CIVIC ACTIVISM

Reconstructing cities by solidarity economy

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**SOLIDARITY ECONOMY**

- A way of thinking about the economy that opens up spaces of hope and possibility for building a more just, sustainable and democratic economy
- Practical alternatives to the mainstream economy
- **Value** rather than profit
- Using and contributing to **commons**

Miller 2010
[http://www.communityeconomies.org/site/assets/media/Ethan_Miller/Miller_Solidarity_Economy_Key_Issues_2010.pdf](http://www.communityeconomies.org/site/assets/media/Ethan_Miller/Miller_Solidarity_Economy_Key_Issues_2010.pdf)
**Civic economy**
Refers to empowerment of citizens as agents solving problems of the society especially at the local scale.

**Peer-to-peer, P2P economy**
Exchange between equal individuals (or other actors) without intermediation by a third party.

**Sharing economy**
Economy guided by the idea of efficient use of resources.

**Platform economy**
Digital and data system based services available for diverse users at the internet.

**Solidarity economy**
Ethically oriented concept, refers to using commons for creating value for the community members.

**Gig economy**
Concept with negative sense, refers to business that provides occasional job by need, and related working conditions.

**Circular economy**
A line of economic action guided by the goal of resource efficiency, based on prolonging the cycle of materials and their value in the economy.
ACTIVISM ON THE RISE

• Digitalization has brought people multiple opportunities to start developing their societies directly by themselves

• Change in agency: actor networks, sharing, recycling, collaborative consumption, start-up spirit, social enterprises, disappointment with representative democracy
(URBAN) CIVIC ACTIVISM

- Self-organized, proactive and constructive co-action, typically outside of formal NGOs
- Primarily DIY-action instead of orienting towards decision making system or political engagement
  - 'Let’s just do it!' attitude (Pulkkinen 2014)
- Based on networking in social media and internet solutions
- People-driven bottom-up urbanism; takes place in urban space or is related to cities and urban life
Sharing economy

Community

Innovation and mediator communities

Improving public services

Ecological movements

Communication encouraging activism

Urban planning groups

Squatting, opening, shaping spaces

Artivism

Open events

Local movements

Self-organized city

Support

Social support

Developing Information society

Developing tools for activism

Technology

P2P commerce etc.

Alternative food networks etc.

Hacktivism

Green: activism types that especially can make sense for enhancing ecological sustainability

Mäenpää et al., forthcoming
REKO – CIVIC FOOD NETWORK

Food market regulated -> let’s bypass it with pre-orders in FB!
FOOD CO-OPERATIVE OMA MAA

Local organic food, weekly bags, urban café as pick-up point
SAAREMME: LOCAL SERVICES
Saaremme co-operative: Shop & café, now Saaremme well-being centre
TIME BANK: STADIN AIKAPANKKI

Service exchange between individuals, alternative currency

Stadinaikapankki.wordpress.com/
VALTAAJAT: CHANGING WORLD

Young people supported to act, Valtaajat co-operative

http://valtaajat.fi/
CROWDFUNDING

Almost anyone can organize campaigns for funding their own projects or contribute to projects by funding.
LEARNING FROM MALAYSIA

Characteristics of a successful shift towards solidarity economy suggested by the case of Iban weavers

• Members of the community find for themselves (active) roles in making their common future together
  > How widely do people in Finland have the will and chance to support the solidarity economy movement?

• Favourable activity by external actors
  > Is there action potential in Finland that could be released by using researchers as change agents?
  > Should the government units take a role in supporting the solidarity activism for example by workshops?
ON THE PROJECT

• ’Civic activism as resource for the metropolis’, 2015–2016/2017

• How does civic activism contribute to the development of cities? How could cities and state organizations utilise and support it?

• Focus on ecological sustainability, local innovations, local communities and involvement

• Advocative action research: working together with activists and authorities by identifying and solving their problems

• Partners: Cities of Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, and Lahti; Ministries of Environment, Finance, and Justice; The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, Finnish Environment Institute

• Funding: Helsinki Metropolitan Region Urban Research Program, The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, The Finnish Cultural Foundation/Uusimaa Regional fund, The Fund of Heikki von Hertzen
THANK YOU!

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