

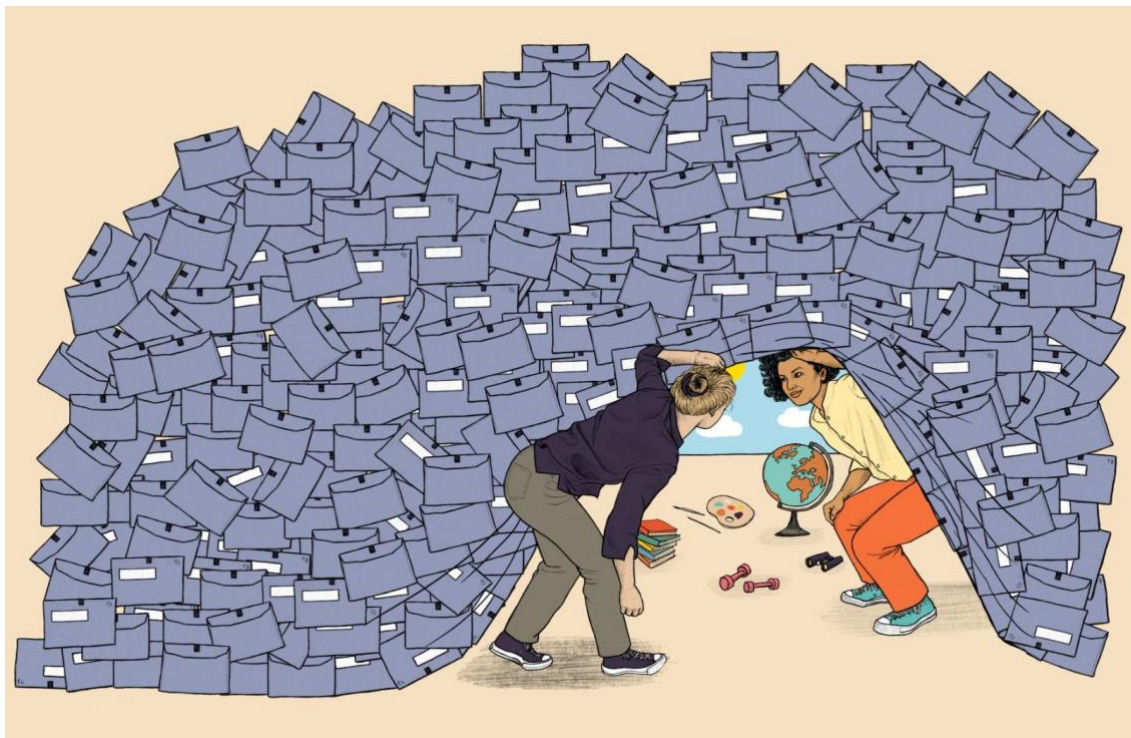
8 INSPIRING PRACTICES OF SHARING MONEY

Collectief Kapitaal (NL)

WHAT?

Collectief Kapitaal was started in September 2021 by Denise Harleman during Covid-19, as a basic income experiment in Amsterdam, in which 100 citizens agreed to pay a monthly sum of 50 euro for 8 months and offer it as a basic income of 1.000 euro for 8 months (= 40.000 euro in total) to 5 individuals / families, next to their minimal income.

Part of the experiment was the active discussion among the 100 initial donors about certain dilemmas. Basic principles behind Collectief Kapitaal are 'trust', 'dignity' and 'autonomy'. It is meant to offer security to people and inspire policy makers.



HOW?

By December 2022, Collectief Kapitaal had developed into a community of 915 donators that contributed 236.000 euro in total. Now 10 people in Rotterdam and Amsterdam with an income below the poverty line receive 1.000 euro for 12 months.

Collectief Kapitaal has been developed as a collective of people that wants change in society. "It's about what kind of society you want to live in, and which relations you have to others."

WHO?

The receivers of the basic income have been raffled by lottery after an open call for 'minima': people living on a minimal wage. During the experiment, they are asked to testify about their experience, if they want.

The group of donors is very diverse in terms of age, education and living area. "In fact, they only agree about our basic principles." They believe in the idea of a basic income, feel the need for system change, are curious to new forms of redistribution, want to share experiences and knowledge or just want to give.

www.collectiefkapitaal.nl

Tontine

WHAT?

Tontine is a simple community saving system without interest, in which 12 individuals pay a small, fixed amount every month into a collective pot, while one of them can take out the total amount for that month.

Tontine is common practice mostly in the Global South, in contexts where it's difficult to save for bigger expenditures and/or to have access to banks. In Congo, it's called 'likelemba'. In Asia there's the variant of the 'chit fund', that uses a monthly auction to determine which participant can get (part of) that month's total capital.

Tontine is the basic mechanism behind the Nobel Prize winning idea of 'microcredit financing', developed by Muhammad Yunus. Originally, it refers to an old European (pension) saving system, initiated by the Italian banker Lorenzo de Tonti in 1653 in Naples.



HOW?

In likelemba, 12 participants with small incomes (often women) pay for instance 20 dollar every month to a collective pot. Every month one participant gets the whole pot (240 dollar), to pay a wedding or do a bigger investment. So by the end of the year, every participant has used the collective monthly payments once.

A more advanced form of Tontine is ROSCA (Rotating Savings And Credit Association): a number of individuals agree to form a collective for a defined period (6 months, 1 year...) in order to save and borrow together, as a form of combined peer-to-peer banking and peer-to-peer lending. Different to likelemba, there's an accumulation of the common capital, so every individual gets more than s/he invested initially.

WHO?

Participants often have a close and informal relation to each other: they are relatives, live in the same village or do similar work. These social connections are important, because the whole system is built on trust and solidarity. Money serves to strengthen the community.

Mein Grundeinkommen (DE)

WHAT?

Since 2014, Mein Grundeinkommen is a large German crowdfunding practice in which thousands of individuals donate to a fund that raffles 25 unconditional basic incomes (UBI) every month in an online lottery event. If you win, you get 1.000 euro every month for one year. All winners are portrayed on their website with a nickname.

In 2021 Mein Grundeinkommen also initiated 'Pilotprojekt Grundeinkommen', the largest independent academic research project into the effects of UBI in Germany and the first one to be entirely financed by private crowdfunding. From mid 2021, 120 participants receive 1,200 € per month for a total of three years. "We want to research the actions and feelings of the participants as well as their change in values, cognitive skills and their use of time."



HOW?

Today, 180.000 people ('crowdhörnchen') contribute around 800.000 euro every month to Mein Grundeinkommen. They can pay from 1 euro a month, but also one-time donations are possible. Half of this money is distributed every month in the form of 25 basic incomes, awarded during a monthly 'Verlosung': a livestream lottery event of 45 minutes. The other half of the collective capital is invested in the organisation itself, which engages 30 people. As a crowdfunder, you can choose to spend less to the organisation and more to the UBIs.

WHO?

Mein Grundeinkommen is a Berlin based non-profit organisation, founded by Michael Bohmeyer. Everyone in the world can register for the next lottery event. In the 'Verlosung' of April 2022, around 955.000 people took part, while more than 200.000 crowdfunders contributed to the amount that was raffled that month.

www.mein-grundeinkommen.de

SOS Relief (BE)

WHAT?

‘SOS Relief’ was an online matching tool, developed in Spring 2020 by the Belgian artist platform State of the Arts. It facilitated person-to-person financial solidarity during the covid-pandemic, by connecting people in need directly with people that wanted to give. Small amounts (50 to 400 euro) were transferred directly on the receiver’s bank account. Two years later, more than 250.000 euro had been exchanged.

The SOS Relief tool led to two sister initiatives: ‘OMUZ’ in Turkey (using different temporary rounds of exchanges to skip waiting lists) and ‘An Urgent Embrace’ of Globe Aroma in Belgium (working with newcomers that do not always have a bank account).



HOW?

As SOS Relief wanted to foster interpersonal solidarity, only private people could participate, not organisations. Everyone could only receive once, but could give many times. Users were choosing between ‘receive’ and ‘give’, and between 50 €, 100 €, 200 € and 400 €. With these small amounts SOS Relief didn’t want to release the Belgian state from its responsibility to organize more structural support measures.

Matching happened by the principle ‘first come, first serve’: givers got invited by email to transfer their selected amount directly to the bank account of a receiver. To shorten the waiting list, also a more structural donor option was provided: ‘Golden Relievers’ engaged to pay 50 €, 100 €, 200 € or 400 € every month to someone else for half a year.

WHO?

SOS Relief was open for ‘anyone living in Belgium’ and not limited to artists. Based on the principle of trust, the identity of givers or receivers was not checked, and participants were not obliged to give any explanation. “But we invite people to evaluate for themselves how big their need is before asking.” In total, 800 receivers and 900 givers were involved.

www.state-of-the-arts.net/sosrelief/en/

www.omuz.org/en/

www.globebearoma.be/an-urgent-embrace-en/

Social Income (SH & SL)

WHAT?

Since 2020 'Social Income' is a pilot project between the Swiss art organisation Random institute (Zurich) and an artist collective in Freetown in Sierra Leone. European participants contribute 1% of their monthly income to provide a three years' basic income to people in Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the Global South. They get 30 dollars / month, while the average income is 45 dollars.

Social Income combines three approaches to change: 1) the promise of Universal Basic Income, 2) the benefits of direct cash transfers, 3) the power of mobile banking. In Dec 2022, 112 recipients are enrolled in Social Income's three years' program, supported by 175 contributors (from 17 countries) for 228.000 euro in total.



HOW?

On the Social Income website a calculator helps you to determine your monthly income. It explains what 1% of this amount means for a potential recipient in Sierra Leone. Individuals pay a monthly quarterly or annually contribution, while institutions can make a one-time contribution as well. 100% of individual contributions are paid directly to the recipients' mobile phones.

WHO?

Possible new recipients in Sierra Leone are determined by the local advocates and partner organisations of Social Income. The major principle for this selection is to keep up a strict gender balance/equality and to only support people in need.

Today, apart from the initial artists, also a list of local widows and people with disabilities in Sierra Leone's coastal area do receive support by Social Income. In the spirit of the Universal Basic Income 'recipients can use the money as they please'.

www.socialincome.org

The Common Wallet (BE)

WHAT?

The Common Wallet is a Brussels collective that started in January 2018 among ten artists and cultural workers. They share one common bank account, on which they transfer all their personal income and from which they pay all their personal daily expenses. Every week, the members of the Common Wallet meet to check in with each other, as a form of kinship. “We have expanded the notion of family.”

Basic values of the Common Wallet are trust, generosity and solidarity. By detaching money from individual ownership, the Common Wallet participants question taboos and injustices within the current financial system. They aim to convert money into a means to enable listening, care, transparency and even joy among people.



HOW?

All members have a personal bank card and access to all transactions, but there's no control on who's spending what. The basic principle is not to judge others' expenses. “Aiming at challenging the culture of individualism, competition and antagonism that prevails in our neoliberal societies, the Common Wallet practices and reflects on alternative modalities to relate to each other, to work and to money.” Mortgages are left out of the experiment.

WHO?

All members of the Common Wallet are cultural workers and live (close to each other) in Brussels. Some of them knew each other before, others didn't.

Their status is different: some work freelance, others have a fixed salary or are unemployed from time to time. Since the start, a few members have left the collective, others have joined. Based on their experience, the collective needs min. 5 and max. 11 participants. At a certain moment also 7 children were involved.

Broodfonds (NL)

WHAT?

A 'broodfonds' (literally: Bread Fund) is a self-governing Dutch system in which min. 20 and max. 50 independent entrepreneurs contribute to a collective fund to secure each other with a cheaper health insurance if they get sick. Basic principles of a bread fund are transparency, solidarity and equal conditions.

The first Broodfonds started in 2006. In December 2022 nearly 30.000 freelancers were involved in 635 local bread funds, in 200 spots in Holland. Participants are not anonymous clients but meet a few times a year to decide together on the terms and conditions of their fund. In this way, a broodfonds creates a network among entrepreneurs in the same region, seeing solidarity as a way to create their own safety-net.



HOW?

New members pay a one-time service fee of €250 and a monthly contribution of €10. They open individual bank accounts dedicated to their 'bread fund'. On these accounts, they save a fixed monthly amount between 33 and 112 euro, as a personal credit. When people cancel their participation, they collect this sum.

If members of a broodfonds fall sick, they receive donations from the others in their group, the total amounting to a net monthly income between €750 and €2500, depending on their own monthly contribution. Members can receive support for a maximum of two years.

WHO?

New bread funds are advised by the three initial founders of the first Broodfonds in 2006: Dutch entrepreneurs Biba Schoenmaker, Haiko Liefmann and André Jonkers. They are united in the BroodfondsMakers Coöperatie, the structure behind the bread funds. In December 2022, almost 15 people worked for the cooperation.

www.broodfonds.nl

Entrepotes (BE)

WHAT?

Entrepotes (from the French 'entre potes', among friends) is a Brussels de facto association, born of an agreement in 2013 between 4 friends to support one of theirs in difficulty. Since then, their solidarity model has been used several times for other friends, e.g. after a house fire or for a friend with a long lasting (and expensive) health issue.

This financial model functions by regular donations: in a monthly basis, all involved friends deposit a self-chosen amount of money (by standing order) on one account. Every month, this total amount (e.g. 1.000 €) is transmitted to that one friend that is in difficulty, as long as needed. Solidarity projects of Entrepotes can last one or more years.



HOW?

One or two friends take the initiative to organise a solidarity network around another friend in difficulty, by first asking that friend's permission. Then they invite an anonymous email list of all their friends to make a monthly contribution on a special account to support that one friend. All participating friends make a standing order and are informed by email every month about the total amount that is transmitted to the concerned friend.

Two basic principles of this solidarity system are confidentiality (the individual donations amounts are not disclosed to anyone) and anonymity of donors (the names of the donors are not shared with the concerned friend).

WHO?

There's only one person who receives and answers emails, is following-up on the accounts and makes the payments. The rest doesn't know how many people are involved, nor who's participating. In fact, Entrepotes is an anonymous network, communicating by email. Only the identity of the friend in difficulty is known.

If you know other inspiring practices or projects, please email wouterhillaert@gmail.com!