

FOUNDATION FOR P2P ALTERNATIVES

The Foundation for Peer-to-Peer Alternatives is a global cybercollective which researches, documents and promotes peer-to-peer alternatives in every field of human activity. Its subject matter includes open/free, participatory/p2p, and commons-oriented practices and concepts, and also includes peer production, peer governance, and peer property.

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ORGANISATION PROFILE

The Foundation's aim is both research and the internetworking of various initiatives to facilitate the emergence of a vibrant social movement. The P2P Foundation is based in The Netherlands, and has its practical headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand, home of founding member Michel Bauwens.

The Foundation works mostly online, through a wiki and blog, but also has local chapters carrying out research in different countries. Ultimately, it aims to reverse the reliance on infinite growth in a limited physical environment, and the reliance on artificial scarcities in the field of immaterial human cooperation, so that a sustainable but socially innovative successor civilisation may be created.

'P2P' is defined as the 'equipotential' human relationships enabled by the new generation of social technologies, which allow the scaling of small group dynamics on a global scale. They allow for the creation of complex artefacts through peer production, self-organisation through peer governance, and protection from private appropriation through peer property. P2P social practices are associated with the open/free, participatory, and commons-oriented paradigms.

The Foundation's 30 December 2007 statistics page reports that the wiki 'now contains 6,360 total pages in the database of which there are 4,360 pages that are probably legitimate content pages.' These have generated 2,478,744 page views.