

# Joint-Ownership Community $\longleftrightarrow$ Cooperative Economics $\longleftrightarrow$ Marketplace Community

The **Community of Participation and Ownership (CPO)** holds stakes in existing businesses and founds own business divisions. The joint-ownership by citizens is via a democratic form, e.g. as a **Cooperative**.

The CPO makes it possible for citizens, and also for local firms and institutions, to become joint-owners of (parts of) regional companies and assets such as wind farms, which are oriented towards sustainability.

## Citizen participation allows companies

- to manage with less or no bank credit;
- to use the money saved on loan interest to further their efforts for sustainable production methods;
- to concentrate more on the requirements of citizens as customers;
- to gain customers on their own doorstep;
- and to build a group of active citizen supporters in their own region.

## Participating citizens contribute to

- securing basic needs and services with products from their own region;
- establishing a way for investing money which is transparent, regional, and serves sustainability;
- a culture of investment which is economically, ecologically and socially meaningful;
- creating and securing jobs in their region;
- strategic decisions taken by the companies in which the CPO has stakes being laid open;
- these companies being actively supported in a network of local businesses with common aims.

Social Sustainability  
+  
Economic Sustainability  
+  
Ecological Sustainability  
+  
Reinvigoration of regional trade  
=  
our best chance for  
**a future worth living!**



**The total value of jointly-owned assets underpins the value of the community currency.**

The Marketplace offers both business and private accounts, making it both a Barter-Ring and Trade Exchange system at the same time. Thus it brings private citizens, professionals, tradespeople and companies together within their own region.

Members of the Marketplace publish adverts with their wants and offers. A trade happens only when the supplier and the buyer come to an agreement (no anonymous online-shopping).

This furthers personal relationships, accountability, and local community. Networking meetings support the growth of community spirit.

- Companies gain more local customers.
- Citizens support their local businesses.
- Strengthening regional economic cycles helps being less dependent on global supply chains.

Payment is made in our own Community Currency, the **Grok**. Part-payment in national currency is allowed for larger sums.

- The **interest-free** Grok is independent of national currency and protects its users from loss of value through inflation.
- A small monthly fee on positive balances, called **demurrage**, provides an impulse for the Grok to flow and thus enlivens local trade.
- In contrast to legal tender, which only comes into circulation as debt for interest, **the Grok is emitted only by the members themselves.**
- How many Groks a member can emit is limited by their deposited securities, so no member can take more from the community than they give.