

## Similarities and Differences between LETs and Regio (regional currency)

Workshop on 22.7.2004 11.00 – 12.30 Participants: 9 persons

**Opening question:** Where does my feeling (from the point of view of barter systems) of doubt and uneasiness towards the Regio come from? Are there concrete reasons?

We gathered points in common and differences (3 flip-chart pages) and discussed them.

### Points in common

- They are both complementary currency systems
- Both have a wide variety of different options
- Both visualize a better future
- Both sensitize people to the 'money' theme
- Learning processes are set in motion
- They are experimental fields
- Enclosed trade circulation is not the result
- The two do not compete (or do they?)

### Differences

#### Barter systems

- voluntary organisation from the basis (also professional)
- predominantly orientated to social aims
- decrease of polarisation (through time currency)
- informal trading
- deregulated market
- predominantly private persons

#### Regio

- professional management
- predominantly orientated to reinforcing regional economy - local markets.
- Social aspects?
- formal trading
- legally regulated
- trade and private persons

These thoughts were discussed in part controversially. We did not intend to reach a consensus.

### Contradictions in the group:

- There are no differences!?
- Barter systems are the precursor of the regional currencies and flow into it?
- When the "regio" has been established will the barter system disappear?
- Barter systems are merely a niche and contribute little to the local economy?
- Social question: those who cannot afford to buy the Regio because they have not the money simply have to be satisfied with the barter system?

Some of the opinions expressed a degradation of the barter systems (as a niche for the poor?)

Which was vehemently contradicted.

(This no doubt caused my uneasiness)

We plead that all the experiments, which try to solve the problems of our time, may exist side by side free of assessment and can be compared without emotion (caused by feeling of inferiority) and can possibly cooperate with one another.

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