

## **1: Reminder of the analysis of initial stakes;**

The alliance between FPH and the P2P Foundation was based on the synergy of its respective priorities under the specific framing of FPH's Commons Programme, and its "transition to sustainable societies" aspect. Recognizing the convergence of their long-term goals, the P2P Foundation presented the FPH with its proposed program focus on commons-based policies, the economic and governance practices of the commons, and the sustainability aspects of peer production. Other key points were to mutualize as much as possible with like-minded collectives (including francophone ones), attend workshops and conferences. We also agreed on providing accessible materials to facilitate dialogues with high level actors in the technical and political fields while mobilizing people and organizations in the transition towards the commons, including coordinating European networks and providing strategic advice and political orientation.

## **2: Reminder of the action proposed in the agreement and of the action taken.**

The contractual commitment states that the P2P Foundation would take part in a European coordination of the networks of commoners, follow the process and provide strategic advice and political orientation with the actors concerned, and mutualise its progress and results (including with the Francophone community). Specific organizational goals of the P2P Foundation also included the professionalization of its information system, and combining a stronger organization with its set of strategic alliances. In the following points, we will elaborate on specific actions taken that supported and furthered these aims.

## **3: Analysis of the action. The action undertaken resulted from an initial "strategic choice".**

**3a: Was this choice relevant in the course of action?** Our initial strategic choice as outlined by the agreement with FPH (in brief, to strengthen our organizational resilience and broaden our network) was relevant and gave us a strong foundation and framework to meet the requirements. We have significantly advanced in our three streams, as described in the agreement, and well as in our organizational and communicative endeavours.

**3b: How has it changed over time?** We have upgraded and professionalised our communication infrastructure (upgraded our P2PF blog, launched the Commons Transition website and wiki, expanded our production of high-level policy publications (see the [library](#)), while also creating strong vulgarisation materials such as our Commons Transition Primer; we now have a core of 10 full time professionals including an 6-person staff at the P2P Lab, which provides empirical and peer reviewed articles confirming our hypotheses (further details below).

**3c: How has it been implemented - choice of partners, modes of action?** The P2P Foundation has significantly deepened its understanding of the 3 core strategic priorities; we have carried out high-level projects regarding public-commons institutional design; empirical research on sustainable cosmo-local production, and produced various material on ethical livelihoods. We have undertaken a number of research projects, including in consortia. Active projects include [Phygital](#), assessing the practices, innovation and sustainability potential of the “design global, manufacture local” model; [Open Design & Manufacturing](#) (OD&M), a knowledge alliance dedicated to create and support communities of practices around the Open Design & Manufacturing paradigm; and completed projects such as [P2Pvalue](#), a 3-year study of more than 300 peer production communities. In addition, we have launched longer-term collaborative alliances with partner organizations, and institutions such as the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, where Vasilis Kostakis is a Faculty Associate; the Autonomous University of Barcelona; the Open University of Catalonia; and the Tallinn University of Technology.

**3d: Has it proved suitable?** As expressed above, the initial framework has proven to be suitable and, allowing for modifications, informs our strategy for the coming years. However, we are still operating with very weak structural funding, with a strong dependence on project-based funding from the European Union. While our influence has greatly expanded (eg., awards including the Golden Nica/Prix Ars for Digital Communities 2016, and 2017 Publication of the Year award for "Making (in) the Smart City" by Vasilis Niaros and Vasilis Kostakis of the P2P Lab), we still have great difficulties in holding volunteers and potential collaborators due to our weak institutional funding.

**3e: Describe the progress of the action, the achievements, the failures, referring to the agreement. If some goals were not met or achieved, explain why.** We have arrived at a well functioning decentralized model organized around four interdependent operational hubs: vision, advocacy, research and infrastructure, with an internal governance and structure following P2P values which support both the organization and the individuals working to support it in turn. Rather than a top-down hierarchy, we use the principles of [heterarchy](#), [holoptism](#) and [equipotentiality](#), which serve to distribute power away from any central figures and to allow individuals to develop their roles and contributions. Since 2014, we have been able to work with governmental institutions in Ecuador on planning knowledge commons at the national level and workshops with Syriza in Greece. Our most successful intervention however, has been the Commons Transition Plan for the city of Ghent, which has been accepted as a guideline for future policy-making and collaboration with the commoners active in more than 500 urban commons projects. In addition, our research, publications, networking and communications have greatly improved over time. We feel that there is room for improvement in the political lobbying and policy side, although this has been supplemented by alliances with like-minded actors and relevant political parties and is one of our main focuses for the year ahead. Insufficient resources have kept us from expanding our personnel to meet the increasing demand for the Foundation’s participation in various collaborations. These factors have also impacted in our ability to engage and develop the relationship with our network

(including attracting and retaining volunteers) although the network itself has significantly increased in the last few years.

#### **4: Description of the nature of the network, the social basis of the institution at the end of the action, how the network has evolved and serve the action.**

Our network has greatly expanded in the last three years, both in our project and publishing collaborations (as evidenced in the final section) and in our wider network. The inclusion of the P2P Lab as our full time research hub has provided a strong academic profile. As a result of our increased organizational capacity, we have expanded from being an observatory of networks to also being an active, regular participant of key initiatives (see number 7 for details). The P2P Foundation continues to facilitate the inclusion of other individuals, groups and networks in our information commons, and make introductions among other entities to enable direct collaborations. To facilitate these relationships, the core teams of the P2P Foundation and P2P Lab engage with our more frequent collaborators, including our significant international nodes in France (led by Maïa Dereva), the Commons Transition Coalition of Australia, and EU-consortia project partners from P2Pvalue, Open Design and Manufacturing, and Phygital as examples. In addition, Michel Bauwens has inaugurated an online “visioning” group for strategic discussion and development, from which high quality debates, project and research proposals are regularly emerging. We’ve provided virtual spaces (eg., Loomio discussion groups) for engagement with P2PF supporters, and we see an explosion of academic references to our work; there has been widespread influence of our Ghent project (including the conference planned). Michel Bauwens has had books published in Dutch and French and an upcoming book with Vasilis Kostakis to be published by Westminster University Press. In summary, we can confidently claim that our work both reflects and informs a widening social base of commoners worldwide; our observations and outreach indicate an uptake in P2P and commoning practices.

#### **5: Description of the main proposals developed during the action and reflection.**

We have furthered our three strategic priorities, covering politics, livelihoods and sustainable production, while improving the quality of our outreach, presentation and communications as well as our organizational resilience.

For our politics stream (P2P cultures and politics), we developed on the original Commons Transition platform by fostering connections with municipalist platforms in Spain, France and other locations. A full report on *Urban Commons Transitions* followed the creation of a plan of the same name for the city of Ghent (Belgium). We are one of the core organizations supporting the European Commons Assembly, managing communications and technical (websites). In our second stream (around livelihoods), we advanced and promoted our work on Open and Protocol Cooperativism to complement the emergent Platform Cooperativism movement, through published studies such as *Value in the Commons Economy*, participation in the Platform

Cooperativism consortium, outreach articles, numerous conference appearances, and the creation of a European group uniting cooperatives, labour unions and cities. The third stream, (environmentally sustainable modes of production) benefited from ongoing research projects and publications from the P2P Lab, as well as a two-volume *Thermodynamics of Peer Production* paper published by affiliated independent researchers in 2017. For the coming years, we are focusing more in indicators for a biophysical economy, i.e. increasing the capacity for territorial and entrepreneurial institutions to operate within planetary boundaries, and converging it with our earlier work on open and contributive accounting

Regarding communications we overhauled our blog, resulting in increased readership and engagement and a greater multimedia outlook, with standalone versions in French, Greek and Dutch. We also renovated our P2P Foundation landing page to introduce newcomers to our organization and work. Our wikis were expanded upon, and we made a special sub-wiki dedicated to Law for the Commons. Finally, our Commons Transition Primer project presented a general access overview of our philosophy in a print publication and an interactive, graphically enhanced website.

With the integration of the P2P Lab as our dedicated research division, our own internal organization has been reconfigured to reflect P2P values such as decentralization, autonomy, heterarchy, equipotentiality and holoptism. With four full time and two part time people at the P2P Foundation, and six in the P2P Lab, our increased research, networking and communication capacities have considerably increased our visibility and influence. In addition, Michel Bauwens has been invited by the labor mutual, SMart ([link](#)), a large-scale cooperative making the right to economic initiative accessible to precarious freelancers. His role, offering an opportunity for increased influence through a mass-membership organization, will be to stimulate implementation of P2P and commons ideas at SMart, accelerate their international development and strengthen their connections with the world of platform cooperatives.

## **6: Description of lobbying and advocacy actions (courses taught in universities, public speeches, actions towards public authorities, media, other).**

In recent years, the P2P Foundation has taught courses for entities such as Schumacher College, the Lunt Foundation, Greenpeace International, the Synergia Institute, and more. We have participated in numerous radio and television interviews, around 70 lectures annually by Michel Bauwens worldwide, and a summer school, as well as courses produced by P2PLab. We see our public appearances as opportunities for interactive peer to peer learning with communities. To further our pedagogic work, we have also regularly participated in workshops with groups such as Smart CSOs, FundAction, EDGE funders Alliance, Greenpeace International. In 2016, we received the high profile Golden Nica award for Digital Communities at the Prix Ars festival. We co-organized two large international conferences as part of the P2Pvalue project (Procomuns in Barcelona, 2015; PeerValue in Amsterdam, 2016) and have compiled policies as part the European Commons Assembly. As noted, we have built strong relations with progressive municipal actors in various cities (Ghent, Barcelona, Madrid, Bologna, Totnes, etc.). Ghent

deserves special mention as the pilot site for the first urban-focused Commons Transition plan led by Michel Bauwens in 2017. In addition, in the coming years we plan to form a commons-oriented policy institute in partnership with SMart.be. In collaboration with Commons Network, we plan to advocate for the Commons as a rallying topic in the European Parliament 2019 elections. For the future, we aspire now to be more conveners than followers as our goal for the next stage; and to also build more educational materials.

## **7: Sharing of new contacts made in the framework of the agreement with the foundation.**

Our increased organizational capacity has allowed us to foster strategic connections and working alliances with relevant groups. In France, we are connected with Coop des Communs, helping with the construction of a coop/union/ethical finance alliance; in the UK we have influenced a cooperative network around Coop UK; and Michel Bauwens will be working on a tripartite ecosystem for platform coops in collaboration with SMart. We want to highlight our ongoing collaborations with similar commons-centered organizations such as the Commons Strategies Group, Commons Network, Remix the Commons, and the European Commons Assembly. We have also provided a P2P-commons framework for important European and global organizations confronting issues of social justice and environmental advocacy, including Greenpeace International, SMart.be, New Economics Foundation, the EDGE Funders Alliance, the International Labour Organization, the European Trade Union Institute, Cooperative Europe, and the European Federation of Cooperatives. We also have ongoing collaborations and conversations with groups and individuals worldwide, who regularly engage with the P2P Foundation's online network.