Collaborative platforms: Commonfare

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WHAT IS COMMONFARE?

• A bottom-up, cooperative approach to social welfare, or „welfare of the common”, based on:
• Proper management (including reappropriation) of the common(s)
• Unconditional, universal basic income
• Alternative monetary circuits (Fumagalli and Lucarelli, 2015)

WHAT IS COMMONFARE.NET?

• An online, collaborative platform that gives substance and meaning to the concept of „Commonfare”
• The result of three years of research, design and community outreach as part of the PIE News project, financed by the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme of the European Union
• Interdisciplinary, and participatory design approach with pilots in Croatia, Italy and the Netherlands

COMMONFARE PROJECT PARTNERS
Collaborative Platform through Participatory Design

Research phase:
• 20 focus groups, 235 people, 3 countries
• Qualitative and quantitative research with precarious workers from Croatia, Italy, and the Netherlands
• Qualitative survey, and focus groups focusing on experiences of precarity, and the spillover effects of employment precarity on social, cultural, psychological and other aspects of welfare

Participatory Design phase:
• Identifying needs of target groups
• Focus groups, interviews, design workshops

Roll out and experimentation phase:
• Responding to needs identified in research phase,
• Experimenting with user interface, trust, and
• Digital currency, social wallet, group wallet
Qualitative research with young, precarious workers

- N=72, qualitative survey and focus groups
- Avg. annual gross income between €5,001,- 10,000.
- In the last 12 months, majority was not able to save, majority experienced sometimes or frequently not having enough money to buy needed clothing, to pay for travel costs, to pay for utilities, to pay for a cultural event, to go to a birthday party of a friend, to go to a restaurant with friends
- 77% defined their status as: „niether poor nor rich”, 13% „poor”, 10% „very poor”
- **Who do you currently live with?**
  - 47/74 (64%) of participants live with their parent(s),
- **If you are not satisfied with your living conditions, why do you not move?**
  - High rental prices
  - Insufficient income
- **When you have financial problems, who do you turn to?**
  - I turn to my family (92%)
- **Which cultural activities have you reduced or stopped because of lack of income?**
  - Buying books (33%), going to concerts (20%), workshops (15%)
Consequences of employment and income insecurity

- Inability to plan and develop a career
- Inability to buy a home
- Inability to start or plan a family responsibly
- Discourages investing in further education
- Inability to travel, take vacations, plan trips in advance,
- Negative impact on social life, because it costs money to have one
- Feelings of self-blame, inadequacy, low self esteem
- Depression, anxiety, pesimism, apathy, hopelessness for the future
- Who do you talk to about these issues? Nobody.

"I don’t want to be a complainer" ; "People will think I am lazy", "Many people have it a lot worse"; "Ok, I may live with my family and cannot afford to do the things I like, but at least I am not hungry and digging through garbage."
State institutions and policies

- From 1 to 10, how protected do you feel by state policies and programs?
- Income support: 2; accommodation support: 1; healthcare: 6

- What kind of services or policies would help improve your situation?
  - Services for continued professional development
  - Financial support for young or new employees
  - Reduced rates for utilities (reduced cost of living)
  - Universal basic income for all
  - Education grants
  - Increases in minimum wage
  - Anti-corruption policies
  - Free cultural and social events
  - Someone to talk to about these problems
Commonfare Platform

- Individual & group profiles
- Story-telling, anonymous
- Best practices (social enterprises, citizen initiatives)

- Formal welfare benefits
- How to’s & Q&A
- Opportunities for free education, workshops, social and cultural event

- Online exchange of resources, info & skills
- Digital currency
- Social wallet
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mjere socijalne zaštite</th>
<th>Informirajte se o lokalnim zakonima o socijalnoj pomoći</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.9.</td>
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Inform, inspire & connect through:
- Info on welfare provisions
- Commoners Voices
- Good practices
Commoner’s Voices

A collection of stories for, with and by people.

Mar 24
The same old story: Weak reject

Mar 12
RiMaflow - Fabbrica recuperata || Reddito Lavoro Dignità
Autogestione

Mar 11
Poziv za dostavu radova na temu reproduktivne pravde,
seksualnosti i rodnih identiteta

Mar 10
Egberts Lent

Mar 10
La necessità di un mondo oltre al lavoro, il bisogno di creatività

Mar 09
Community, Currency, Collaboration Workshop
Good Practices

Wireless Leiden

Taste of Home (Okus Doma) Catering Service - Bridging cultures through food

Etična Banka - First ethical bank in Croatia

Zadruga za dobru ekonomiju

Are You Syrious Integration Centre

Amsterdam Energy

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www.commonfare.net | info@commonfare.net | facebook.com/Commonfare | #commonfare
Commonplace

• Exchange of services, goods, & skills
• Place to voice one’s needs
• Commoncoin digital currency and social wallet
• Experimenting with Universal Basic Income through Commoncoin (every month you get 1000 cc to use in the commonplace)
• Commonshare – in place of rating system
Metrics Dashboard

Visits overview

- Visits: 960
- Unique visitors: 609
- Pageviews: 2152
- Total registered commoners: 719

Visits over time

Site search

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Social graph
CHALLENGES

- Precarity vs. Security (supplementing vs. substituting)
- Small improvements in welfare, but not systemic change
- Overcoming apathy and learned helplessness
- Online vs. offline engagement
- Local vs. international
- Individual vs. community approach to solving problems