



BUILDING A SOCIETY OF THE COMMONS IN ECUADOR

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WHAT IS THE FLOK SOCIETY PROJECT?

Building a society of the knowledge commons



<http://flocksociety.org>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoMOLuG5LuI>



What is FLOK?

- How's it started?
 - Initiative of an open academic-activist group (2013)
 - Mobilised institutional support by the Ministry of Knowledge and Human Talent, the National Secretary for Science and Innovation (SENESCYT) and the National Institute of Higher Studies (IAEN)



HOW CAN THIS BE DONE?

FLOK METHODOLOGY

The development of public policy should be organised from the bottom-up, through the participation and collaboration of potentially all members of society, without intermediaries.



BUILDING A SOCIETY OF THE COMMONS...

Bottom-up: importance of social movements and civil society

That is why our *research process* is: **open, collaborative, distributed**, based on the use of wikis, co-ment, mumble

- <http://en.wiki.floksociety.org>
- <https://floksociety.co-ment.com>
- mumble: floksociety.org:64738



**Some of our proposals
for the transformation
of the primary and
secondary sector of the
economy**



Some of our policy proposals...

To support the agricultural commons and protect it against the danger of private enclosure:

- Open-source seed banks & seed sharing networks
- Legal framework based on the GPL for the licensing of plant genetic resources as well as farm machines
- Release of publicly-funded R&D in plant varieties under the GPL



Some of our policy proposals...

Small organic farmers need to develop their own local food markets and organisations.





Some of our policy proposals...

Small organic farmers need to develop their own local food markets and organisations. To assist them, we propose:

- Organisation of small organic farmers in co-ops with their own meeting grounds for direct retailing
- Legal framework that provides co-ops with the autonomy and institutional support required for their operation*



Some of our policy proposals...

To democratise access to credit and investment resources, we propose:

- Community-managed *Investment Fund* for organic farmers, such as that operated by co-op federations in Northern Italy (so-called 3% Fund)



Some of our policy proposals...

Considering the importance of investments in knowledge:

- Expansion of farmer field schools in rural areas
- Introduction of agricultural training into the basic school curriculum
- Strengthening of agroecological orientation of publicly-funded agricultural research



Some of our policy proposals...

Considering the importance of public policy:

- Economic incentives (e.g. tax benefits)
- Public spending re-oriented towards social services and public goods: e.g. seed banks and rural infrastructures, education and agricultural R&D
- Public procurement oriented towards organic food (e.g. public school feeding program in Brazil)
- Rural hackerspaces and co-working spaces
 - Micro-factory for manufacturing open farm machines in Sigchos



Some of our policy proposals...

Considering the significance of community involvement:

- All shareable infrastructures (e.g. seed banks) be managed by community organisations
- Scaling-up/pilot projects must be transparent and founded on the participation of delegates from village communities, farmer movements and agricultural activists



Some of our policy proposals...

Considering the importance of evaluation:

- Assessment centre for open technologies (e.g. open farm machines)
- Assessment centre for sustainable agriculture projects (i.e. monitoring and evaluation of projects)



**Moving on to the
secondary sector of
the economy...**



Some of our policy proposals...

To support the development of the open knowledge commons of science and technology and protect it against the danger of private enclosure:

- Legal framework based on the GPL for the licensing of scientific and technological artefacts
 - *De facto* abolition of patents
 - Release of publicly-funded R&D in science and technology under free licenses (e.g. GPL)



Some of our policy proposals...

To support the development of commons-oriented projects and organisations:

- Economic incentives (e.g. tax benefits and micro-credit systems)
- Legal framework that provides co-ops with the autonomy and institutional support required for their operation



Some of our policy proposals...

To democratise access to credit and investment resources:

- Community-managed *Investment Fund* such as that operated by co-op federations in Northern Italy (i.e. 3% Fund)



Some of our policy proposals...

Considering the importance of the diffusion of knowledge in empowering people to participate in technical projects:

- Introduction of training in open technologies into the basic school curriculum
- Re-orientation of publicly-funded science and technology towards models of *open science*



Some of our policy proposals...

Considering the importance of shareable, territorial infrastructures for cognitive work:

- Urban and rural hackerspaces, makerspaces, co-working spaces and P2P labs for the mutualisation of resources, collaborative work, skill sharing and technology transfer



<http://cumbredelbuenconocer.ec>

<http://buenconocer.org>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgTL1p1JEsk>



For those who wish to delve more deeply into the controversial subject of policy-making for a commons-based society:

<https://flocksociety.co-ment.com>

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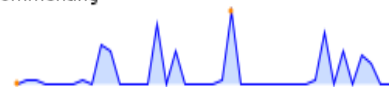
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PRESENT WORK

- Replicate FLOK in Brazil
- Incorporate FLOK policy proposals in legislation (e.g. COESC)
- Implement pilot projects, such as:
 - Micro-factory for open farm machines in Sigchos
 - Lab for 3D-printed body prosthetics in Quito as a public service



Thank you



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