P2P Foundation
We help people, organizations and governments transition towards open knowledge, commons-based approaches to society

What is the P2P Foundation?

The P2P Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advocacy and research of peer to peer dynamics in society.

P2P dynamics are most visible today in the many communities and movements self-organising around the co-creation of culture and knowledge. Some of the most well known examples are: Creative Commons, Free Software and Open Source, Open Access in education and science, Wikipedia, Open Data, Open Government and Free Culture.

These communities, values and practices are now also increasingly present in the world of physical production through Open Design, the Sharing Economy and Co-Working in Hacker/ Maker spaces and Fab Labs.

These movements represent a cultural shift towards new kinds of democratic and economic participation that we believe are sowing the seeds for a more sustainable and democratic future.

P2P can be characterized by the presence of open, participatory processes of production and governance for the creation of common goods, whose universal access is guaranteed by licenses such as Creative Commons or the GPL (GNU General Public License). The P2P Foundation monitors the emergence of P2P dynamics in every field of human activity. We document these projects on our open access wiki and report and critique current events on our blog.

Our network consists of independent researchers and academics active in grassroots social movements and in public and private sector institutions working for the transition to a P2P future.

P2P Foundation members are active all over the world, with representatives in Europe, Asia, South America, North America. We are always looking to expand our coverage and welcome new members to our community.

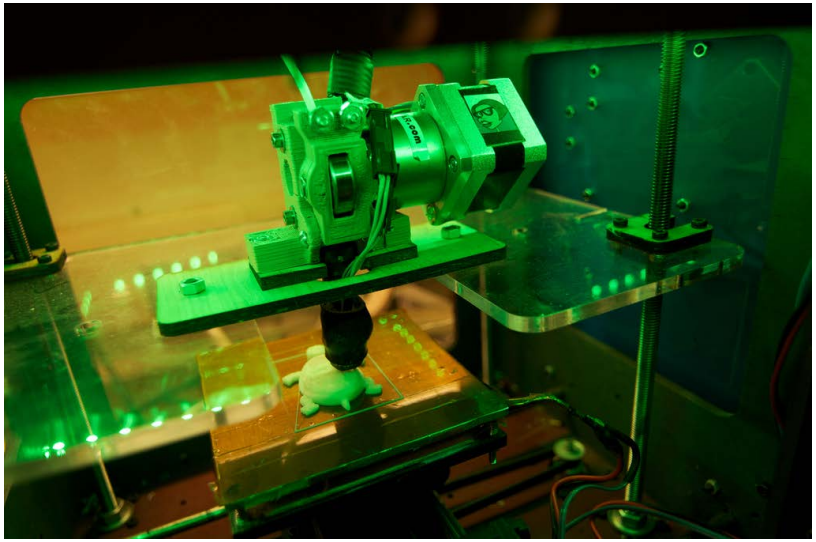
Objectives

Our present society is based on the absurd idea that material resources are abundant and immaterial ideas should be kept artificially scarce. The dominant paradigm behaves as if the planet contains infinite resources and it exploits the earth in a way that endangers survival of both animal species and humanity while building artificial walls around human knowledge to prevent and impede sharing as much as possible.

Our aims can be summarized under the following maxims:

1. Ending biosphere destruction by exposing dangerous and exploitative conceptions of pseudo-abundance in the natural world (based on the assumption that natural resources are infinite).

2. Promoting the free exchange of knowledge both scientific and cultural by abandoning innovation inhibiting conceptions of pseudo-scarcity (based on the assumption that the flow of knowledge must be restricted, made scarce, through excessive copyrights)



3. Studying and creating a comprehensive knowledge commons about P2P developments that can be used by the general public, researchers and business

4. Curating the best content on P2P and the Commons from around the globe

5. Offering a pluralistic understanding of this emerging field by representing diverse critical discourse

6. Connecting advocates, innovators, entrepreneurs and policy makers, as well as artists and cultural producers

7. Scaling projects through publication and promotion with our active network of experts

Strategic Priorities for 2015/2016

Stream 1) Co-creating and catalyzing the alternative ecosystem for open and cooperative peer production to enable reconstruction of economic and social power around the commons.

This includes work on:
* The CopyFair License: a commons-based reciprocity license
* Open Cooperativism and Phyles to create ethical entrepreneurial coalitions that co-produce commons

Stream 2) To recreate a powerful social and political movement around the commons and p2p dynamics; to achieve this we propose both a 'bottom-up' and a 'top-down' strategy. Our bottom-up strategy involves a proposal to create Assemblies of the Commons and Chamber of the Commons at the local level, to organize both citizens as commoners, and the ethical commons-friendly enterprises; these organisations would then produce social charters that allow them to seek political support for their aims.

Stream 3) Our thirds priority is creating synergies and convergence between three sectors, the sector of cooperative and 'social and solidarity economy, which stands for fairness and social justice; the second involves the sector of peer production through open knowledge, open design, and open hardware, which stands for universal sharing of technical and scientific advances; the third is to use the potential of relocalized distributed production, to make it truly sustainable in an ecological sense. Hence we want to work on rendering physical production 1) open and free 2) sustainable, and 3) fair.

Our work

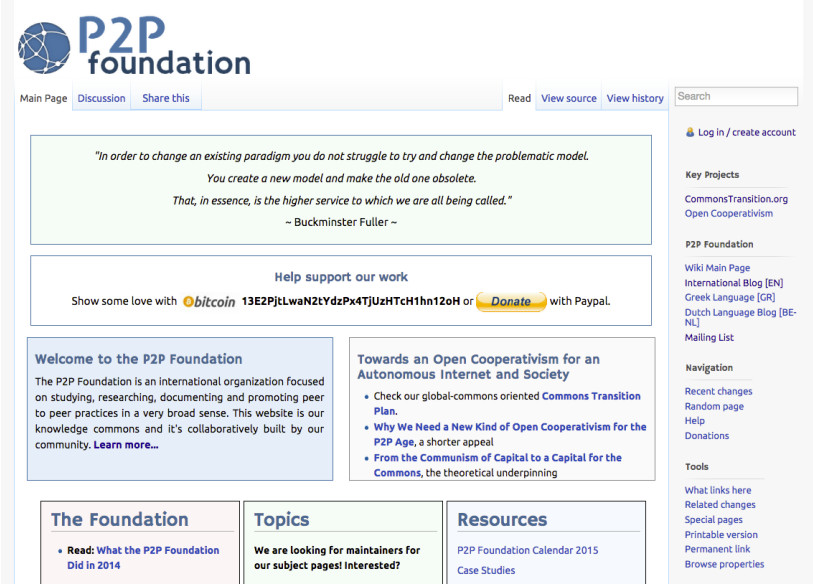
The P2P Foundation has a broad network.

P2P Foundation blog {ENG} - http://blog.p2pfoundation.net
publishes 2-5 posts daily on current events and trends.

We regularly feature original writing by well known authors and activists including David Bollier, Kevin Carson, Charles Eisenstein, David de Ugarte, Nathan Schneider and founder Michel Bauwens.

We have Greek and Dutch language blogs, maintained by Vasilis Kostakis and Jean Lievens respectively and a partnership with Guerrilla Translation who regularly translate articles into Spanish helping us reach wider audiences.

P2P Foundation wiki - http://p2pfoundation.net
features over 20,000 entries documenting this rapidly evolving field of research. It has been consulted over 27 million times since its launch in 2006.



Analytics

Blogs and wikis

In 2014 our news blog and wiki had on average 100,000 visitors per month.

Links and Newsletters:

A network of bookmarks carrying 50,000 tagged sources.
https://www.diigo.com/profile/Mbauwens

Several public mailing lists for discussion and debate.
http://p2pfoundation.net/P2P_Foundation_Email_Lists

Social: Twitter: The two most active accounts:

@mbauwens - 8979 followers

@p2p_foundation - 5390 followers

Combined potential reach of more than 7.5 million Twitter users.

Social: Facebook:

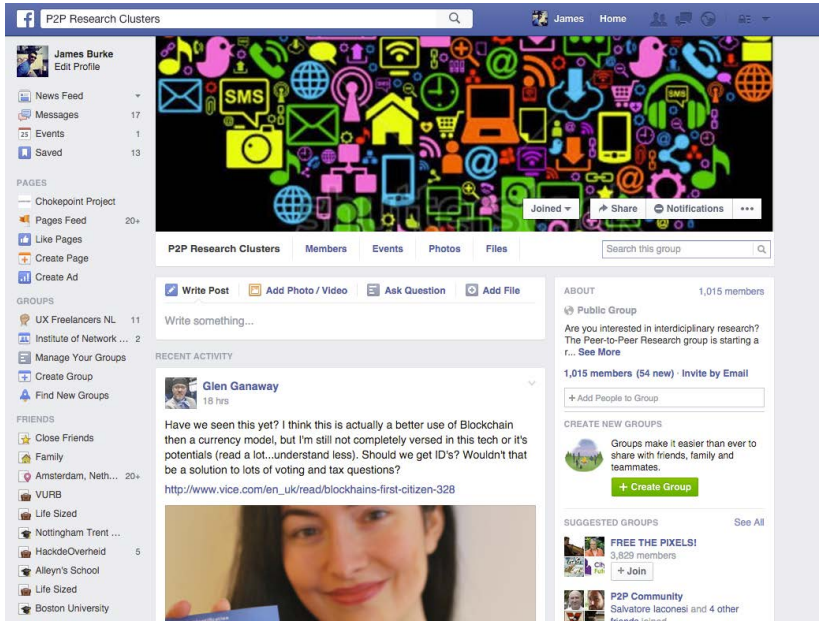
https://www.facebook.com/P2PFoundation

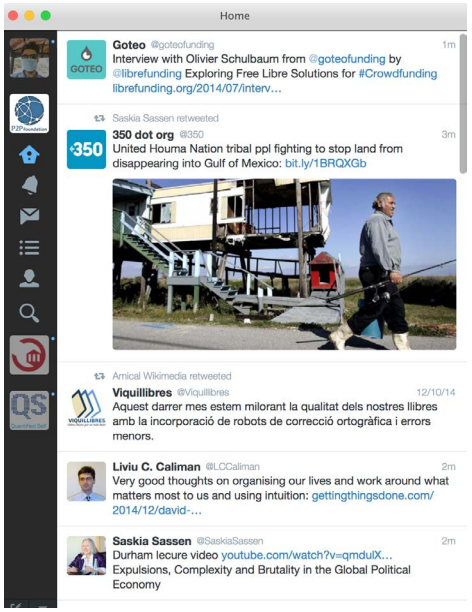
Google: Search:

December, 2014 we are referenced with 429,000 results on Google

For more details see Twiangulate http://bit.ly/13zHunK https://www.facebook.com/groups/p2p.open/

In 2010, the total interconnected reach of the P2P Foundation has been calculated by Topsy at 2,000,000 in terms of secondary audience, and we have seen a consistent growth of our audience by at least 30% every year since 2006.





Partnerships

1. We have entered into a strategic alliance with the **Catalan Integral Cooperative**, seen as a first instance of an open cooperative to help develop the Faircoop alliance of global cooperative organisations based on open principles.

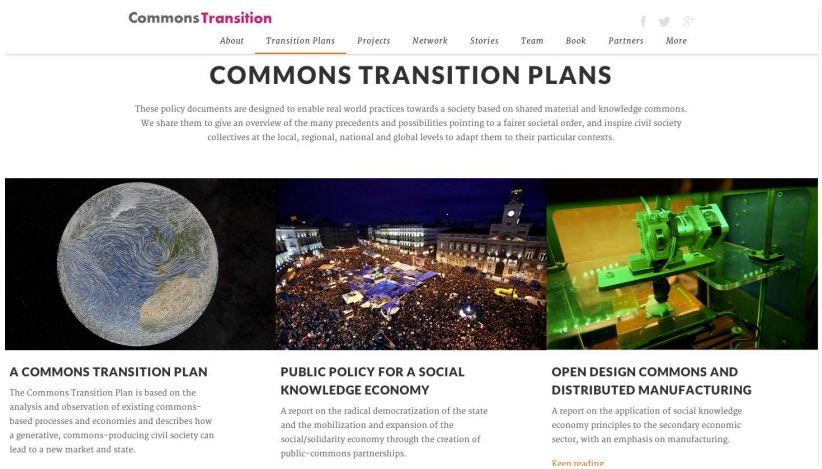
http://blog.p2pfoundation.net/towardsafirststatelesscommons-transitionplanapartnershipofp2pfwiththecatalanintegral-cooperative/2014/08/06

2. We are also constructing an alliance for the Copyfair license work with the **Reseau Francophone des Communs** and **savoirs.com**.

3. Regarding transition work, we have set up an open platform for commons-based policy making, focused on Europe. We're seeking to extend the possibility of local workshops and have engaged in structured dialogues with a first political player, i.e. 10 days of workshops with elected officials of **Syriza**; we're also seeking
connections with **Podemos** in Spain as they are similarly poised to take on a huge political role.

http://commonstransition.org

4. We work with the **Commons Strategies Group** at the global level.



5. Sustainable manufacturing: We have an agreement and plans with **Oikos,** a Belgian, green think-tank with European reach. Our first joint production will be an edited volume on the convergence between open/free production and green concerns.

We also have active working relationships with **Post Growth Institute(Global)**, **Shareable**, **Ouishare**, **Goteo**, **Cultivate**, **WeCreate**, **Guerrilla Translation**, **Las Indias**, **Share the Words Resources** and the **Sustainable Economies Law Center**.

Over the past 10 years the Foundation has collaborated with many others including **Appropedia**; **Espians**; **Global Village Network**; **Vinay Gupta** and **Global Swadeshi**; **Institute for Distributed Creativity**; **openp2pdesign.org**; **Platoniq** , **United Diversity**; **Entrepreneur Commons**; **Ethical Markets TV**; **the Transitioner**

Awards

The P2P Foundation has won research-oriented awards, such as the 2011 Next Idea award of Ars Electronica for the ChokePoint Project. The Chokepoint project collects, analyzes and reports on data relating to network neutrality and civil rights in the digital domain. http://www.chokepointproject.net/

Conferences, Seminars, Documentaries

The P2P Foundation also co-organizes academic conferences with leading members active in the global lecture circuit. Director and founder of the P2P Foundation, Michel Bauwens, visits over 15 countries per year for lectures, workshops and keynotes at conferences reaching new audiences and connecting with local activists and grassroots movements.

Documentary:
VPRO tegenlicht

Bauwens is also a member of the Commons Strategies Group with David Bollier and Silke Helfrich who with the support of the Heinrich Böll Foundation organised The Commons and Economics Conference in 2013 http://commonsandeconomics.org

Public speaking

Michel Bauwens has spoken at:

* Academic institutions such as Yale, Harvard, Cambridge, and the Sorbonne, including the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in Vatican City

* Keynote in conferences and festivals such as the OuishareFest (Paris), Elevate (Graz), Roumics (Lille), Re-Publica (Berlin), Degrowth (Leipzig)

* Cultural and policy foundations such as Giacomo Feltrinelli (Milan), Heinrich Boll (Berlin), Charles Leopold Meyer (Paris / Geneve), Rosa Luxemburg (Quito), Bureau de Helling (Amsterdam), Oikos (Ghent), Etopia (Namur) and the Nikos Poulantzas Institute (Athens)

* Cultural institutions such as the Beursschouwburg (Brussels), Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Centre Pompidou, Bellas Artes (Madrid), CCCI (Barcelona), Parque Explora (Medellin)

* At pioneering coworking, hackerspaces and makerspaces such as La Paillasse and La Mutinerie (Paris), Coroutine - Mutualab (Lille), Limerick and Galway Fablabs, Timelab (Ghent), Cloughjordan Ecovillage and Fablab

* In cities the world over: Rio de Janeiro, Medellin and Bogota (Colombia), Quito (Ecuador), Addis Abeba, Beijing and Shengdu, Istanbul

More details via https://www.diigo.com/user/mbauwens/Bauwens-Lectures

Research

Active Research Projects

Commons Transition (2014 / 2015)

From 2013 to 2014 the founder of the P2P Foundation, Michel Bauwens, was acting research director with the FLOK (Free Libre Open Knowledge) Society project in Ecuador.
With the support of the Ecuadorian government and working with civil society and grassroots organisations the FLOK society conducted research and developed a set of policy proposals to support the transition of Ecuador to a 'Social Knowledge Economy'.

A Social Knowledge Economy can be defined as an economy where the free and open sharing of knowledge is integrated into all aspects of the productive matrix of the economy. The policy proposals placed a strong emphasis on enabling and empowering citizens and social innovation through the creation of free and open access knowledge commons, focusing on areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, cooperative economy, higher education, scientific research and open government.

The research aspects of the FLOK project were completed in June 2014. The FLOK project management team continue to work with the Ecuadorian government on the legal implementation of the project proposals.

The P2P Foundation continues to build on the research under the name of Commons Transition and are launching a new platform in 2015 at www.commonstransition.org

For further information on FLOK and Commons Transition see:

> Commons Transition Plan
http://p2pfoundation.net/Commons_Transition_Plan

> Collected Research Papers
https://floksociety.coment.com/

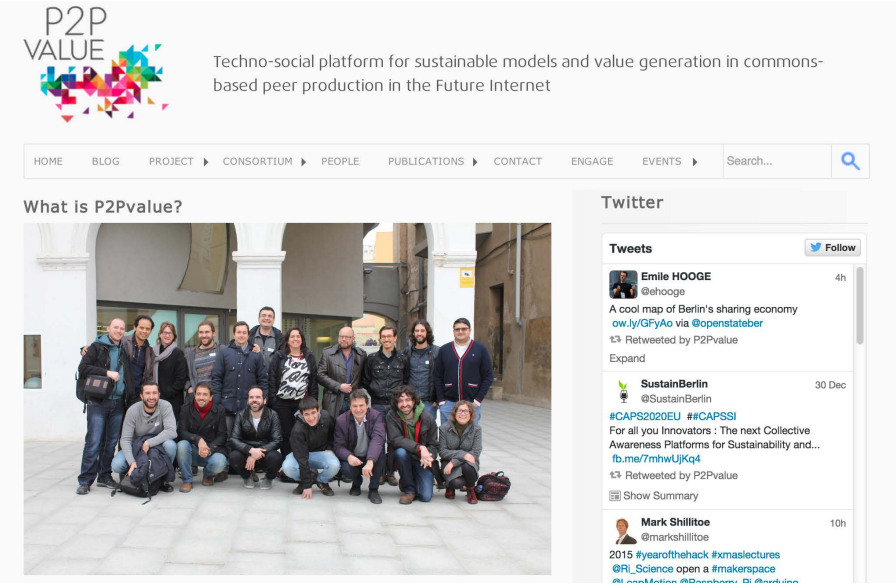
P2P Value (2013 - 2016)

P2P Value is a 3 year multi-stakeholder EU FP7 research project. The project researches the creation of common value in P2P and collaborative communities. Ethnographic and statistical analysis of communities engaged in peer production of commons resources provide the basis for the development of legal framworks and design principles which will be used for the development of free software tools catered to supporting the needs of P2P communities.

Partners: Universita Degli Studi Di Milano (Italy), Universitat Autonoma De Barcelona (Spain), Centre National De La Recherche Scientifique (France), Universidad Complutense De Madrid (Spain), University of Surrey (UK)

http://p2pvalue.eu/

Project reference: 610961, Funded under: FP7ICT
http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/109781_en.html

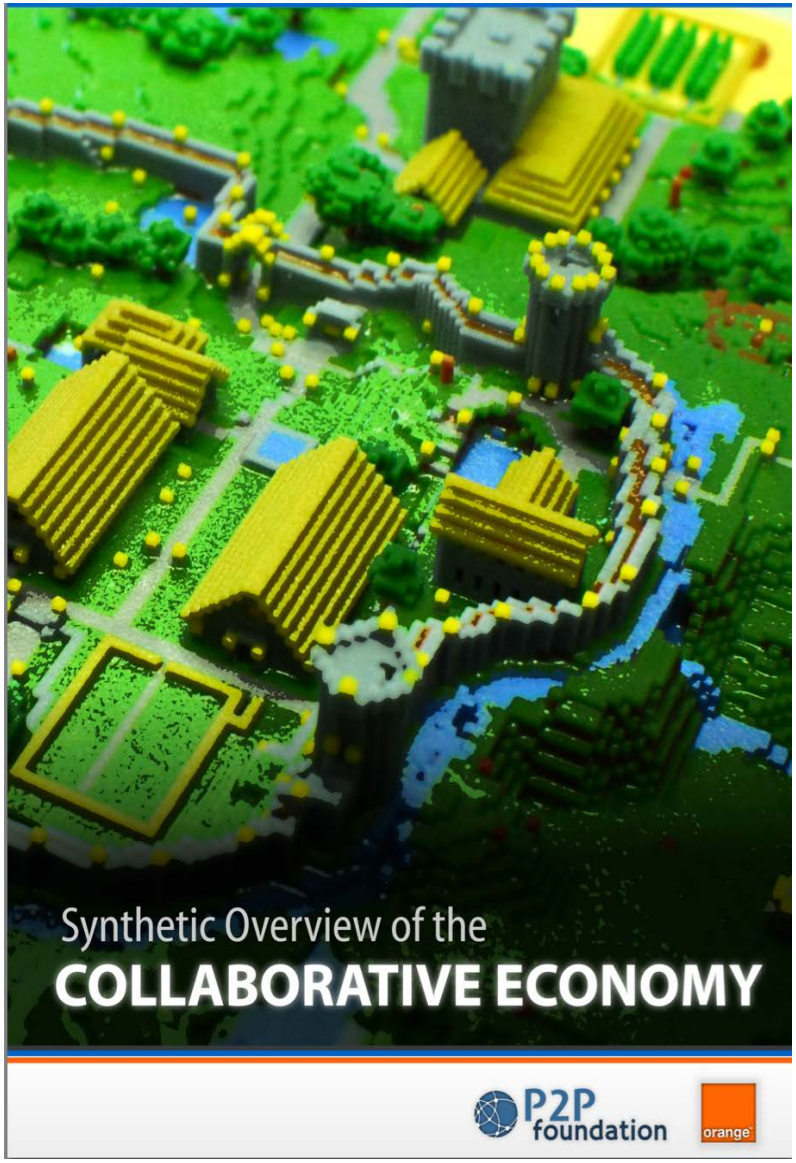


Synthetic Overview of the Collaborative Economy (2012)

The Synthetic Overview of the Collaborative Economy was prepared for **Orange Labs**, a division of the French telecom company, as a comprehensive survey and analysis of new forms of collaborative production on the Internet.

In the last decade or so, many new collaborative practices emerged in the business world, ranging from open innovation, co-design and co-creation, but also crowdsourcing, collaborative consumption. These practices can be interpreted as 'emergent' as they are still mostly marginal in their economic weight relative to the mainstream market economy. Their are however some exceptions. For example, the open content and open source economy has already been estimated to be one sixth of U.S. GDP. In parallel with these collaborative practices, there is also a very visible growth in distributed infrastructures for material production, such as the rapid evolution of micromanufacturing through 3D printing, the rapid growth of collaborative workplaces such as in coworking, and new modalities of distributed financing, such as crowdfunding and social lending. There is no question that mainstream business practices will be impacted even more by this horizontalization in the future, and that a diagonal adaptation to these challenges will be on the order of the day. What follows is a synthetic mapping and overview of the different manifestations of the emerging collaborative economy.

http://p2pfoundation.net/Orange_Report



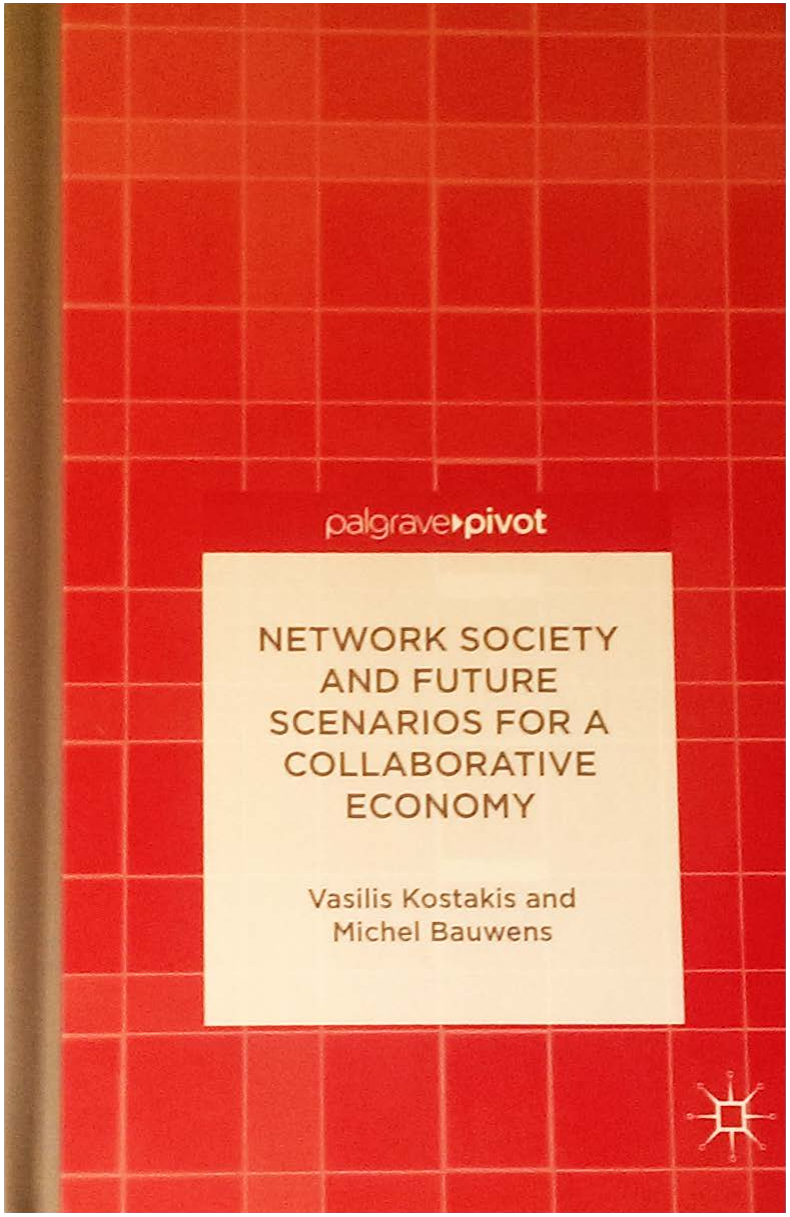
Publishing

Network Society and Future Scenarios for a Collaborative Economy by Vasilis Kostakis, Michel Bauwens

Published by Palgrave Pivot in August, 2014. ISBN 9781137415066

The aim of this book is not to provide yet another critique of capitalism but rather to contribute to the ongoing dialogue for post-capitalist construction, and to discuss how another world could be possible. It builds on the idea that peertopeer infrastructures are gradually becoming the general conditions of work, economy, and society, considering peer production as a social advancement within capitalism but with various postcapitalistic aspects in need of protection, enforcement, stimulation and connection with progressive social movements. Using a fourscenario approach, the authors seek to simplify possible outcomes and to explore relevant trajectories of the current technoeconomic paradigm within and beyond capitalism. They postulate that the mature peer production communities pose a sustainable alternative to capital accumulation, that of the circulation of the Commons. They make some tentative transition proposals towards a Commonsbased economy and society for the state, the market and the civic domain.

http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/networksociety-andfuturescenariosforacollaborativeeconomy vasilis-kostakis/?K=9781137415066



With P2P - Towards a Post-Capitalist Society by Jean Lievens, Michel Bauwens

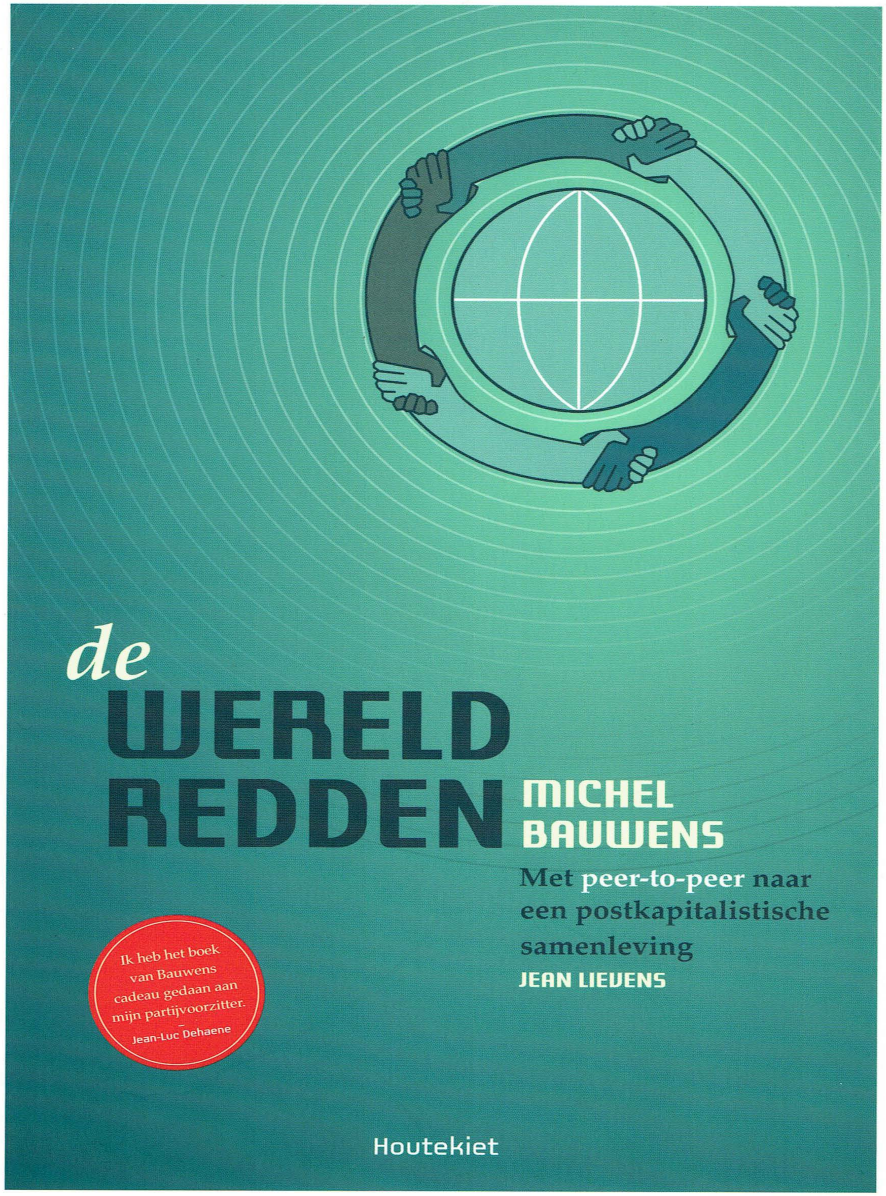
Published by Houtekiet in 2013. ISBN 978 90 8924 254 9

Based on a 12 hour interview by former journalist Jean Lievens with Michel Bauwens. The original Flemish title for the book is “De Wereld Redden”. The book achieved its third printing in a very short time in the Flanders (Flemish) region. French translation is underway and we are seeking publishing partners for an English language edition.

“Our present day society is based upon the absurd notion that material resources are abundant and immaterial ideas scarce. We behave as if the planet were infinite, and exploit the earth in ways that endanger the survival of the human species. On the other hand, we build artificial walls around human knowledge to impede and prevent and sharing as much as possible.

Just as feudalism developed within the womb of the Roman slave society and capitalism then developed within feudalism, we are now witnessing the embryo of a new form of society gestating within capitalism. In order to save the world, we need a relocalisation of production and an extension of global cooperation in the fields of knowledge, code and design.”

http://www.houtekiet.be/boeken/p/detail/dewereldredden



Support our work

We hope this document has given you a good sense of who we are, what we do and where we want to go. Your support enhances our capacity for advocacy, enabling us to reach new audiences, pursue ambitious projects and develop world class research for the common good, that we believe is critical if humanity is to not only survive the great challenges of the 21st century, but thrive in a truly sustainable and democratic future.

Get Involved

To date many of the structural operations of the Foundation have been organised and managed by a committed group of volunteers. The free collaboration of contributors is what has made the Foundation what it is today. This spirit of voluntarism for the promotion of the common good is central to P2P Foundation and reflects values of peer production communities more generally. We are always working hard to make our work open and accessible to as broad a spectrum of people as possible.

There are many ways to contribute so if you are passionate about the commons and peer production and have some time on your hands you can contact us at contact@p2pfoundation.net or to apply for membership see http://p2pfoundation.net/New_Member_Questionnaire

Financial Support

We are keen to develop partnerships with others that share our commitment to social change and are actively seeking financial support to progress our Strategic Priorities for 20152016 as referred to earlier in the document. We are also looking to expand structural and operational support for the ongoing development of our web presence, community and advocacy.
If you are interested in supporting our work financially on an ongoing basis or through the development of a working partnership please contact us directly at contact@p2pfoundation.net

If you wish to make a personal donation
Make a Paypal donation to donate@p2pfoundation.net

Or by direct bank transfer to:

Foundation for P2P Alternatives
IBAN: NL21 ABNA 0627 0474 67 BIC: ABNANL2A

Our Bank
ABN AMRO Haarlemmerplein 2 1013 HS Amsterdam, Netherlands