

P2Pvalue

Techno-social platform for sustainable models and value generation in commons-based peer production in the Future Internet

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European Commission FP7

Call: Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation

Commons based peer production: Overview and its governance

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Common based peer production (CBPP)

Basic and initial characterization of CBPP

A third mode of resource production that break the binary Market - State.

An **emerging form of production** based on a network of individuals that communicate and collaborate for the building and sharing of a **common resource**, frequently accessible as a public good.

Their interaction is among peers: **not based on mercantile exchange, a contractual relationship or traditional hierarchical command.**

The CBPP is not restricted to the digital environment

Commons and CBPP or social innovation - as a form that operate beyond markets and traditional hierarchies - existed before and exist beyond the digital environment.

However, in the P2Pvalue project we are targeting cases that:
A digital platform is their main space of collaborative interaction
or/and
their resulting common resources is hosted (or transmitted) in the digital environment

Historical development of CBPP digitally hosted or supported

From the 1950s: Cultural roots and pioneer online communities: Hacking culture and Hippies contra-culture

The appearance of the first and most classic case: The Free software projects. **Cases such as Linux.**

From 2001: From free software to free culture: The expansion of CBPP to other immaterial content. **Wikipedia as the great success.**

From 2006: The expansion of corporate - base peer production. Not based on commons governance like the previous cases. **Cases such as Flickr and Youtube.**

Current situation

Double expansion of CBPP

First challenge: Expansion to a more areas of activity

(I.e those around design or management of material resources and with larger non-digital interaction)



Need to map the diverse areas of CBPP
CBPP Directory www.p2pvalue.eu/directory

Second challenge: Expansion though *hybridization* with markets

Increase of cases that share some features with CBPP but very different in others - closer to market innovations such as crowdsourcing (Mturk) and peer markets (AirBnB).



Need to define the criteria of delimitation and typification of CBPP in contrast to other market formats

Criteria of delimitation and typification of CBPP

1. Collaborative production: CBPP involve some form of “collaboration” and some “production”

*What does collaboration mean?
What does production mean?
Production only or also consumption?
How does value operate in these formats?*

Distinguishing diverse types of collaborative production in CBPP

- Digital based. Resulting resource based on the digital environment:
 - Album. Sum of actions (ex. Flickr)
 - Collage. Combination and integration of actions (ex. Wikipedia, open code)
 - Exchange. Commons space hosting bilateral exchange of actions (ex. Co-housing)
- Digital supported. Resulting, supported, but not based on digital environment:
 - Physical resource
 - Space
 - Building collective process

Criteria of delimitation and typification of CBPP

2. By peers

Community interaction not solely or mainly coordinated by **contractual relationships or monetary rewards and by traditional hierarchical command**. Even if they can be present in certain degree or in other modalities, but not as much as they characterize market and State.

Autonomous condition of participants

Decentralization of conception and execution of problems and solutions.

Criteria of delimitation and typification of CBPP

3. Commons based

To be a peer to peer production is not enough, but they should be also **common based**

By common refers that it is not driven primarily by restrictive/private appropriation, but to a process that is driven by a general/collective interest and its privileged the accessibility to its resulting resource.

In the digital environment, they tend to be **open access**

Relationship between markets and commons to be further explore

Criteria of delimitation and typification of CBPP

5. Peers autonomy and commonness though reproducibility and derivativeness of the process and outcomes.

This question is related to the capacity to **replicate and modify the output and process** of the CBPP.

This feature when applied to the digital environment is refer as **“forkability”**.

Conditions for forkability: Legal and technical ability to create derivative works

- * Technical access to the source code and content
- * Content and code license that allow derivative work.

It support the **autonomous condition of individuals** and it supports the **“commons” dimensions**.

P2Pvalue project Research design

(Building upon Ostrom frame work of analysis)

Factors of productivity>>>>> Value creation

- Governance or Rules-in-use
- Sustainability strategy
- Legal design and jurisdictional constraints
- Technical strategy
- “Resource” characteristics
- Community attributes

Methods triangulation:

- Statistical analysis 300 cases
- Qualitative case studies and digital ethnographic
- Survey to participants
- Legal analysis

Governance CBPP: 8 dimensions that give control, direction and are power sources in CBPP

- 1) Collective **mission** or goal of the process.
- 2) Cultural principles/**Social norms**.
- 3) **Design of the platform** of participation (where regulation is embedded in the code).
- 4) **Self-management of contributions**: autonomous condition of participants in allocating their contribution to the building process.
- 5) **Formal rules** or policies applied to community interaction.
- 6) **License**.
- 7) **Decision-making and conflict resolution systems** with regard to community interaction.
- 8) **Infrastructure provision**

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