

Project Description

The Cooperative for the Common Good is a platform that deals with monetary and financial issues for individuals and organisations aligned to the common good. Money is supposed to serve the people again and turn from an end to itself to a means – a true profit for everyone.

We, the people who feel attracted to this vision, build a community to make a change in the monetary and financial system. Our chosen form of organisation is a cooperative. Thus, we want to make trust, security an economic exchange possible.



Our activities in the field of money economy for the common good are examples how we imagine realising an **alternative monetary and financial system**:

- Selection and evaluation of projects via a democratic assessment for the common good
- Information and intermediation between finance providers and beneficiaries
- Exchange of goods and services on a shared marketplace
- Commitment to help in emergency situations by cost splitting
- Allocation and/or intermediation of microcredits, subordinated loans and other funding for sustainable and common-good-based companies and initiatives
- Trustful commercial partner due to member authentication
- Development of affordable, social and ecological housing through financial instruments
- Emission of vouchers for the common good and an own common-good-coin

Particularly since we are not a licenced banking institution, we are able to offer financial products which serve the common good. Whenever we want to offer an additional bank product, e.g. the bank account for the common good, we cooperate with partners who share our values and own a banking licence.

We manage to change society and **to align the monetary system to the common good** on the basis of the following elements:

- Our cooperative shows that money economy can be done differently and in a better way
- Critical analysis and innovative thinking about new concepts
- Develop and test newly-created financial products and services
- Research the monetary and financial system and knowledge transfer about it, show reasonable alternatives and raise awareness for mindful money handling
- International networking and collaboration with close initiatives like “The Economy for the Common Good”

The cooperative runs its business **economically successful** to generate reserves from profits, save for investments and to carry out value preserving distributions of profit on the basis of the following elements:

- Motivated staff works largely in an honorary capacity because they feel the meaning of their tasks, their contribution is appreciated and their participation is actively supported due to the participative organisation with close ties to sociocracy
- Membership is a requirement to benefit from the cooperative’s services. This concept of “members only” leads to a deeper customer loyalty and identification with the cooperative’s shared ownership
- The cooperative has an annual member fee
- Open source software is used
- The cooperative has chargeable, attractive offers
- The intermediary business with banking partners is based on commission
- The cooperative engages in funding and equities for companies which passed the assessment for the common good
- Sponsorships and guarantees from other parties
- Donations, bequests and trusts to the cooperative