



# Caring 4 future

Drafts of a Future based on  
Solidarity

participant's booklet



**KAUZ – Laboratory for Climate, Work and Future** is an ERASMUS+ project co-funded by the European Commission under the project number: **2020-1-DE02-KA204-007671**.

### **KAUZ PARTNERS:**

Common Future e.V.– Germany

Universität Siegen – Germany

Periskop - Kollektiv für solidarischen und ökologischen Wandel – Austria

Libera Università di Bolzano – Italy

Ustanova za obrazovanje odraslih Dante – Croatia

*This booklet was edited by Eliza Zimmermann on the behalf of KAUZ.*

Media reports, election posters and the demonstration signs carried by students regularly remind us that our mode of living is ecologically and socially unsustainable. In order for the economy to continue to grow, costs are outsourced and ecological livelihoods are exploited, as are underpaid and unpaid (care) work of women and migrants.

*What would children learn in a society that puts care at its centre?*

*In what conditions would people age in such a society?*

*What would work be like that is oriented towards people's needs rather than profit maximization look like?*

In this workshop, we want to get to the bottom of the characteristics of a caring society, meaning a mode of living in which the needs of people and the environment are central.

## Activities

A reason for hope \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Why we need utopian ideas \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine a future of solidarity \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Break \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

“Solidary mode of living” video \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Puzzle of alternatives \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

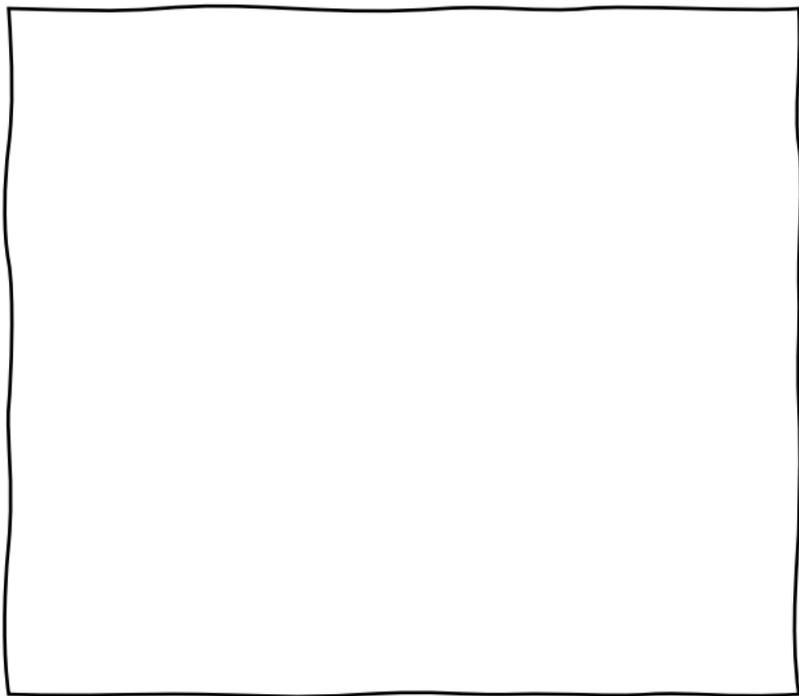
Wrap up \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

# 1 A reason for hope

What is your name and pronoun?

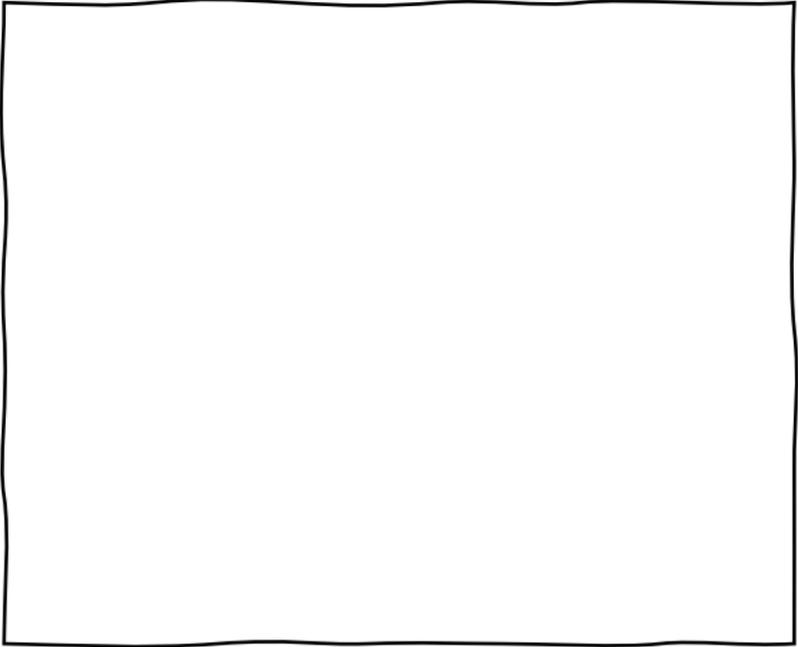
How are you today?

What was the last thing/event/situation that gave me hope for a future based on solidarity?



# 2 Why we need utopian ideas

What do you understand by utopia?



Utopia is the draft of a possible, future, but mostly fictitious form of life or social order that is not bound to contemporary historical-cultural framework conditions (Wikipedia). From Ancient Greek *οὐ* ou "not" and *τόπος* *tópos* "place, spot",

A. Which quote do you intuitively disagree with the most?

B. Which quote do you intuitively agree with the most?

„Reality is for those who cannot stand their dreams.”  
- author unknown

„Nothing contributes to shaping the future more than a dream.” - Victor Hugo

„My utopia is not your utopia.” - author unknown

“The goal of oppressors is to limit your imagination about what is possible without them, so you might never imagine more for yourself & the world you live in. Imagine something better. Get curious about what it actually takes to make it happen. Then fight for it every day.” - Ashley C. Ford

„Utopias have a political claim: they criticise existing institutions and socio-political conditions and map out a well thought-out alternative. In all of this, they make people active, creative beings and ascribe equal rights to every individual.” - author unknown

„Change should speak a language that addresses not only the mind but also the heart. Dreams should be confronted with reality and vice versa, only then can existing conditions be changed. We need positive perspectives. Utopias can combat the "paralysing" state. They can be a ray of hope in phases of resignation and stagnation.” - author unknown

„Utopias are engines of change. They motivate and inspire us to go new ways.” - author unknown

„Just because something seems unthinkable today does not mean that it is impossible. It is just not yet conceivable.” - author unknown

"the master's *tools* will never dismantle the master's *house*" – Audre Lorde

# 3 Imagining a future of solidarity

A. What is your personal vision of a future based on solidarity? Write, draw, paint, perform or just think about it! You can use the questions below to get inspired, but you don't worry about answer them directly.

**Suggestion.** Try a free writing exercise, if you like: keep writing without lifting your pen for 15 min. Write down everything that occurs to you. Take 10 min to read through your writing and highlight important points.

*What does the society of solidarity sound like to you?*

*What does the society of solidarity smell like to you?*

*Imagine a life cycle of a person in such a society of solidarity. You spend the first weeks, months and years of your life in complete dependence and bondage. Who takes care of you and under what circumstances?*

*You enter adolescence, becoming more independent and increasingly responsible for your own life. What things do you want to learn during this time? What skills will you need later?*

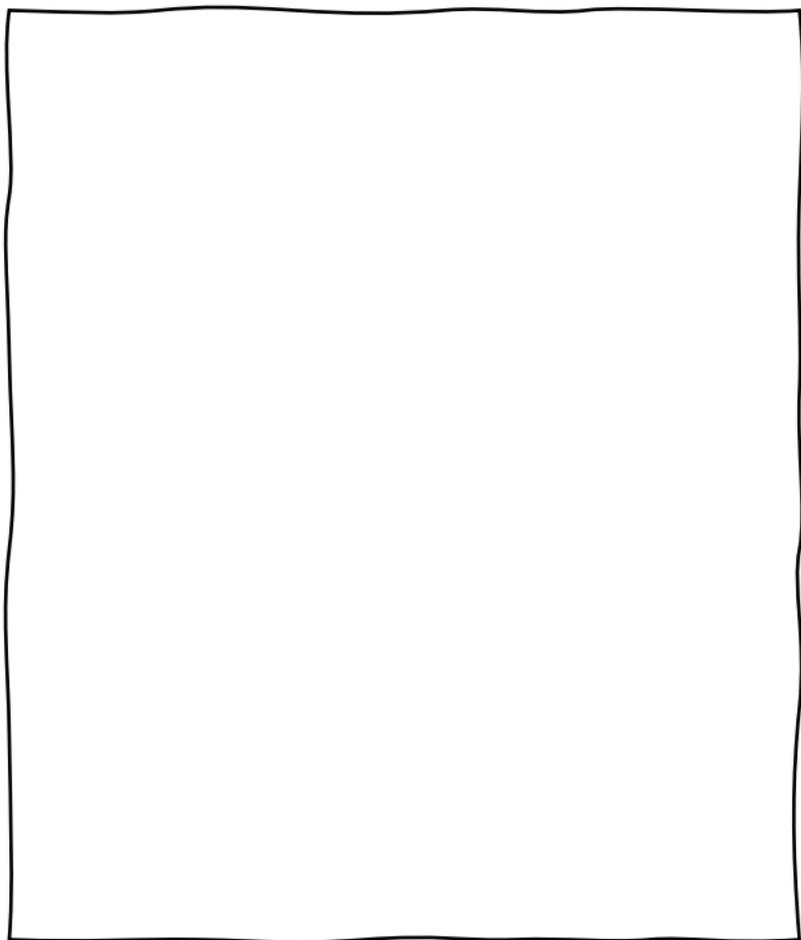
*You are slowly growing up, taking on more and more responsibility for the lives of others, while remaining vulnerable, and dependent on other people. Taking responsibility can be exhausting. How do you and those around you deal with it when you reach your limits? How does society enable you to regenerate again and again?*

*How does the world of work look like in your vision of a society based on the principle of solidarity? What, how long and how do you want to work in this vision?*

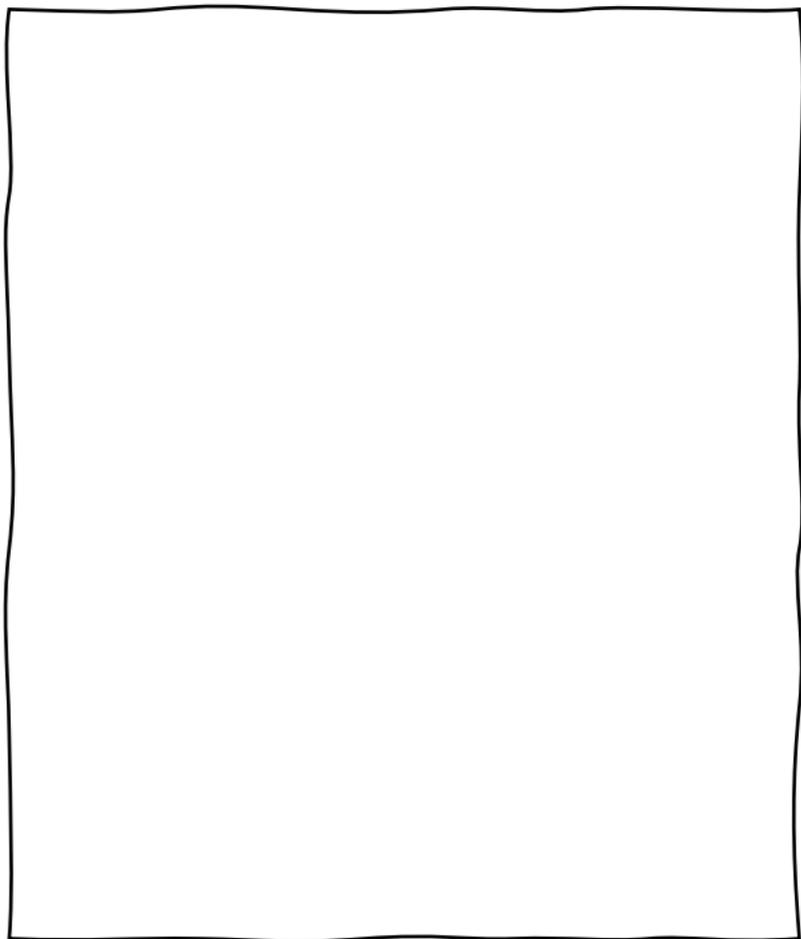
*Imagine you get old and frail. How do you stay connected to society, how can you contribute, and who should take care of you now?*

*A lot has changed in the society of solidarity, what questions remain ambivalent, unresolved, and conflictual even in this vision?*

B. In group of 3, share your visions. Feel free to take notes of what you liked from other's ideas.



C. Based on what you have experienced, and heard from the others, what do you think are essential of a society based on solidarity?



# 4 Solidary mode of living



The video

## The 4 Elements of The Solidary Mode of Living

### Logic of care

The logic of care means that we put care at the core of our society and our actions. The logic of care implies that we acknowledge our dependence on nature and other human beings. Care, in this broader sense, means all actions that provide for the existence, preservation and renewal of the world, and to take responsibility for one's own being-in-the-world. Care also includes activities such as tilling land, caring for animals and plants, as well as political activism, information, research and development work. The logic of care is a call to step away from individualism and profit orientation towards community and need-orientation.

## **Democratisation**

People should be able to decide for themselves and have the resources to do so. That is why democratisation is also a matter of fair distribution of material and social security as well as access to education. Democratisation means that decision-making mechanisms become accessible and unjust power relations are taken into account – not only in politics but also in every field of life that concerns and affects you.

## **Commoning/ Common goods**

Commoning refers to the self-organised and needs-oriented joint production, administration, care and use of different types of goods. In this process, the participants contribute their skills and decide together on the type and extent of the use of the resources and products.

## Sufficiency

The term sufficiency stands for efforts to minimise the consumption of resources in order to stay within the planetary and social boundaries. The principle of sufficiency raises the question of the right measure. Reduction is no longer a sacrifice but a strategy to foster the Solidary Mode of Living.

You can find detailed information on the ideas of the I.L.A.-collective on the Solidary Mode of Living in this free online publication (only available in German):

<https://www.oekom.de/buch/das-gute-leben-fuer-alle-9783962380953>

You can also find some explanation on the KAUZ-Website:  
<https://kauz-project.org/project/sml/>

# 5 Puzzle of Alternatives

## The 3 strategies of change

### Resisting exploitation

An important strategy for change is to resist existing forms of injustice and exploitation and to draw so-called "red lines". Civil society protest is a key element of lively, vibrant democracies. Open protest can influence broader public opinion and thus build pressure on decision-makers. Protest knows many forms and is intended to constructively disrupt current conditions in order to promote change.

## **Experimenting with alternatives**

Solidarity-based alternatives are already emerging as concrete utopias in the niches of our society.

They emerge from below and show that another world is feasible and possible. Lived alternatives are also important because they expand the space of what is thinkable and feasible, and contribute to learning to act in solidarity in everyday life.

Alternative ways of living and doing business develop a stock of practical experience on which major social changes can be built. After all, a “solidary mode of living” cannot be created from scratch from one day to the next. This makes it all the more important to experiment today in order to learn from mistakes and have success in the long run.

## **Anchoring structures that support solidarity**

In addition to building small, solidarity-based alternatives in the niches of society, it is necessary to change the political and economic institutions. Only in this way can solidarity-based alternatives be anchored in our society in the long term. This strategy aims in particular at creating new social normalities.

The starting point for this is at the local, but also the regional, national and international levels. Solidarity-based alternatives are anchored when power is redistributed, institutions are made more democratic, laws are created that safeguard solidarity-based action, or infrastructure is designed accordingly. This requires social movements that formulate these demands and take them to the streets, broad alliances that organise majorities and political actors that implement these demands.

→ In small groups read and discuss the **cases assigned to you by the facilitator** and try to identify their main strategy of change / position them in the matrix on the right!

Select one example to present to the whole group.

	Dimensions of Care	Democratisation	Commons	Sufficiency
Resisting exploitation				
Experimenting with alternatives				
Anchoring structures that support solidarity				

## 1 #MeToo

The hashtag #MeToo went viral on social media in 2017 after several women\* publicly reported sexual assault by a US film producer. The phrase "Me Too" was coined in 2006 as part of a campaign by activist Tarana Burke to promote empowerment through empathy among African-American women who had experienced sexual violence. The hashtag has since been used millions of times around the world and has sparked a broad social debate about sexist assaults



Source: <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/leben/sexuelle-gewalt-und-machtmissbrauch-was-aus-den-me-too-faellen-geworden-ist-1.4157564>

## 2 Protest against the Famatina gold mine

In 2005, the Canadian company "Barrick Gold" wanted to open a large gold mine on Mount Famatina in northwest Argentina. This would have had massive ecological and social consequences, significantly endangering the regional drinking water supply. The local population resisted, founded a self-organised neighbourhood council (vecinos autoconvocados) and organised various protest actions. The local government passed a law the following year banning open-pit mines. However, as the interest of multinational mining companies in the area did not diminish, resistance continued. In 2017, civil society organisations from the region demanded that Mount Famatina be declared a national park.

Source: Environmental Justice Atlas:  
<https://ejatlas.org/conflict/famatina-gold-mining-argentina>  
Source: Sierra de Famatina von Westen

### 3 DREBT - Representation of the interests of Live-In care workers



The organisation DREPT is a self-organised group of Romanian Live-In caregivers and activists in Austria, who fight for better working conditions. The group emerged from within the Live-In care community with the aim of improving their working conditions in order to give protection against exploitation. For

example, they demand employment for all migrant Live-In care workers to overcome the prevailing pseudo-self-employment. The organisation's main services are education about the rights and activities of caregivers, but also individual counselling and support, crisis intervention, press work and political lobbying.

DREBT on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/dreptpentruingrijire/>

Podcast: <https://kauzpod.podigee.io/3-24hbetreung>

## 4 Zelena akcija / Friends of the Earth Croatia

The Croatian organisation Zelena akcija is part of the European network Friends of the Earth. It aims to protect the environment and encourage development towards a low-carbon society, guided by the principles of social justice and systemic change. They address the local, national and global levels by encouraging change through campaigns, non-violent direct actions and various projects. They particularly demand public participation in environmental decision-making and improving the quality of life in Croatia.



Source: <https://www.zelena-akcija.hr/en>

Image Source: <https://ip.index.hr/remote/indexnew.s3.index.hr/kosinjelektrana.jpg?width=765&height=511>

## 5 Mehr für Care (MfC)

Mehr für Care (More for Care) is an Austrian alliance of organisations and committed individuals who are engaged for better conditions for care work. The alliance demands that care work becomes the focus of societal attention and that sufficient money and resources are made available for it. Unpaid care work (e.g. care of children) should be reduced and distributed fairly. People who need special support, such as single parents, people affected by violence and unemployed workers, shall receive it.

MfC specifically campaigns for a gender-equitable budget. The alliance calls on the Austrian government to adopt a feminist economic stimulus package to the tune of 12 billion euros to deal with the consequences of the Corona pandemic. The proposal provides for the expansion of educational institutions, care, protection against violence and therapy places, as well as an increase in minimum security and unemployment benefits. The alliance is active at national and local levels and regularly organises various activities (workshops, demonstrations etc).

Petition:

<https://www.attac.at/kampagnen/die-corona-krise-solidarisch-bewaeltigen/petition-feministisches-konjunkturpaket>



## 6 friendship benches

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 300 million people worldwide suffer from depression. In Global South countries in particular, there is a shortage of psychologically trained health workers. In Zimbabwe, 12 psychologists are currently practising for 15 million people - in a country where many people are affected by colonial trauma. In response to this lack of formal care infrastructure, the concept of "friendship benches" was developed. Since 2006, elderly women\* have been trained as psychological primary caregivers, based on locally anchored concepts for strengthening the soul and spirit. The women offer counselling sessions in their communities. The impact of this programme has been scientifically confirmed various times and has been taken up and adapted by countries around the globe, not least in New York, where people from marginalised groups in particular offer low-threshold counselling opportunities for members of their community.



Source: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20181015-how-one-bench-and-a-team-of-grandmothers-can-beat-depression>

## 7 Farmfluencers

Farmfluencers is a project that tries to reframe community in order to support the ecosocial transformation and preservation of smallholder farms in South Tyrol. Behind the project is a vision for sustainable agriculture in South Tyrol, Italy, Europe and the world. Farmfluencers introduces small, local farmers, tells (new) stories about sustainable agriculture and wants to give courage for a sustainable agriculture of the future.



Source: <https://www.farmfluencers.org/>

Photosource: [https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5f404a5b93052b6d35a26782/6145b78ca3f77646bc033904\\_Map\\_Zeichenfla%CC%88che%201.jpg](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5f404a5b93052b6d35a26782/6145b78ca3f77646bc033904_Map_Zeichenfla%CC%88che%201.jpg)

## 8 Models of collective child-rearing: Familyship.org

The classic nuclear family places an enormous amount of work and responsibility on parents - especially on mothers. Furthermore, the idea of the nuclear family usually excludes queer parents. What counter-models are there for raising children together? One example is familyship.org. The platform focuses on the desire to have children. Here, people get to know each other who want to start a family on a friendship basis. Sexual orientation or marital status are of secondary importance. The platform provides information on alternative family models and is the largest active German-speaking community on the topic of co-parenting.



<https://www.familyship.org/>

## 9 House of Solidarity - Casa della Solidarietà

Since 2002, the House of Solidarity "Luis Lintner" (HdS) in Brixen has been offering unbureaucratically, direct financial and social support to around 150 people every year. The HdS tries to live solidarity concretely, to promote integration, to experiment with sustainability, to alleviate need efficiently. It strives for balance and peaceful coexistence between different cultures, generations and religions. Volunteer work is fundamental to the project, even though some people are also employed to guarantee a long-lasting structure. Various events and activities take place there every year which cover different topics and are open for all interested people.



Source: <http://www.hds.bz.it/>

Photo Source : <http://www.hds.bz.it/living-lab/>

## 10 Sumak kawsay (buen vivir) in the Ecuadorian Constitution



The Latin American, indigenous concept of Buen Vivir or Kumak Kawsay, the "good life", represents a counter-proposal to the currently prevailing development model. At its core is a new understanding of the relationship between people and nature and the importance of interpersonal relationships. The concept overcomes the artificial division between nature and humans but acknowledges them as inseparably linked.

The concept found concrete application, for example, when a new constitution was adopted in Ecuador in 2008 and in Bolivia in 2009, in which the right to a good life ("derechos del buen vivir") is enshrined. This includes the right to food, a healthy environment, water, communication, education, housing and health. "Nature has the right to regenerate", reads one article. Anyone who violates this is therefore acting unconstitutionally.

Image source: <http://planetaholistico.com/2019/05/24/que-es-la-filosofia-del-buen-vivir-o-sumak-kawsay-principios-del-buen-vivir/>

## 11 Care income

A long-standing (and sometimes controversial) demand of feminist movements is a basic income that financially values and secures all care activities: a care income. In the Corona Pandemic, the grassroots network Global Women Strike launched a worldwide campaign and petition for such a care income. A universally paid care income thus introduces a financial recognition for the care work that always has to be done and has been exploited so far, without transferring it 1:1 into wage labour and thus into the logic of markets.

Sources: <https://globalwomenstrike.net/careincomenow/>

German translation:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfdj-S4RM83IX\\_txT3XFL1UG3g7Gfai2dY\\_6T5IGBtLG-\\_yA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfdj-S4RM83IX_txT3XFL1UG3g7Gfai2dY_6T5IGBtLG-_yA/viewform)

Picture and article:

<https://undisciplinedenvironments.org/2020/04/07/within-and-beyond-the-pandemic-demanding-a-care-income-and-a-feminist-green-new-deal-for-europe/>

## 12 Solidarity-based citizens' insurance

Various proposals for a "general, uniform and solidarity-based" insurance system are being discussed in Germany under the heading "solidarity-based citizens' insurance" (cf. Butterwege). The core idea is that instead of parallel private and public insurances, there is only one common, public system that includes long-term care, health and pension insurance. Such an insurance is thus supported by a broad base and contributions are applied to all types of income (interest, dividends, rental income,...) in addition to wage income; the contributions are progressively graded according to income level and there is no maximum contribution limit at the top. If people lack the financial means, the contribution is taken over by the state. Compulsory insurance (according to Butterwege) covers all "resident citizens" with permanent residence status and all activity groups, from freelancers, new forms of pseudo-) self-employed, as well as civil servants.

Sources: <https://www.christophbutterwegge.de/texte/Buergerversicherung.pdf>

<https://www.awo.org/wir-brauchen-die-solidarische-buergerversicherung>

## 13 Makikuna

In the indigenous groups of the Andean and Amazonian regions, many examples of everyday solidarity can be found. One of these is the practice of "makikuna". Makikuna refers to a type of support that involves the entire community, i.e. the extended family, friends and the neighbourhood. It involves spiritual support in those moments when it is most needed, especially in unforeseen situations and emergencies.

Source: <https://www.degrowth.info/de/dib/degrowth-in-bewegungen/buen-vivir/>

## 14 Neighbourhood Support Buurtzorg

The Dutch non-profit company Buurtzorg tries to embed professional, mobile care work in local relationships. For example, caregivers put patients in touch with neighbours or make an appointment with a local hairdressing salon for them. Care, therefore, goes beyond purely medical care. Patients are cared for by one or two permanent carers. Relationships develop that help to identify problems at an early stage. By working in small, self-organised teams, the nurses can organise their working hours flexibly and adapt them to their personal circumstances and needs, such as looking after their own children. This is one of the reasons why Buurtzorg has been voted frequently the most attractive employer by its employees. Buurtzorg's alternative care practice understands caring as an activity to help people build a network of supporters and strengthen surrounding contacts. This also makes people less dependent on the services of professional care. In the Buurtzorg case, for example, visiting times with doctors decreased by 40%.



Website Buurtzorg: <https://www.buurtzorg.com/>

More Information: <https://awblog.at/das-buurtzorg-modell/>

## 15 Feminismo Comunitario

"Feminismo Comunitario" is a feminist movement originating from indigenous women in Bolivia ("Mujeres Creando Comunidad", i.e. "Women who create the community") and has also been taken up in Guatemala. In Feminismo Comunitario, women's\* rights are seen as a cross-gender demand and are especially emphasised from a community perspective - the oppression of one person is seen as damage to the whole community. As long as women are not free and independent within the community, there can be no autonomy of indigenous communities. The representatives travel through different countries to exchange with other indigenous women\* about their experienced oppressions and to share their political proposal with others.

Source: <https://www.feminismocomunitario.com/>

## 16 Black Voices petition for a referendum

Black Voices is a non-party initiative in Austria. The aim of the petition is the equal participation of black people, people of African origin and people of colour in all areas of society. The central demand is the introduction of a National Action Plan against Racism, in which anti-racist measures are drawn up for the areas of representation and the public, police, flight and migration, health, education and the labour market. In this way, structural and institutional racism and the barriers it creates are to be dismantled. At the same time, the representation and equality of BPoC (Black & People of Colour) should be ensured.



<https://blackvoices.at/>

## 17 Are You Syrious?

Are You Syrious is a volunteer-run media and advocacy group that is active in different European countries, such as Greece, France, Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia. It relies on their readers to share important news from the ground. In Croatia, they have a free shop for refugees and other underprivileged people, a volunteer-run integration centre with a lot of different workshops, daily volunteer shifts in Porin reception centre in Zagreb and many other activities.



**ARE YOU  
SYRIUS**

<https://areyousyrious.eu/>

Image Source: [https://cdn-images-](https://cdn-images-1.medium.com/max/1200/1*H_EikaATILG_m_PDylReNQ@2x.jpg)

[1.medium.com/max/1200/1\\*H\\_EikaATILG\\_m\\_PDylReNQ@2x.jpg](https://cdn-images-1.medium.com/max/1200/1*H_EikaATILG_m_PDylReNQ@2x.jpg)

g

## 18 Future Pact for South Tyrol -Patto futuro

The initiative “Zukunftspakt für Südtirol” (Future Pact for South Tyrol) is an independent association of citizens who are fighting for a sustainability-transformation and a crisis-resistant and solidarity-based society that is to be organised in participatory processes. The goal is a pact for the future between citizens and political representatives. Within the framework of this pact, a sustainability plan should be created that is publicly financed and includes agenda points such as a regional circular economy, a sustainable transport system and active participation in social decision-making processes. The Future Pact is already supported by over 1500 people.



Source: <https://zukunftspakt-pattofuturo.org/>

Photosource: [https://zukunftspakt-pattofuturo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/gruppenkreis\\_schulian\\_ST2A0016.jpg](https://zukunftspakt-pattofuturo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/gruppenkreis_schulian_ST2A0016.jpg)

## 19 “Passport Does not matter”- election

More than one million people in Austria cannot vote because they do not have Austrian citizenship. In order to draw attention to this democratic failure, the “Pass Egal” (passport does not matter) election was launched for the first time in 2013 by various civil society organisations. Since then, it has taken place parallel to many political elections in the country. All people of voting age can cast their vote, including those who are excluded from the respective official election due to their non-Austrian citizenship. In a way, the official elections are complemented and completed by the “Pass Egal” elections. Even if these votes are not officially taken into account, this is an impressive way of drawing attention to this imbalance.



Source: <https://www.sosmitmensch.at/faq-pass-egal-wahl>

Photo source: <https://fm4.orf.at/stories/3007860/>

## 20 Democratic Supermarkets: MILA and Supercoop

MILA is an initiative in Vienna to set up a self-organised supermarket. Democratic supermarket means that the supermarket belongs to its members and they make decisions together but also manage it collaboratively. MILA will be set up as a cooperative and all interested people will be able to buy cooperative shares, regardless of their financial means. MILA will offer opening hours of a conventional supermarket. The members determine the assortment of the supermarket; values such as animal welfare, ecological and social sustainability are to be taken into account. In Berlin, a similar concept has taken hold, which is called “supercoop”.



Source (Image and Text): <https://www.mila.wien/de/>  
<https://supercoop.de/>

## 21 Climate councils

Climate councils have been launched in various countries, such as Ireland, France, the UK and Austria, to advance climate policy from bottom-up. These councils are non-permanent bodies of around 100-150 people. The participants of the council are selected by lottery and are supposed to represent the diversity of the population. This group of people, with the support of experts, develops recommendations for policy. Experience shows that the public acceptance of political decisions is significantly increased by such democratic instruments.



<https://www.diepresse.com/6086342/klimarat-die-welt-veraendern-bei-sechs-treffen>

photo source: <https://www.diepresse.com/6086342/klimarat-die-welt-veraendern-bei-sechs-treffen>

## 22 Remunicipalisation of urban energy supply

After the expected benefits (cost reductions, better quality) of privatising public utility systems failed to materialise at the end of the 1990s, a phase of remunicipalisation began in Germany. Remunicipalisation means that public tasks such as energy and water supply, housing and transport are returned to public ownership. One advantage is that ecological and social criteria can be bindingly incorporated into the design of these supply systems. An example of such a process of remunicipalisation can be found in Berlin. In 1997, the state of Berlin sold its shares in the municipal electricity supply company “Bewag” to an industrial association. In 2011, 50 organisations, including BUND and Attac, formed the Berlin Energy Table, whose goal was to shape an ecological, social and democratic electricity supply for Berlin. To this end, the alliance organised a referendum, which was successful after several hurdles. After many years of negotiations with the private operator about a resale of the energy networks, Berlin bought back Stromnetz Berlin GmbH in 2021. The state of Berlin now also wants to remunicipalise district heating and gas. Other remunicipalisation processes are taking place in Hamburg, for example.



<https://www.klimawende.org/themen/energieversorgung-zurueckerobern/>  
<https://www.berlin.de/sen/finanzen/presse/pressemitteilungen/pressemitteilung.1096770.php>

## 23 Resistance against the clearing of the primaeval Carpathian forests in Poland

The Carpathian forests in the south of Poland are among the last primaeval forests in Europe. It is still one of the wildest corners of Poland, where bears live alongside wolves, lynxes and wildcats, in the shade of mighty firs and centuries-old beeches. Unfortunately, the Carpathian Primaeval Forest is now for some only a source of planks and hunting trophies. Wild forest is a raw material in industrial societies and the forest is increasingly and irrevocably destroyed by daily clearing. Various organisations have been trying to stop the clearing. They demand the protection of the forest and want it to be treated as common good and not as a resource. After an extensive scientific inventory of the unique qualities of the Carpathian nature, talks with the responsible administrative unit and the demands made by a number of organisations and social movements were of no use, activists started in 2021 to chain themselves to the trees in a manner of civil disobedience to protect them.



<https://dzikiekarpaty.org/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeYDK-UEWBk>

## 24 Deutsche Wohnen & Co. enteignen

"Deutsche Wohnen & Co enteignen (DWE for short) is a citizens' initiative in Berlin that has achieved a successful referendum on the expropriation of private housing companies in September 2021. The initiative's demand is that over 240,000 flats be socialised. Socialisation means the transfer of private property into social ownership. The reasons for the initiative are rising rent costs and the (imminent) displacement of people who can no longer afford their housing. The campaign became known, among other things, because of its successful, broad-based mobilisation: It was able to establish itself as a grassroots movement from below, in which people from different backgrounds, political attitudes and ages came together and organised themselves. Although the concrete implementation of the referendum is considered unrealistic by some lawyers, the campaign has been crucial in increasing the pressure on Berlin's policy on rent issues.

Image source: <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/berliner-initiative-stellt-zahlen-zur-halbzeit-vor-deutsche-wohnen-und-co-enteignen-sammelt-130-000-unterschriften/27131192.html>

Source and Imagevideo for the referendum:

<https://www.dwenteignen.de/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=94&v=Fr98Tylar50&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=94&v=Fr98Tylar50&feature=emb_logo)

More Information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJO6FM6mgI8> [ca. 5 Min, Spiegel Bericht, Was folgt dem Volksentscheid?]

## 25 Citizen energy cooperatives

Citizen energy cooperatives are actors in the energy industry in the legal form of a cooperative, which mostly pursue the goal of decentralised, group-independent and ecological energy production. They are a form of citizen participation, predominantly at the municipal or regional level, and offer the opportunity to actively participate in the energy transition. In Europe, in addition to Germany, citizen cooperatives exist in Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and the United Kingdom, albeit to varying degrees. In the rest of Europe, especially in Eastern Europe, citizen cooperatives are only rudimentary or non-existent.

## 26 CSA - Community Supported Agriculture

In the CSA model, farmers join forces with consumers: The consumers pay for the products (e.g. vegetables, flour, eggs, etc.) in advance at the beginning of the year and then receive a weekly harvest share that varies depending on the harvest. The farmers thus have planning security and are no longer at the mercy of the price and growing pressure of the market.



Video on the CSA concept (2 min):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPCGevYDTf8>

Source: <https://cba.fro.at/269405>

Image source: <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/whats-a-csa-a-guide-to-community-supported-agriculture/>

## 27 Mietshäuser Syndikat (Tenements Syndicate)

The “Mietshäuser Syndikat” has its origins in the squatters’ era of the 1980s. The basic idea is to permanently withdraw flats and houses from the real estate market and thus from speculation, and to transfer them into collective ownership instead. In housing projects that follow this model, tenants become their own landlords and can live in their houses indefinitely, cheaply and self-determined. The house purchases are financed through direct loans, i.e. small loans from private individuals, for whom this is an ethical way of investing money. There already exist over 160 of these projects in Germany.



photo source:

<https://www.lunkehaus.de/formales/mietshaussyndikat/>

## 28 Mondragón Corporación Cooperativa

Mondragón Corporación Cooperativa (MCC) is the largest cooperative and the seventh largest company in Spain. More than 100 companies from different sectors belong to the MCC, e.g. mechanical engineering and the automotive industry. This makes it the largest productive cooperative in the world.

The employees of the MCC participate in the share capital of the cooperative business association. They are involved in the decisions of the management staff. The Basque MCC cooperatives have a people-oriented character, which is intended to put work and not capital in the foreground. This should contribute to a positive climate that increases motivation and productivity in the enterprises. Job creation still has priority over capital interests. Thus, in contrast to other industrial companies, no job cuts have been made since the cooperative was founded.

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mondrag%C3%B3n\\_Corporaci%C3%B3n\\_Cooperativa](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mondrag%C3%B3n_Corporaci%C3%B3n_Cooperativa)

<https://www.mondragon-corporation.com/>

## 29 Degrowth Movement

Degrowth or post-growth describes an economic approach that aims at the well-being of all and preserves the ecological basis of life. This requires a reduction of economic growth and the questioning of the growth paradigm (in the sense of "higher, faster, further"). An important demand of the Degrowth movement is a new understanding of work. Paid working hours are reduced in order to have time for childcare, growing vegetables or caring for the elderly. The degrowth movement is made up of different actors who are committed to the dissemination of post-growth ideas and strategies. Educational work is a central approach. Since 2008, the movement has organised several international degrowth conferences, most of which have taken place in Europe. The conferences often consist of artistic, activist, practical and scientific contributions to illuminate the conference topics from an interdisciplinary perspective. In Vienna, an association was also founded within the framework of the organisation of the online conference "Degrowth Vienna 2020", which subsequently launched several follow-up projects, such as series of events, discussions and a book project.

Image source: <https://degrowth.descrecimiento.org/>

Video (What means Degrowth for you? ca. 3 Min):

[https://vimeo.com/121263974?embedded=true&source=vimeo\\_logo&owner=18338339](https://vimeo.com/121263974?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=18338339)

More information: <https://www.degrowthvienna.org/ueber-uns/>

### 30 Sufficiency in urban space

Sufficiency is a strategy for reducing resource consumption. The mainstream debate often focuses on efficiency strategies, i.e. the attempt to produce more output by optimising the use of fewer resources. Sufficiency, on the other hand, focuses on the questions "What do I need to live well?" and "How much is enough?" The sufficiency strategy therefore does not start with the change of production methods, but focuses on human needs. Making urban infrastructure sufficiency-oriented is a central building block of municipal sustainability strategies. This means that the city tries to reduce dependence on (climate-damaging) consumption through a network of infrastructures and offers.



Source: <https://www.oekom.de/buch/wie-wird-weniger-genug-9783962382766>

Photo Source:

<https://wildundverbunden.wordpress.com/2018/03/05/zusammen-leben-wie/>

## 31 Repair Café

What do you do with a chair that has a broken leg? With a toaster that no longer works? A woollen jumper with moth holes? Throw it away - or would it be better to repair it? Repair Cafés are voluntary meetings where participants repair their broken things alone or together with others. The main goal is to counteract the mass throwing away of consumer goods and to draw attention to phenomena such as "planned obsolescence". This is the "planned breakdown" of goods because they intentionally contain low-quality parts. People with different expertise can be found in repair cafés: Tinkerers, sewing talents and bike lovers meet there. You can always learn a lot on the spot. Furthermore, repair cafés not only strengthen handicraft skills, but also serve as a meeting place in their own neighbourhood.

### **Repair voucher**

In a pilot project in 2022, the Austrian government started the program "repair voucher" to make the repairing of objects financially more attractive by contributing 50 % of the costs (max. 100€). The voucher can be redeemed for repairs in selected businesses and workshops that are part of the repair network. The repair voucher can be used for different types of repairs, e.g. household appliance, IT product, sports equipment or bicycle, etc.

Source: <https://www.repaircafe.org/de/>

Image source: <https://www.focolare.org/ireland/files/2018/02/repair1.jpg>

## 32 Libraries

Public libraries are an important part of the social infrastructure of a city or town. They offer access to knowledge and entertainment, largely independent of age, gender, origin, educational background and economic resources. Libraries promote exchange instead of ownership and do not usually function according to classic market rules, as they are heavily subsidised by the public. Libraries provide freely accessible spaces without compulsion to consume and enable both retreat and encounter. Some cities also start to experiment with “libraries of things”.



Image source: <http://www.schwechat.internetbibliothek.at/search>





