

## Proposals from participants of the Seminar “Sharing is Caring” for an action on the topic of Commons

Dear organizations,

we are certain that you have much experience in activism and that you can contribute effectively to the idea of a campaign on Commons. What is more, participants of the seminar "Sharing is Caring" have brainstormed a bit on possible actions that could be undertaken. These are proposed methods but when it comes to the content, this will very much depend on your local reality. We have learned during the seminar that the Commons are all about a specific community at a specific point in time, with a specific value set, in a particular political system, and so forth. We, participants of this project nevertheless stay at your disposal to help with further information, ideas and to answer any questions you might have.

### A. Online:

1. Information campaign: This is a method that gathers all effective communication channels such as Facebook, blogging, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Through these channels you can share pictures with messages, pictures of endangered Commons, Commons in use, or just motivational messages that defend the Commons and encourage their further development in your community. Videos and clips are also very effective online content. You can use #hashtags that you can communicate with other organizations and as such raise the visibility of your campaign.

Aim of such an action is to raise awareness in the general public about Commons, raise the visibility of Commons, point to certain problems or solutions and promote positive practices and the work of your organization in this field. Resources needed are limited to internet access, people and time, with great need and potential for creativity and imagination.

2. Conference/Discussions: This is a method that enables you to discuss certain aspects of Commons with either the general public or youth activists. You can also have guest speakers. Most common online spaces for discussions are skype, google hangouts and chat rooms. In the spirit of Commons, we would recommend you use Open source tools, such as Mumble and the etherpad software (<https://titanpad.com/>, <https://pad.riseup.net/> etc).

The aim of this method is to assess in detail certain aspects of the topic, with possible outputs being a short statement, an update of your organization's standpoints on the topic or plans or strategies for further actions in the field.

Depending on whether it is an open or a closed event, you will need time to promote the event and attract participants, but also to invest certain efforts in preparing some introductory input and plan the moderation.

### B. Offline:

1. Street actions: There is no need to specifically describe this method. We stay at your disposal if you need help with ideas on actions or on messages. Important is to pick a topic that is relevant for your community, and to make sure that your message is clear, meaningful and constructive. It should be directed to relevant decision makers, or comprehensive and educative enough in case it is directed at

members of the community.

The aim of street actions is to draw attention to certain topics and to be creative, brave and revolutionary. It is always good to have inclusive actions where passersby can join in and do some hands-on actions, inducing them on the spot to learning-from-doing.

2. SOS Commons phone: The idea is to have an open phone line, which citizens can call to report problems with certain aspects of the Commons. This is a very early-stage idea in the context of this small campaign, meaning that its aim is to intrigue citizens to think about Commons and to raise the capacity for critical thinking about the management of Commons. Nevertheless, it can be developed to permanently connect citizens who care for their environment with either civil society or even the relevant local authorities.

For this campaign, if you decide to test this method, you may need just one phone and a sim card, but important is to promote it and make sure that activists who are answering the phone know how to reply to citizens. This means having basic knowledge of the issues and contacts to relevant institutions (so that you may direct people to report further).

To begin you may want to make a small campaign “Report \_\_\_\_\_” and then pick a topic that is very relevant for your community, also providing some information on why you're starting the action and how it is going to work.

3. Reclaim your Commons actions: We grouped many ideas under this name because throughout the seminar we found that many Commons already exist in our communities but are either misused/mismanaged or not managed at all for some reason. Hereby we call on your organization to analyze your own reality and see if there are any Commons that you actually find communal but feel disconnected to. Once you've identified your Commons: go and reclaim it.

The aim of this actions can be to purely raise awareness. However, you can also set up local initiatives, and mobilize the community or disseminate education. Knowing that this may sound too abstract you can, for example, reclaim an empty public space and arrange a Green day for it, making it useful and inviting for public use. We urge you also to make sure that you communicate this with the relevant people and authorities to protect your activists, organization and community regarding the legality of your action.

As said before, we very much welcome your own ideas and creativity. While engaging in this campaign we are inviting you to communicate with us so that we can make sure that these actions are of mutual benefit and spread knowledge thereof to our member organisations and the general public. We want to make sure that our joint struggle for the world of the Commons is as effective and noticeable as possible!

Love,

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