

The Commons

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LE:NOTRE *Institute*
Linking Landscape Education, Research and Innovative Practice



Introduction



Health & recreation



The Commons



Mobility



Energy



Retail



Production & logistics



Housing



Forestry



Agriculture



Tourism



Landscape system presentations



Scenario / Visioning presentations



Social Business modelling



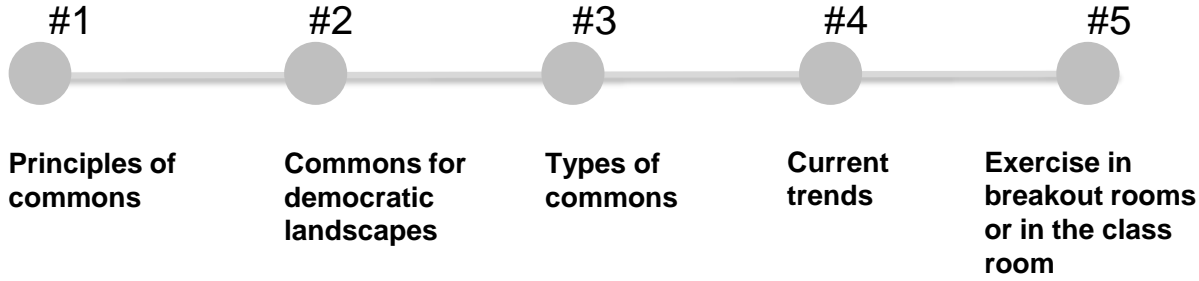
Impact evaluation

Introduction on the Commons

- 17h15** Principles, theory and development of the Commons,
New Commons and Landscape Commons
Questions & Answers
- 18h00** Discussion in breakout rooms
- 18h30** Examples of cases and concept
- 18h45** Closing

Question for all to think about:

“What is your position and role in applying principles of common land for your study/project area or your work?”



INDEX

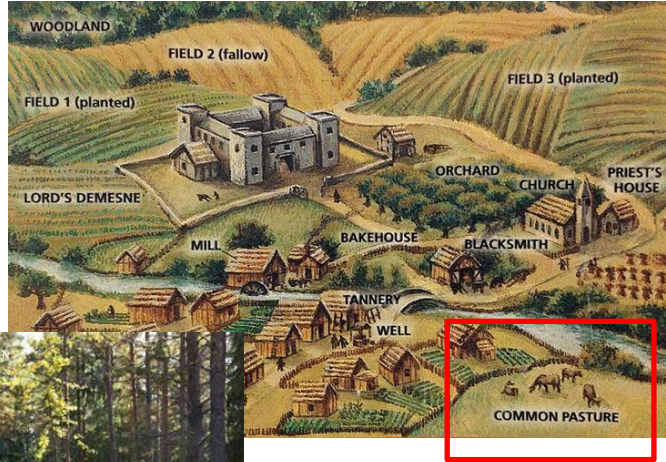
1 Principles of the commons

Some Initial Questions about what might be a COMMON

What do you think that these pictures have in “common”?

What about ownership? Rights for people/users? Responsibilities?....

1 Principles of the commons



WIKIPEDIA

INTRODUCTION to the COMMONS

A common is a piece of land, resource, or good used and shared by a group of people.

According to Elenor Olmstron, commons promote intergenerational and collective thinking.

Their sustainable and equitable management implies rights and duties to all the commoners and their capacity to define and modify the rules governing the common.

The **landscape** can be perceived as a complex common combining material and immaterial resources, services, and goods, whose management resides in their inhabitants. By approaching the landscape as a common we can build communities and promote recreational, restorative, economic and democratic values.

From an **economic perspective**, commons can be linked to the 'social economy' or 'community economic development' in which the community's social, environmental, and economic benefit prevails over the capital or the benefit of specific individuals or businesses.

The right of way, the right to a perceived landscape, and the hunting or fishing bans provide examples of how the community can regulate the use of the landscape for the common good.

Commons *from latin communis*

A means to generate social processes that can **maintain, reproduce and reinvent** our lives in times of uncertainty

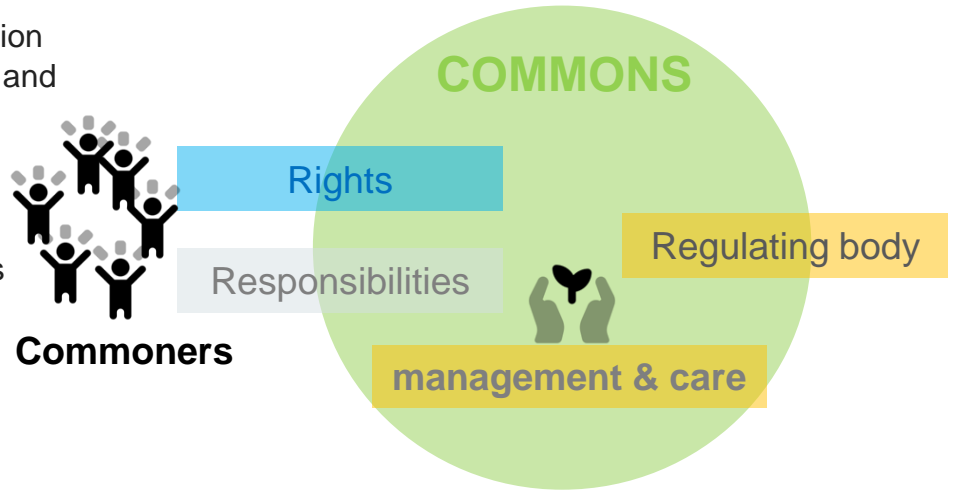
A common pool of resources containing all the creation of **nature and society** that we inherit jointly and freely and hold in the trust for future generations

Governance as well as **relationships:**

community ↔ resources on which it depends

humans ↔ nonhumans

humans ↔ nature



Development Western Europe

Small settlements

Common central area

Ownership of plots near village

Different types of 'common land'

Ownership by landlord, later public authorities or not defined: waste land

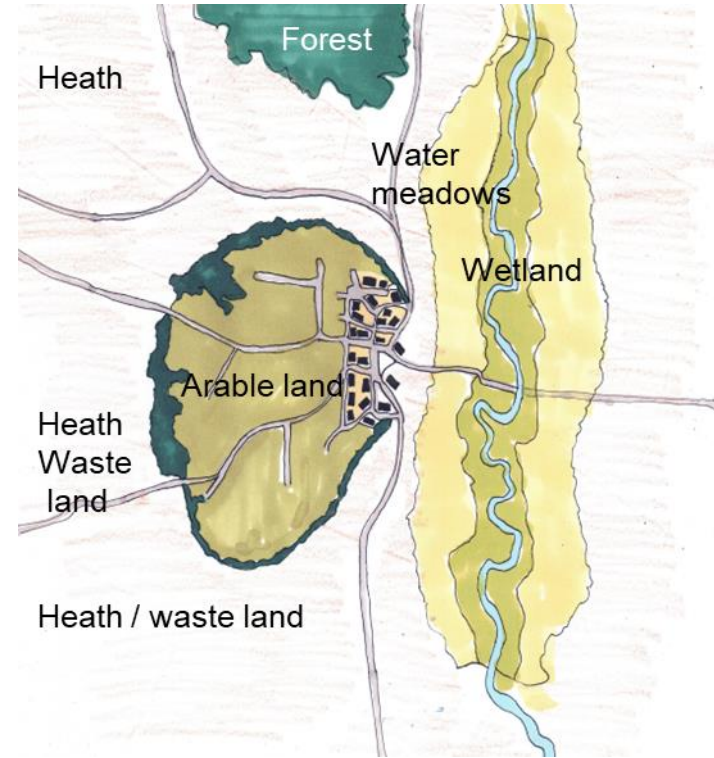
New cultivations, enclosures

Impact of fertilizers, barbed wire to enclose

Overexploitation: forests / heathland

Losing rights by residents

Enclosure of land still going on



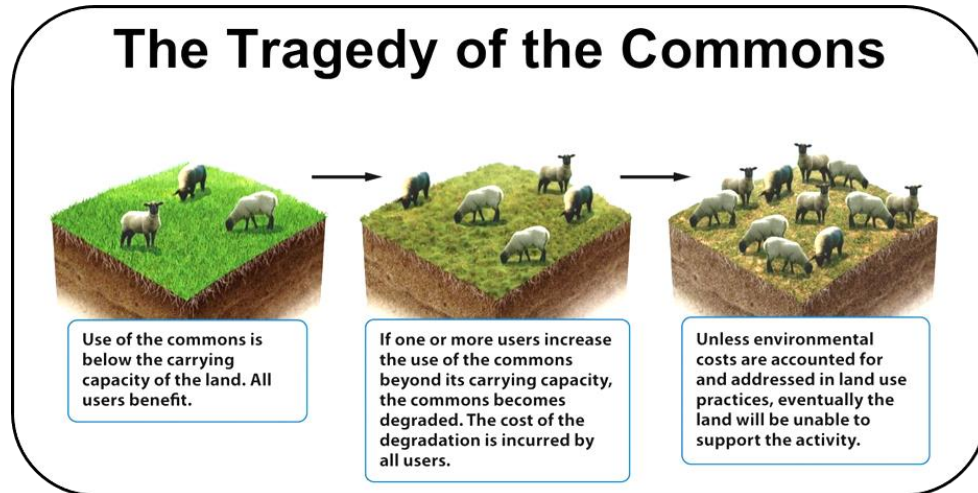
Drawing J. de Vries,
adapted from: <http://knapzakroutes.pietsmulders.nl>

MAIN CRITICISM TO THE COMMONS

Tragedy of the Commons' is an economic and environmental science problem where individuals have access to a shared resource and act in their own interest, at the expense of other individuals.

This can result in **overconsumption**, **underinvestment**, and **depletion of resources** through uncoordinated actions.

Garrett Hardin, 1968 "The Tragedy of the Commons"



IN DEFENCE OF THE COMMONS

Ending The Tragedy of The Commons | Elinor Ostrom (Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, 2009)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qr5Q3VvpI7w>



The Evolution of Institutions
for Collective Action

Intergenerational and collective thinking:
eight principles by Ostrom for
sustainable and equitable governing of
commons in a community

1. Define clear **group boundaries**
2. Match **rules governing** use of common goods to local needs and conditions
3. Ensure that those affected by the rules can **participate in modifying the rules**
4. Make sure the **rule-making rights** of community members are respected by **outside authorities**
5. Develop a system, carried out by community members, for **monitoring members' behavior**
6. Use graduated **sanctions for rule violators**
7. Provide accessible, low-cost means for **dispute resolution**
8. Build **responsibility for governing** the common resource in nested tiers from the **lowest level up to the entire interconnected system**



Landscape as a common good

Common **good** (singular)

something belonging to the community and endowed with a political appeal

Common **goods** (plural)

common pool resources: Earth's ecological resources: water, air, etcetera

LANDSCAPE AS A COMMON?

MATERIAL RESOURCES:

- Water
- Fertile soils
- Space / Land (rural-urban)
- Forests / pastures

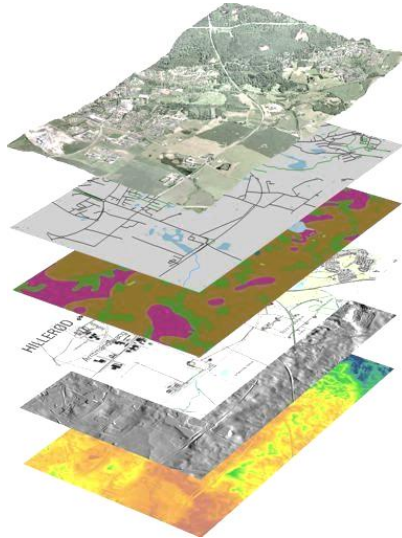
SERVICES & GOODS:

- Sharing economy

INMATERIAL RESOURCES:

- Knowledge

COLLECTIVE AND COORDINATED USE AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES



COMMONS: MATERIAL RESOURCES

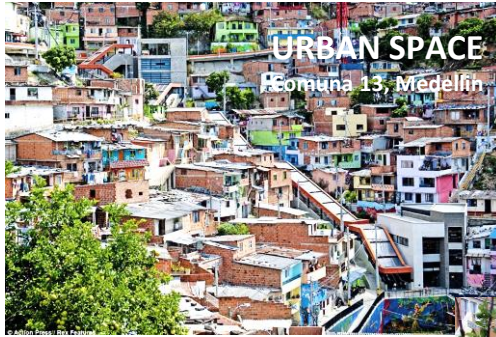
- **Water**
- **Fertile soils**
- **Space / Land (rural-urban)**
- **Forests / pastures**

SERVICES & GOODS:





- Sharing economy

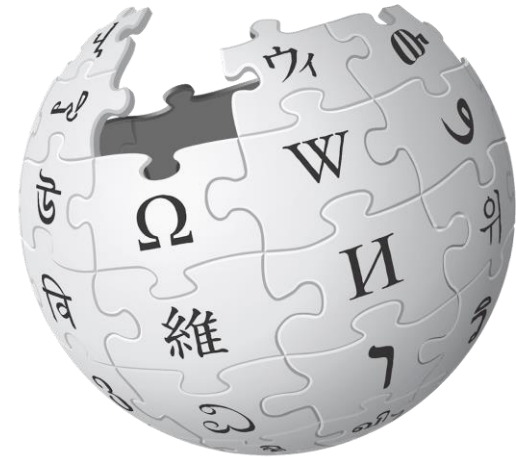
INMATERIAL RESOURCES:

- Knowledge



IMMATERIAL COMMONS: KNOWLEDGE

Traditional Copyright 	Creative Commons 	Public Domain 
<p>Work <u>cannot</u> be used, adapted, copied, or published without the creator's permission</p>	<p>Work may be used <u>without</u> permission, but only under certain circumstances. ...</p>	<p>Work can be used, adapted, copied, and published, completely without restrictions, no permission needed.</p>
<p>What does it apply to?</p>	<p>Creators set <u>rules</u> for the way their work is used.</p>	<p>What does it apply to?</p>
<p><u>All original work</u> is protected under copyright when it's created.</p>	<p> What does it apply to? Only work that creators have chosen to designate as Creative Commons.</p>	<p>Work published prior to 1923, work by long-dead creators, and work that creators have placed in the Public Domain.</p>



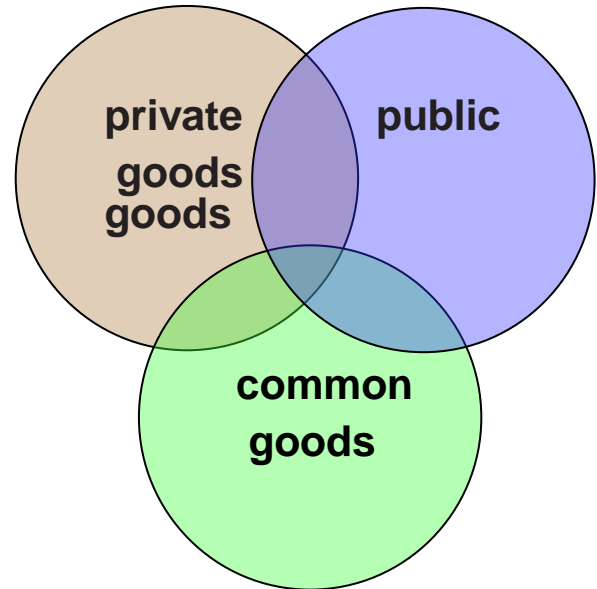
WIKIPEDIA

ECONOMY: PRIVATE, PUBLIC & COMMON GOODS

Private goods are produced and sold by businesses to consumers

Public goods are regulated and provided by governments to their citizens

Common goods are preserved or produced by everyone or by a defined community for the benefit

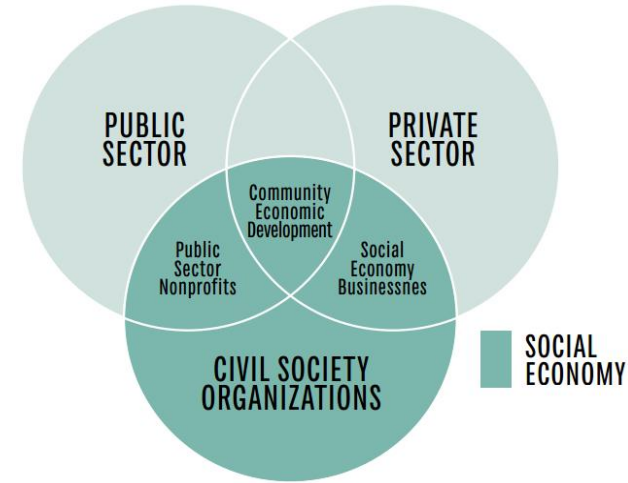


SOCIAL ECONOMY

PRIVATE & PUBLIC GOODS VS. COMMON GOODS



- PRIVATE GOODS ARE PRODUCED AND SOLD BY BUSINESSES TO CONSUMERS
- PUBLIC GOODS ARE REGULATED AND PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENTS TO THEIR CITIZENS
- COMMON GOODS ARE PRESERVED OR PRODUCED BY EVERYONE



SOCIAL ECONOMY formed by a rich diversity of enterprises and organisations sharing common values and features:

- Primacy of the individual and the social objective over capital
- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic governance
- Combination of interests of members/users and/or the general interest
- Defence and application of the principles of solidarity and responsibility
- Autonomous management and independence from public authorities
- Reinvestment of at least most of the profits to carry out sustainable development objectives, services of interest to members or of general interest

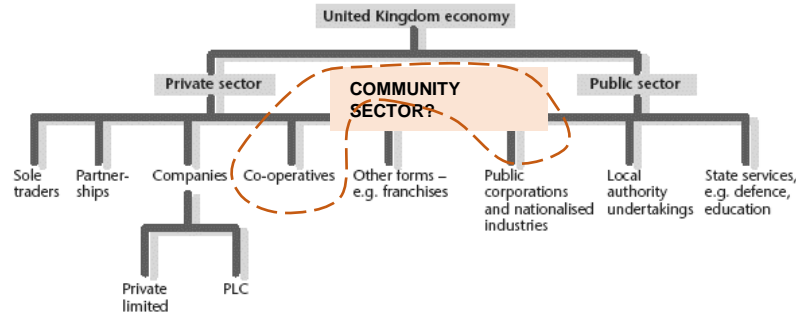
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1 Principles of the commons

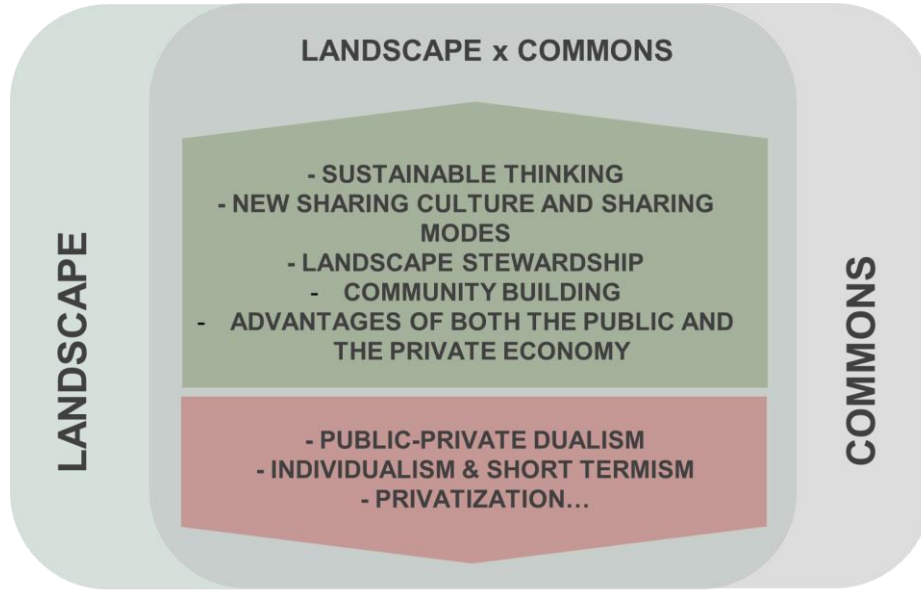


COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CED)

Approach to local economic development that is driven by a community's social, environmental and economic priorities. It is shaped by those who live, work and run businesses and public services within that community.



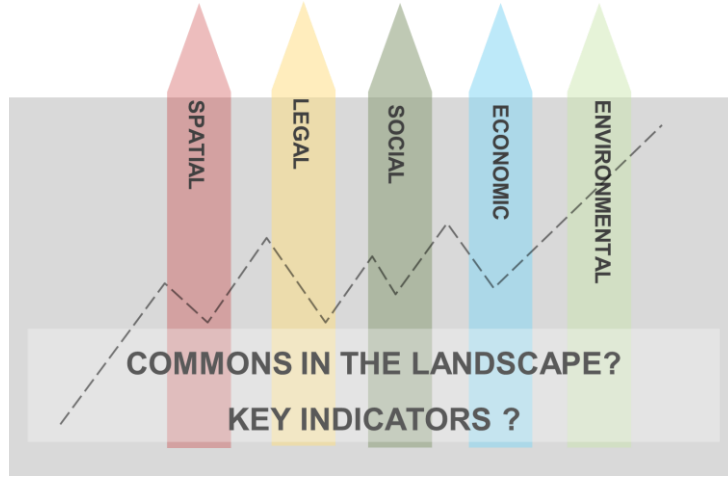
MAIN CHALLENGES and OPPORTUNITIES



The emergence of traditional and new types of commons reveals a new sharing culture in which the production, use, and care of material and immaterial goods, services, and resources is the responsibility and right of communities. This new culture of the commons aligns with sustainable development, circular economies, and new governance models and can be found in some economic activities or in the access and use of resources in rural areas, cities, or the internet.

KEY QUALITY INDICATORS

1 Principles of the commons



The presence and development of commons supporting sustainable transitions in the landscape:

- **SPATIAL:** % and connectivity of the land affected by communal regulations and use
- **LEGAL:** Recognition of different types of commons in the legal system and the number of legal texts regulating their use.
- **ECONOMIC:** % of the economic activity developed within communal structures (social economy, cooperatives, etc.) and value of the products that are regulated and managed in a communal way
- **SOCIAL:** % of people benefiting or participating in any kind of communal structure: people working in the social economy sector, people sharing goods (cars, flats, etc.), etc.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL:** Contribution of commons and commoners to the preservation and improvement of environmental values and assets (ecological connectivity, biodiversity, etc.).

2 Commons for democratic landscapes

Right to landscape

- right to a **perceived landscape**. How people perceive landscapes determines their right to have those landscapes. In this case the right to a landscape can be considered a collective right (ref European Landscape Convention)
- right **per se**. Landscape as a complex ecological milieu, with animals and plants -> right to the environment.
- framework for addressing **human rights**. In this case landscape is considered a substantive space for actual human rights.

Menatti, 2017; p 667, point 2 referring to Egoz et al. 2011

Access to land - right of way for walking

Who owns the land, who has the right to land?

Who has access to land, who can benefit from the land?

Sweden*	Swedish Constitution → public access to the countryside is open to all. " <i>Allemansrätt</i> " is not written in law. Liberal access to all land owned by others (except developed land and private gardens) is traditional. Freedom to walk, cycle, ride, ski, camp, light a fire, collect wood, wild plants & berries and to use land and water bodies in ways that do not damage them or interfere with their owners. Landowners may not prevent access.
Norway	Norway's tradition of " <i>Allemansrätt</i> " is now written in the 1957 Outdoor Recreation Act. There is differentiation between cultivated and uncultivated land. Liberal access (as in Sweden) is allowed to all open, uncultivated land, forest, water and foreshore. Access to cultivated land is restricted to the winter months (when it's frozen).
Finland	The tradition of "jokamiehenoikeus" allows liberal access (as in Sweden) to land and water owned by others on condition that it is used in ways that cause no damage and do not interfere with the owner. The traditions are similar, but there are more rules in Finland: lighting fires and driving motor vehicles off-road requires permission, dogs must be on leads. Wild fruits and berries may be picked only for immediate consumption
Iceland	Access for passage across all open land in the countryside is a legal right in Iceland, although access to cultivated land is permitted only in winter. Visitors are expected to behave respectfully and responsibly - using paths and tracks where they exist. Motorized vehicles may be driven off-road on snow covered land, frozen lakes and glaciers.
Scotland	The Land Reform (Scotland) Act (2003) is based on the country's traditional privilege of unhindered access to open land, creating a legal right to access land for walking and recreation. Access to the private open countryside is permitted in return for responsible behavior the principals of which are set out in the Act. In addition, a series of long distance way-marked trails traverses the country.
Switzerland	The Swiss recognize "Bertretungsrecht" over all uncultivated open land, forests and woodlands. Federal laws of free access to certain types of lands, including forest and grazing land exist and access is generally unrestricted in the high mountain, private forest and pasture and all municipal and state owned land. An estimated 50,000 km of footpaths traverse the countryside.
Germany	The German traditional of "Bertretungsrecht" is enshrined in federal laws to allow access to forests, unenclosed lands, foreshores, footpaths and farm roads. Rights generally include walking, running, sitting, camping and playing; cycling - riding in forests, some Lander include ski-ing and skating, but enclosed farmland and areas of nature conservation are excluded. An estimated 200,000 km of way-marked footpaths exists.

Austria	The tradition of "Wegefreiheit" allows public access by foot through Austrian forests and pastures. Activities such as riding horses, cycling and camping overnight require permission of the landowner but otherwise ingrained respect of the countryside restrains access to cultivated land etc. Legal rights in each bundesland vary however, some permit landowners to deny access in certain circumstances. A highly organized network of footpaths exists.
England	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2000 gives rights to roam on foot through all "open country" designated (and mapped) by the government. Cultivated farmland, developed land, private parks and gardens are excluded. Sightseeing, bird watching, picnicking, climbing, and running as well as walking on designated lands is expressly permitted. All foreshores and the coastal perimeter are open to the public and an extensive mapped system of footpaths and bridleways provides further access. An estimated 190,000 km of footpaths exists in addition to bridleways.
Denmark	Landownership and privacy are privileged in Denmark. Access is limited to public forests, beaches and State owned land - the entire coastline is open for walking fishing and hunting. Public land may be used for collecting wood, berries etc, but not for camping, or lighting fires. Access to private roads and certain types of unfenced area in private forests and open, uncultivated areas is allowed.
France	Landownership and privacy are privileged in France as they are also in Italy and Spain. Rights of way are restricted to linear passages – although an extensive network of footpaths exists in France - an estimated 120,000km of them, otherwise National Parks, beaches and the entire coastline (3m above the high water mark) are accessible. As land is sold for development, countryside traditions of passage are revoked and access to the close-by countryside is being lost.
Netherlands	Landownership and privacy are privileged in the Netherlands. No rights of access to private land. Legal rights of access are limited to linear rights of way (roads, footpaths and cycle-paths), in addition to the sophisticated built network of recreational parks near all major cities and beaches. Forests and other public areas are also managed as recreation areas. Sophisticated network of footpaths and cycle-ways: 19,000 km.
Ireland	Landownership and privacy are privileged in Ireland. There are no right of access, or passage across private, or even public land in Ireland. Six National parks are open to public access, as is some of the Coille forest. Since 1982 4,000 km of "way-marked ways" have been created, but when they cross private land, it is with permission of the landowner whose rights are paramount, permissions may be withdrawn.

* This table summarises information contained in the Peter Scott (ed.) 1991 Review of Countryside Access in Europe and Govortz Robinson's (2011) report on Public Access to Private Land for Walking. See reference section.

Access to land – right of way for walking

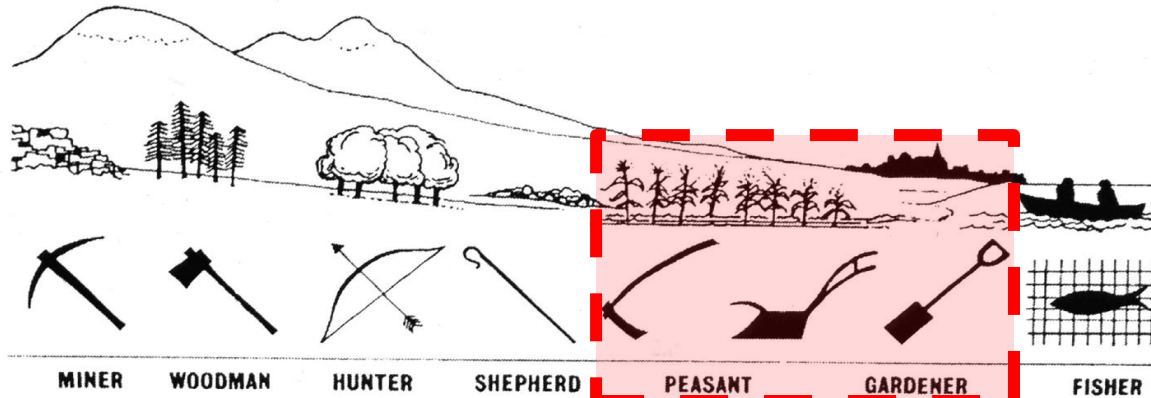
Country		Access	No access	Other rights
Sweden	Allemansratt	Countryside, open uncultivated land, forests, water and foreshore	Developed land, private gardens, cultivated land in summer	Light a fire, collect wood, berries, herbs
Norway	Allemansratt			
Finland	Jokamiehenoikeus		Cultivated land in summer	Fire only after permission, picking for direct consumption
Iceland		Open land in countryside, cultivated land in winter		
Scotland		Legal right for walking and recreation		
Switzerland	Betretungsrecht	All cultivated open land, forest, woodlands.		
Germany	Betretungsrecht	Forests, unenclosed land, foreshore, footpaths in farmland	Enclosed farmland, areas of nature conservation	
Austria	Wegefreiheit	Forests and pastures, highly organised network of footpaths.		Cycling, horse riding overnight camping requires permission
England	Right to roam on foot	Open land, foreshore and coastal perimeter.	Cultivated farmland, developed land, private parks and gardens	
Denmark		Public forests, beaches and coastlines, state owned land	Landownership and privacy are prevalent	
France		Linear passages in agricultural land, National Parks, beaches and coastlines 3 meters wide above the high tide line.		
Netherlands		Linear paths, Recreation areas, Forests.		
Ireland		National parks and some of the forest		

3 Types of commons

Rural Commons

Who benefits, who cares for it,
who manages, who owns

3 Types of commons



- Building material
- Firewood
- Nuts
- Fruits
- Herbs
- Mushrooms
- Meat
- Milk
- Crops
- Vegetables
- Fish

“Valley Section” by Patrick Geddes (19th century): Design with Nature,
source: <https://transect.org/>

 = not common

Urban commons - Right to city

broader array of resources both material and material

open system: transforming its users and shape relations based on collaboration and solidarity

can embody local forms of resistance and cooperation to make claims on urban resources and city spaces

a way of resisting privatisation or/ and commodification

Themes of urban commons

3 Types of Commons

Economy

Supporting diverse non-capitalist economies based on mutual interests, sharing and collaboration.

Ecologies

Relations of collective care, regeneration and resilience can contribute to planetary ecological repair (eco-communing)

Infrastructures

Shared mobility, facilities, housing etcetera as transformational infrastructures to build resilient communities

Knowledge

Generations management and dissemination of knowledge orientated towards social change and more just society.

Socialities

Cooperating communities and their capacity to maintain, reproduce and transform urban life.

Governance

Not merely a question of management but a political process with a principle of self governance to transforms society.

4 Current Trends

Trends and impacts on the area of common land

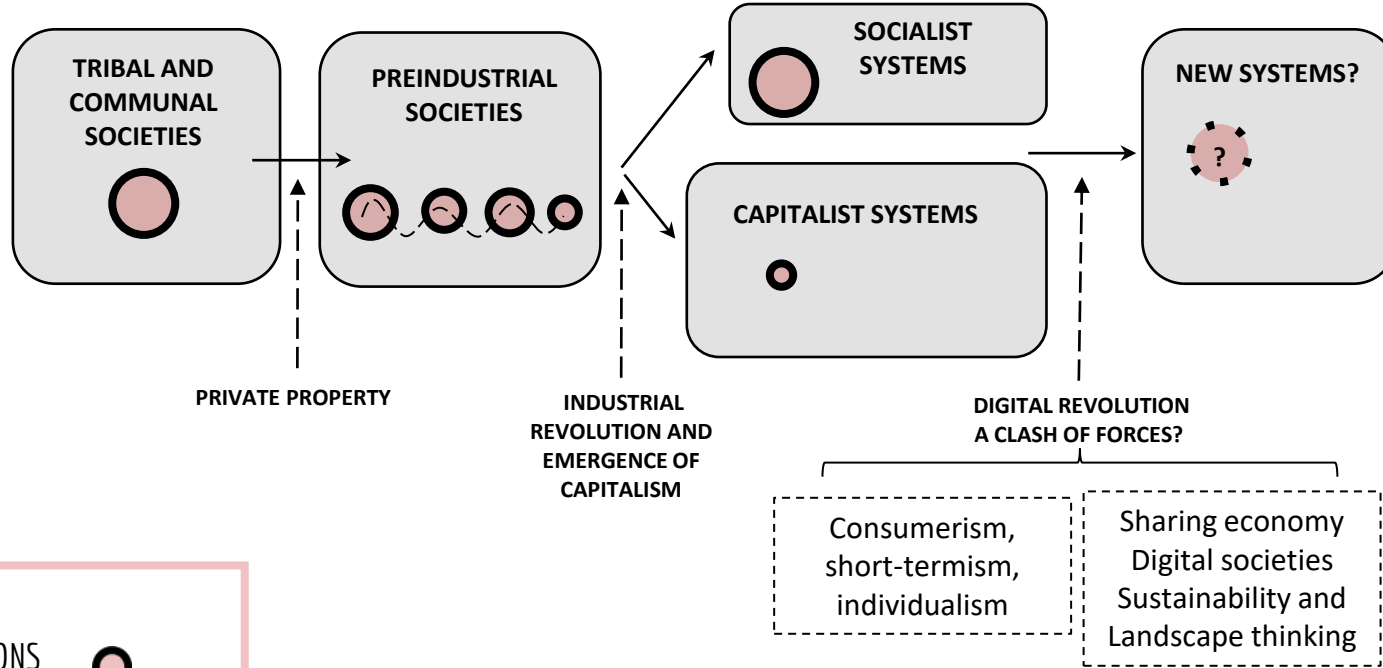
Losses

- Regulations on harvest in forests (mushrooms, fire wood)
- Loss of agricultural land for urban sprawl and development
- Illegal occupation
- Loss of agricultural land by selling to private entities (international companies take over land of small holdings for export)
- Loss of public accessible space because of gentrification, closed communities
- Loss of public land due to privatization (authorities selling)

Gains

- Reclaiming illegally taken plots
- Improved access for leisure / recreation – development of green infrastructure, recreational routes
- Reclaiming land for urban agriculture
- Buying land by trusts, communities for common production
- Giving rights to users

Reflecting socio-economic systems & cultural values



4 Current Trends

LEGEND:
THE COMMONS 

Commons and... ?

- Type of ownership?
- Rights of use
- Rights/Duties in management
- Duties and rights

(Galán, 2022)

5 Exercise

EXERCISE in BREAKOUTROOMS / the CLASS ROOM

(30 minutes - 4 people per room / group)

Briefly present yourselves

1. Do you know a place / site in your environment / city that you could label as a 'common'?
2. Who are the 'commoners' and how do they benefit?
3. Do the commoners have responsibilities?
4. How could you make use of this as an example in your plans?

6 Case Studies

Development Central and Eastern Europe



Communism/socialism

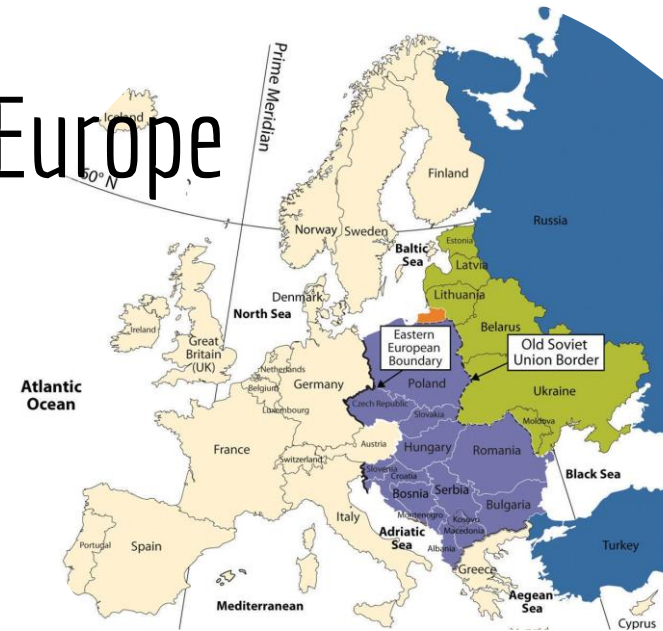
- domination of public property, implicit central planning, large state agro-structures, massive mechanization of agriculture (*large scale, expensive and environmentally insensitive agriculture as a means to support rapid industrialization centered on heavy industry*)

Commons

- the leftovers of the farm (*state or semi-subsistence*), infrastructure, industry and urbanisation
- the main platform of autonomy especially in relation with food and energy self sufficiency in scarcity era

Postsocialism

- Complicated transition from communism to capitalism, public to private interest and property sovereignty, central to private planning
- Privatisation of commons in rural and urban context
- Aggressive and chaotic urban sprawl generating abandoned land
- New forms of Hybrid commons: URBAN PASTORALISM
Abandoned agricultural land (private) transformed in commons informally



*under influence of greater powers
the fringe of Europe in terms of economic development*



ex Urban pastoralism as a form of appropriation of abandoned land

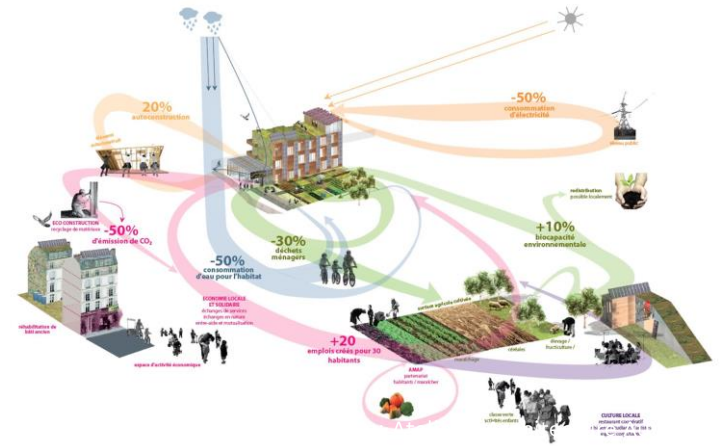
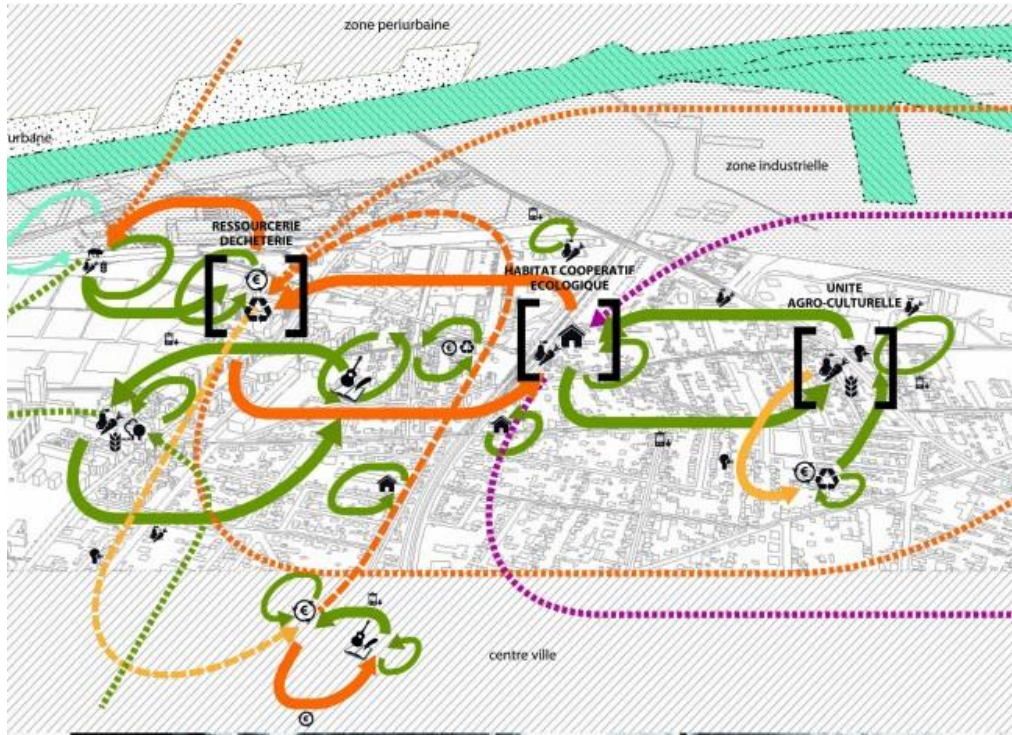


The Garage, The Library and The Neighbourhood

PhD candidate architect Alex Axinte ¹⁶

Paris: R-urban

6 Case Studies



R-Urban is a bottom-up strategy based on networks of urban commons and collective hubs supporting civic resilience practices initiated by atelier d'architecture autogérée. Although conceived and initiated by architectural designers and urban researchers, the R-Urban framework was designed to be enacted through co-production with a wide range of actors including local residents, policymakers and local businesses.

The R-URBAN process

1. Identifying vacant or underused land
2. Negotiating with authorities to access the land
3. Holding events to gain interest from local residents.
4. Consulting the community to determine the preferred use of space.
5. Proposing designs for the space that reflect resident's preferences and ideas.
6. Implementing plans by community volunteers, experts staff volunteers and student volunteers.
7. Overseeing and governing the space by regulatory body: giving rights of access (keys).
8. Undertaking continuous development to find new ways of occupying the space.
9. Gradually ceding management/ governance of space to the community association.
10. Considering the need to relocate to find alternative space.



Source: R. Tribou



Source: R. Tribou

France: community garden



Source: R. Tribou



Budget participatif : une 1re édition réussie !



Roxana Maria Tribou
22 mars 2018

Un square convivial rue de Braga

La friche rue de Braga pourra être aménagée en un espace convivial pour les habitants du secteur d'Estaing.

- 📍 Cadre de vie / Petits aménage...
- 📍 Montferrand



Source: R. Tribou



Source: bec36. fr et budgetparticipatifClemmont



Source: Sors de terre



Source: © PDB / France 3 Paris ID



Source: Fabrique territoires

France : Urban pastoralism





Source:P. Calinescu



Source:R. Triboi

Romania : Urban pastoralism



Source:P. Calinescu



Source:P. Calinescu

Commons in rural Romania

Small Community of 30 families in a valley in Carpathians mountains

Commons

River banks

Circulations path

Public space

Pastures/grazing space

Woods



- 3 Days of work (individually) per cow / pasture management
- Payment of a common cow shepherd for all village
- Voluntary work of each family ensures for herds
- Pastoral management of sheeps in the mountains



Source: I. Dobrescu

Bucharest: Open education through libraries

Experiential education in an interdisciplinary setting

Source: Studio Basar



City School 2015-2016: The Library from Militari : *an applied education program coordinated by studioBASAR and developed with local community*

The City School is a program of mutual learning, developed with students, young graduates and residents of the city in a collaborative and horizontal approach.

Open outside libraries

- practical approach of opening education in the context of the pandemic and limitations suffered by the public libraries.
- a way of keeping the existing public libraries active while facilitating access to education of socio-economic vulnerable population
- extremely valuable in the context of radical privatisation and progressive closure of public and community spaces in Bucharest
- appropriated spaces for experiential education,
- supports local community interaction

7 References and Reading Material

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Urban Commons Research Collective. (2022)., Urban Commons Handbook (Barcelona: dpr-barcelona, 2022)

Websites: <https://www.publicspace.org/works/-/project/j281-r-urban-network-of-urban-commons>

Focussed reading list on the Commons

- Urban Commons Research Collective. (2022)., Urban Commons Handbook (Barcelona: dpr-barcelona, 2022): pages 18-29 and 32-54 .
- Menatti. L. (2017). Landscape: from common good to human right. In: International Journal of the Commons Vol. 11, no 2 2017, pp. 641–683 Publisher: Uopen Journals; <http://www.thecommonsjournal.org> DOI: 10.18352/ijc.738: pages 649 – 659 (10 pages)
- You can also follow **#urbancommonsresearchcollective**

8 Questions for you

Some questions for you:

- Which role can landscape commons have in your study/project area or in your study or work?
- Are there already transformative initiatives existing?
- Who could be the participants / actors in the development?
- Who would benefit, who should contribute, who should regulate?
- What kind of value chains can be developed?

Thank you for your attention

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9 CONCEPTS and GLOSSARY

Key concepts of the (new) commons

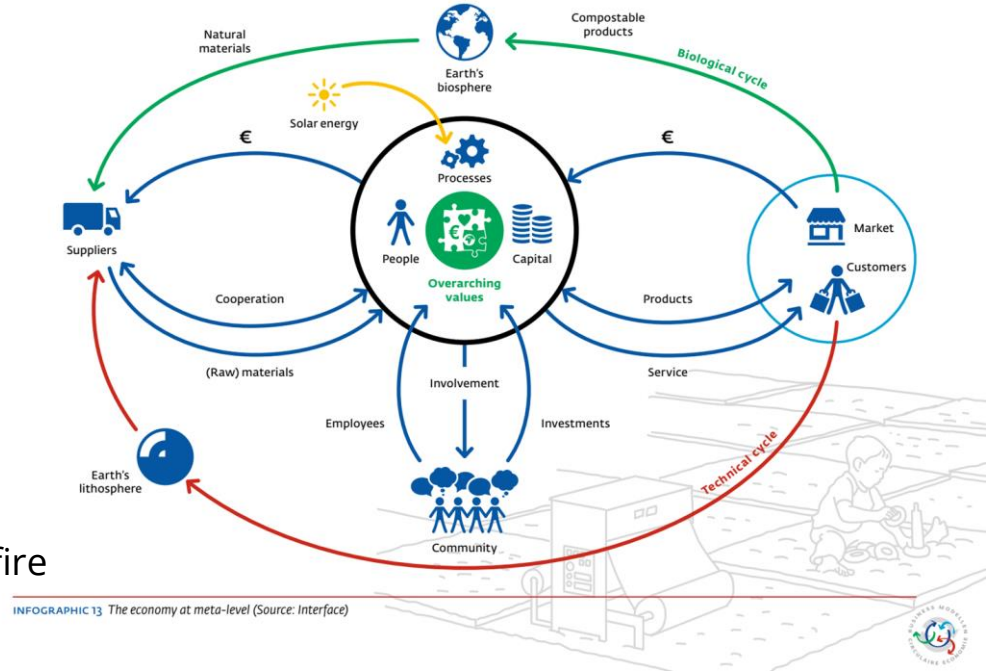
Key concepts

- Right to landscape
- Access to land
- Landscape democracy
- New commons
- Food security
- New business models

Aspects

- Grazing rights
- Access for leisure
- Hunting rights
- Right to grow food
- Right to pick fruits, mushrooms, collect fire wood
- Funding for ecosystem services

INFOGRAPHIC WORKBOOK 'ORGANISING FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY', JONKER ET AL. (2018)



INFOGRAPHIC 13 The economy at meta-level (Source: Interface)

INFOGRAPHIC WORKBOOK 'ORGANISING FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY',
JONKER et al. (2018)

Landscape as a common good

Landscape is considered a – both material and immaterial – good belonging to the community. Landscape is shared, protected and safeguarded so that it can be inherited by future generations. Landscape is the relation between nature and culture, which is expressed in patrimony and cultural heritage. A sense of responsibility, both from the political and social points of view, is implied by this idea. The theoretical focus is posed on the political value of the landscape, and on the fact that its characterisation as a common good promotes a shift from an aesthetical account to an ethical one.

Commons and Landscape

The commons is the material landscape of common lands shared by a community of commoners with customary use rights in the land, with a shared use of the lands.

Management is based on a *lex loci* and on customs.

The commons imply the relationship between the material land and the culture. Moreover, the connection between landscape and commons is established through the political value assumed by landscapes and commons in democratic processes.

Today it also includes the issue of the re-appropriation and the collective management of a land/part of a territory in every kind of landscape.

Landscape as a right

People can be entitled to a right of landscape which may be considered as a human right.

From the correlation between landscape and health, both physical and psychological, one can conclude that every human being is entitled to the right to a culturally rich and healthy landscape.

The right to landscape, even if it is not recognised as a right *per se*, is already implicated in many international right laws

Menatti and Casado 2016, Strecker 2011, 57

Right to city

This right is a reaction to the continuing commodification of urban resources encourage by both public policy and private development.

The urban commons transform cities around the globe challenging the capitalist process of accumulation, extraction and enclosure.

Social Economy

A type of economy which is formed by a rich diversity of enterprises and organisations sharing common values and features:

- Primacy of the individual and the social objective over capital
- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic governance
- Combination of interests of members/users and/or the general interest
- Defense and application of the principles of solidarity and responsibility
- Autonomous management and independence from public authorities
- Reinvestment of at least most of the profits to carry out sustainable development objectives, services of interest to members or of general interest