FairCoop

FairCoop is a global movement of people who are in the process of setting up a self-managed, cooperative, supportive, ecological, and autonomous socioeconomic ecosystem for the transition to alternative models of organization based on justice and equity. FairCoop promotes the use of *FairCoin* as reserve and for real economic exchanges. FairCoin is a digital currency (cryptocurrency) that is fair, ecological, decentralized, and supportive of the common good.

Ideology

FairCoop supports the values of *cooperatives* and put most of them also into practice but FairCoop itself doesn't have the legal status at all and goes even beyond that traditional approaches of a Coops. FairCoop has also some characters of a *platform cooperative* but also here goes beyond that definition due to its diversity of tools and apps. It has traits of a *grassroots movement* but as its also fueled from the global level and aims to create an alternative and parallel system to the existing one instead of changing the system itself this definition doesn't completely fit neither. What FairCoop is definitely not is an *NGO* or a company, and certainly also not for profit.

Therefore, FairCoop could be defined with the bulky term "alternative cooperative ecosystem movement" until we find a better terminology.

More details about FairCoop and how it works are under the section *FairCoop Ecosystem* .

What does FairCoop criticize?

- power of central banks
- global economic inequality
- unlimited economic growth
- concept of central government and central state
- individualism and competition
- privatization of natural resources, knowledge and technology

What does FairCoop value as counter concepts?

- decentralized economic systems
- fair economy
- economy in coexistence and synergy with the planet
- open participation with decentralization and horizontalization of power based on multi-layer assemblies
- cooperation and solidarity resulting in win-win situations
- essential commons accessible to all

    ##History → The way from the economic crisis 2007/8 until the foundation of FairCoop

The events listed and persons involved here had directly or indirectly influence to early days of FairCoop

2007/8: Financial Crisis

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2008: Expropriation of the banks

2010: Foundation of the Cooperativa Intergral Catalana (CIC)

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2011: Movimiento 15-M

The 2011 Spanish protests, also referred to as the 15-M Movement or the Spanish revolution, are a series of ongoing demonstrations in Spain whose origin can be traced to social networks and the Real democracy NOW (Spanish: Democracia real YA) civilian digital platform, along with 200 other small associations. Compared with the Arab Spring and May 1968 in France, it started on 15 May with an initial call in 58 Spanish cities.

The series of protests demands a radical change in Spanish politics, as protesters do not consider themselves to be represented by any traditional party nor favored by the measures approved by politicians. Spanish media have related the protests to the economic crisis, the NEET ("Not in Education, Employment, or Training") troubled generation and current protests in the Middle East and North Africa, Greece, Portugal as well as the Icelandic protest and riots in 2009. The protests were staged close to the local and regional elections, held on 22 May.

Even though protesters form a heterogeneous and ambiguous group, they share a strong rejection of Spanish politicians, the current two-party system in Spain between the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and the People's Party and political corruption and firmly support what they call basic rights: home, work, culture, health and education. One of the movement's ever-rotating spokespeople defined it as "non-apolitical, but non-partisan".[1]

2011: Occupy Wall Street

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2014: Foundation of FairCoop

In April 2014, *Enric Duran*, co-creator of the concept of Integral Cooperative and co-founder of the Catalan Integral Cooperative, began to develop an early idea of FairCoop with the approach of an of an integral revolution on the global level with experiences from the CIC and former individual actions.

Due to uprise of digital currencies and there diverse advantages for autonomous movements (e.g. decentralization, independence from banks and states), an abandoned cryptocurrency called FairCoin was chosen by Enric to give the potential global movement not just an independent currency but a tool to fund the emerging ecosystem and movement by itself. Before disclosing his plan of reviving the cryptocurrency and announcing the launch of FairCoop Enric acquired anonymously millions of Faircoins from the open market (which, at that time, had the value of a fraction of a cent) and donated about 10 Million to different funds, known as the FairFunds. Later, he shared the plan with others developers who were interested in keeping the currency alive. Especially Thomas König, core developer of FairCoin since then, played a central role in the success of the takeover, the continued development and improvements of the currency.

In the following month, Enric shared the plan also with various partners from the CIC, the p2p foundation (such as *Michel Bauwens* and *Stacco Troncoso*), and Dark wallet (*Amir Taaki* and *Pablo Martin*), as well as several like-minded individuals and initiatives from around the world, to become the promoter group which has enabled launching of FairCoop on September 17, 2014. [2]

FAQ

FairCoin

For questions about FairCoin please go to the FairCoin page.

Other Qs

What benefits are there for an individual who wants to participate?

There are a lot! You are getting involved in a large participatory effort to improve things in this imperfect world. Everyone has a role here, and can help make it possible. Depending on how you are interested in taking part, you could have different kind of rewards, for example:

– if you get involved in some tasks through a commission, you could be rewarded in faircoins (and in the future, Faircredit) which may be saved or spent. The way this will be organized is still being discussed in the Ecosystemic council.

– If you get involved by selling your products or services in the FairMarket (the future online marketplace), you can work for yourself (or help sustain your previously-existing personal business).

– If you get involved in a future project related to the global commons, perhaps you could receive a part of the faircoins donated to this project….

These and many other options will defined in the future.

Does Fair.Coop have a legal status and/or structure? If so, what is it and if not, why not?

Although it uses the name "coop", it's more of an alliance that incorporates actual, on the ground coops. It's a bit like asking "what is the ownership status of the Occupy Movement?" The project is

under construction, and it depends on a process of participation which is open to the public and, again, available to read here on the Fair.Coop site. You could say that the entire website is the charter, really.

Who decides how to distribute the funds? What are the organizations and collectives who will benefit from these funds?

Who the funds will go to isn't something that's decided by the promoting team. Identifying who the potential benefactors are and following through is an ongoing democratic process for the whole coop as it's coming together right now: each of the different Funds is co-managed by a council that works in conjunction with the other Funds, as well as with the entire community built around Fair.Coop.

The type of organizations we want to work with will be those who could potentially generate peer production in the material plane, as well as benefit from the shared knowledge accrued by the coop. We also want to focus on projects that lack the necessary means to activate this type of peer production.

Other examples would include strategic projects that can add more value to the global commons. Projects which, on their own, maybe wouldn't have the ability to network at this scale to share their knowledge. Projects would also benefit from the moral and material support of a global community if and when attacked by hostile interests. All in all, Fair.Coop will increase the resilience of these projects.

More than naming specific organizations, we are very open to being approached so that everyone can participate in Fair.Coop's co-creation and ongoing development.

We are also very interested in empowering the Global South to increase its resiliency. While there's an undeniable geographical truth in saying "the Global South", we also mean the 99% independent of where we may reside.

How can I cooperate?

An interested group or individual can first simply join our social network, and check out the work teams and various commissions. Fair.Coop, despite its technology, is human in essence.

For further details on ways to participate, see the related page on Fair.Coop /ways-to-participate/

Finally, feel free to directly ask people already involved in the network about anything related to your own involvement.

Can Fair.Coop and FairCoin really work on a global scale? What could that look like?

In fact, Fair.Coop can't be anything but global. It's been specifically designed to be global – for this reason, we call it the Earth Cooperative. It's not a scaled-up local project. One of Fair.Coop's key objectives is to facilitate a global body of knowledge, capable of generating concrete impact locally.

At any rate, we could make a working distinction between two sets of mechanisms that would be produced by Fair.Coop: global and local. At the local level we would see local, specialized mechanisms

and knowledge which, in turn, would feed into a global open knowledge economy comprised of, among other things, valuable data and monetary and economic tools. This will be a bidirectional relationship, as both parts will nourish one another for the benefit of the whole.

What is the long term vision for FairCoop?

Our long term vision is to create a means for constructing a new social and economic system based on decentralized cooperation, bypassing the need for nation-states and central banks. In the short term, we are creating a space for a real collaborative, commons-oriented economy, mutually generated by projects worldwide and destined for humanity as a whole. We're compiling the sum of the knowledge distributed among different collectives for a cohesive impact.

[1)]
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Spanish_protests
[2)]
https://2017.fair.coop/promoter-team/ (adapted from the old content of the website)

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