certificates of €250, with a term of 10 years. Anyone who buys a certificate will receive an annual interest rate of 2%. After ten years, the loan is repaid, or converted into a profit distribution or into a new investment.

### Core activities

#### *Advocacy*

EC Westerlicht stands up for the interests of energy cooperatives and initiatives at the Province of Noord-Holland and other stakeholders.

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### *Fundraising*

EC Westerlicht unlocks funds and subsidies for initiatives to accelerate the realization of local sustainable energy generation.

### *Knowledge sharing*

By making the knowledge and experience already available, EC Westerlicht supports new initiatives.

### Examples of Projects

#### RU PARÉ

Our own House of the Quarter is the first of the concrete projects that Westerlicht is undertaking. Two hundred solar panels are to be installed on the roof, which will provide for the building's energy needs, at least during the summer. Westerlicht will operate them...(how it works)

#### OOSTOEVER

The Oostoever district, on the east side of the Sloterpas, is one of the neighbourhoods where Westerlicht is taking action, together with local residents. Under the leadership of local resident Matthijs Elzinga, a collective purchasing action was started that has resulted in fifty new customers.

#### SLOTTERPLAS

A relatively new form of sustainable energy supply is heat from surface water, also known as TEW (Thermal Energy from Water). With one or more heat win installations in the Sloterpas, we think we can meet a significant proportion of the heat requirements of around ten thousand households.

### **For more info:**

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://www.ecwesterlicht.nl/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ec.westerlicht>



## De Edelsteen -Combiwel-



**City/Country:** Amsterdam/The Netherlands

**Year of establishment:** 2014

**Thematic area:** Welfare work

### **Short description:**

Combiwel is an Amsterdam organization that makes an effort to improve the collective quality of life in the city. Combiwel does this on behalf of the municipality and in collaboration with city districts, neighborhood organizations, volunteers, education, chain partners, and entrepreneurs and especially with those directly involved: the people of Amsterdam. Combiwel's services range from childcare, parenting support, sports and neighborhood development to broad talent development, debt services and social work.



### Organizational chart:

The organization is led by an elected supervisory board controlling a board of directors.

As of January 1, 2018, Combiwel organizes its work from several foundations that are managed by Stichting Combiwel Amsterdam operating as a holding:

#### *Foundation Combiwel for Children*

Combiwel offers children the opportunity to develop to the fullest with a challenging activity package. Combiwel's expert pedagogical staff, coaches and cooperation partners are available every day for the children.

#### *Foundation Combiwel Neighborhood Work*

Combiwel Neighborhood Work is there for the neighborhood and the local residents. It facilitates voluntary commitment and support neighborhood and resident initiatives. Together with neighbours, the district and partners in the field of well-being, Combiwel connects knowledge and strength. In this way to contribute to a stronger social network.

## De Edelsteen -Combiwel-

### *Foundation Combiwel Combiwel Social Services & debt counseling*

Help with financial problems when residents are short of money every month or have debts. Combiwel's budget coach can help residents to get their finances back in order. Carefree living even with little money! That is what Combiwel works towards in a personal meeting.

### *Foundation Combiwel Projects*

The foundation Combiwel Projects aims to promote a coherent whole of activities, which aim to support and strengthen the social, cultural and societal position of people who live, work or study in the working area of Stichting Combiwel Amsterdam.

### *Locations*

Combiwel has many addresses where its activities and services take place, including primary schools and other facilities in the neighbourhoods. The neighborhood locations that Combiwel manages (Huizen van de Wijk) are available for voluntary commitment by local residents and for residents' initiatives.

### **For more info:**

- **Social media:**

Website: <https://www.combiwel.nl/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/combiwel.amsterdam>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/combiwel/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/combiwel>

## More info

### For more info about Commoning Europe:

Website: <https://commoning.eu/>

Facebook: @commoningEU

<https://www.facebook.com/CommoningEU/>

Instagram: @commoning\_europe

[https://www.instagram.com/commoning\\_europe/](https://www.instagram.com/commoning_europe/)



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