

An alternative society

1 Preface

This small writing describes my thoughts about an alternative society. It is written mainly for myself, but if other people find it interesting it is of course also good – if we are enough people that share similar thoughts we can make a change.

There are many people that are frustrated with the current society, and feel there is a need for an alternative, but I find they have no clear understanding of what this should be.

Examples of movements that are ongoing, but that lack a clear complete alternative vision are:

- Occupy Wall Street with the frustration about “corporate America’s” focus on own profit and not the life of ordinary American people.
- The environmental movement fighting against the misuse of our planet, where we overuse resources to keep up a consumption of things that don’t really make us happy.
- The frustration in Europe about countries that are more or less bankrupt, where the governments have borrowed money to keep up the economy, and now they have to pay the price.
- The Arab spring where people have raised against totalitarian regimes, and been able to overthrow them, but what society will they build up?
- Italy’s “Five star movement” and the UK UKIP party.
- The Tea party movement in the US that is frustrated over too much government.
- Wikileaks that is trying to expose what is bad with our current society.
- Al-Qaida and IS that sees some fundamental form of Islam as the answer – however that will solve any real problems.

These are just some examples. There will probably be many more to come in the following years as our current society tries to handle the changes that are going on.

I don’t think that neither our politicians nor the corporate executives are evil, or that they lack concern about the issues that are brought up here. It is just that they are caught in the same society that the rest of us. If they do not take the necessary actions, i.e. cut welfare, increase taxes or move the production to cheaper countries, their countries or companies will not “survive”, as they don’t see any other alternative.

The ideas that I explain here, I have had for about 25 years, but I have never had the “decision” to write them down properly before. In this previous sentence I first wrote “time” instead of “decision”, but that was not true, as I have had 25 years – and I believe we are all masters of our time – saying that I don’t have time is the same as saying that I have decided to do something else instead. But now I will do it – I think we all should decide to do what we think is right, and not blame time.

Why do I write this? I have had these ideas, and I think they can lead to a better society, so then I will try to write them down so I can try to spread them. They have given me some comfort, as I have a hope that we can make our wonderful planet a better place to live for all of us. I hope that you enjoy reading this small writing, and if you find it interesting, please spread it to your friends, then maybe some day we will be able to make a change. If you have ideas for improvements please also let me know.

If you find it stupid or impossible, please say so as well, as I'm not sure that what I have described here will really work, but I think so.
Enjoy the Alternative!

2 The world we live in

2.1 Society

The following chapter is a very simplistic analysis of how our society is built up today, and why it is difficult to change. This analysis is mainly based on my understanding of the “developed” world.

We live in a society based on people having jobs with salaries. The salaries that people earn and what they consume are taxed. This tax is used to give service back to the people, e.g. some people are employed from this tax money to provide “free” services, e.g. police, health care, education. Another part of the tax money is used to support those that do not work, e.g. elderly, unemployed, sick, etc. The difference between societies and political parties today is mainly how much shall be transferred through what type of taxes and what this shall be used for – i.e. how much and what welfare shall we have, and what shall be left for the individual to take care of themselves. If we have less transfer through taxes, we provide less welfare, and thus people have to buy the services directly - if they can afford them.

This model works fine when there are enough people working compared to those that are not working and the services that are provided. It is also very dependent on “consuming”, as it is the consuming that is providing all the jobs.

What we see now is that the number of jobs is not enough in many countries. One reason for this is that we now live in a global economy, and the production of goods and services can be efficiently done centralized in a few places and distributed to the rest of the world. The production is then more efficient, thus needing less people, and more concentrated to certain areas. I think we only have seen the beginning of this. We also see that the jobs are moving where the salaries are lower, but this is just a temporary problem, as salaries will adjust as the economy is becoming more global, e.g. industries are already moving away from the developed areas of China for lower cost alternatives. This transformation is mainly squeezing the “man in the middle”, i.e. the formerly quite well paid middle class – industry workers in developed countries like the US, or countries with less developed local industries – Portugal, Spain etc.

The increased use of computers and the internet is also replacing many service jobs, e.g. secretaries, cashiers, travel agents, video rental stores, as well as potentially more advanced jobs as doctors (there are systems today that can diagnose many diseases as good as a real specialist doctor, so why should I not use that instead of my house doctor that maybe never has seen this disease), lawyers, teachers (why should I listen to a mediocre lecture by my teacher, when there is first class lectures available on the internet). This will of course not mean that these professions will be obsolete, but they will have to change.

The globalization and internet are also giving an unprecedented accumulation of wealth, i.e. those that have the ability to invent something really smart (Apple, Google, Facebook...) or take advantage of the changes (Walmart, IKEA) are able to earn much more money faster than any time in history before. I don't at all think this is bad, but the result being that wealth is accumulated more uneven than before. Many of the wealthy people are also giving back their wealth to support good projects, especially in the US.

Another aspect is our society's dependency on consumption – mainly of things, but also of services like travel, leisure etc. It is the constant production of new stuff that is creating all the jobs, i.e. design, raw material, production, distribution, retailing. If we cut our consumption, it will have an immediate effect on the jobs and taxes – and thus the services that can be provided. But this consumption is also the biggest threat to the environment, thus it is very difficult for any politician to really do anything substantial for the environment.

We also have very many people, e.g. politicians and others that can take advantage of the system – the “ruling” class. They live good based on the enormous amount of money that goes through the tax system and the “pension funds”.

Previously when we did not live in a global economy, one country could spend itself out of a recession. The government borrowed/printed money, they could then start infrastructure work that would improve the country's competitive advantage, create new jobs, and thereby new demands for other products. This would finally give new taxes that could pay back the government loan. In a global economy where much of the produced goods are done elsewhere this does not work that well.

Since welfare is also generating taxes through consumption, we deepen the problem by cutting down on welfare. We have fewer people working, and thus even less tax income. This is what we see in countries that are going through a recession, i.e. they get into a negative spiral.

2.2 Environment

We are today able to exploit the resource of the earth in a very “efficient” way, but we are polluting – changing the habitat – on an unprecedented scale. We have been talking about peak oil for several decades. However we continue to find new sources of fossil energy, e.g. oil sand, frozen methane, and develop better extraction techniques. My prediction is that we will be able to find fossil fuels for the next centuries to meet our “demand”. If we shall change this we need to decide to drastically reduce the usage. Talking about a 20-50% percentage reduction of our current consumption, which we are even that not able to agree on, will not solve the problem - just postpone it.

2.3 People

A society in crisis impacts many people negatively. Pensions and other support systems are cut or taken away. Salaries for service workers are cut. People are taxed more.

People having jobs feel more stressed and are afraid of losing their jobs.

Well-paying jobs are moving to other countries where the salaries are lower.

Those without jobs feel frustrated and useless.

Employed and rich people feel that the unemployed are lazy and only want to live on welfare, i.e. their money.

We are afraid of foreigners (refugees), as we think they will come and take advantage of our welfare, which is still better than where they come from, or compete for the jobs.

People become frustrated with the “government” and “companies” that they feel are evil and conspire to take the jobs away from them, or don't do enough to protect them.

These negative observations do not mean that it is something wrong with people, we just don't have society where they all can thrive. People are industrious - they want to contribute to society. They want to feel secure, but also have the opportunity to utilize their talent and skills – and be rewarded for that.

We also see marvelous new inventions coming along all the time, the internet and all connected devices, more energy efficient transportation, houses, and more clean energy. All these inventions are created in a free capitalistic economy where companies and people compete in a free market.

2.4 The rest

What I will try to explain in the next chapters is an alternative society where we can have:

- the necessary security and welfare for all
- the opportunity to utilize our talent and skills, both for our own prosperity and the good of society
- the opportunity for everyone to participate
- an environmentally sustainable future
- an economy that can cope efficiently with both growth and recession

I have tried to make my ideas as concrete as possible, as when I have seen a “problem”, I have tried to find a concrete, practical and pragmatic solution. Some of these solutions might seem radical, and should of course be critically discussed.

3 The basic ideas

There are five basic ideas that the alternative society builds on:

- Replacing “money” taxes with community service – and providing social security not through money but through services.
- Taxing land, natural resources and pollution instead of work.
- Replacing the “central bank/federal reserve” with loans given to individual persons in credit unions.
- Replacing the professional “politicians” with “ordinary people”.
- Except for this allowing a fully free market capitalistic society, where there is free competition. Note that except for the tax on land, natural resources and pollution there will be no other taxes.

In the next chapters I will explain in more detail how each of these ideas are intended to work.

4 Community service

The idea is to split “employment for money” from “service”, and let everyone contribute equally to the service for others through work and not money/taxes. When you are able you give and when old or sick you receive.

The idea is similar to how the armed forces worked when it was compulsory.

Most of the service will be provided in the service centers by the people serving there.

Anyone can offer similar services outside, e.g. education, health care, elderly care etc. but then it is done on a fully commercial basis.

The service level will then not depend on the taxes, but be stable, as the population is stable.

Of course receiving the services is voluntarily, thus people might opt not to take advantage of the free services provided in the service centers, but they do still have to serve.¹

What shall be included in the service level is a political decision that can be changed. If we increase the service level it will require more time from the people.

In the next sections I will outline one possibility for how the service could be organized, and what it should cover. Be aware that this is just an example; there could be many different implementations of the same principle.

4.1 Service centers

Service is organized in relatively large² service centers, where all services are provided, e.g. education, hospital, care of elderly, police.

1 It needs to be discussed if the service shall be compulsory or if people can pay instead of serving. I would hope that the service is a positive experience that we can make so flexible that most people will prefer to do it. If it should be possible to pay instead of serving, a price tag has to be determined. A reasonable price could be 2 years high salary (2 x 100.000 Euro) for each year of service. This sum should be divided between the service center (25%), the region (25%) and globally (50%). Some people will at least temporarily want to pay, e.g. sport or entertainment stars.

2 The size of a service center needs to be discussed. I can imagine a service center serving 100.000 people. It will then mean that about 15.000-25.000 people are in the service centers all the time. The size should be

One can choose which service center one belongs to, but the idea is that one shall belong to the same service center the whole life, and also serve with the same people to build up a team spirit.

People start serving with shorter camps between 12 and 16, mainly to get to know the system, and be able to choose where to serve and what to do. Most children will also have joined their parents while they were serving.

At 17 they serve for their first full year, and then they will serve for a full year about every 7th year until they are 73, in total 9 years.

A new group of people enters (and an old group leaves) the service every 3 months ensuring that there is overlap and continuity.

To meet new people in the service centers the recommended service intervals are 7,7,6,6,6,8,8,8 for the people entering in January and July and 7,7,8,8,8,6,6,6 for the people entering in April and October.³ This will ensure that when you get older and stay more permanently in the service center there will always be younger people there that you have served with. Working with many people in the service centers will also extend your contact network and make the whole society better.

Each person entering the service center gets one “coach” among the people that shall leave the service in the next three months. They will work overlapping in the role, and the new person will take over when the coach leaves.

We can make the serving time more flexible, but with some limits that a certain number of years have to be done before the age of e.g. 30, 40 and 50.⁴

Anyone can come to the service center they belong to at any point in time and stay there when they need or wish to do so. When they are there they are expected to serve.

4.2 Education and learning

In the service centers basic education is provided up to the age of 17 for those that want to have it there, or cannot afford a private education. Those that get their basic education at the service are supposed to help out as well on their spare time. When young people are at the camps they are tested to ensure that they have gotten the necessary education. If they are getting behind, a plan is established with the service center and their parents. Also the final “high school” exams is administered at the service center independent of which school they attend when they do their first year of service.

large enough so that proper health care and education can be provided. If the service centers are too big they risk being too impersonal, if they are too small they cannot provide the continuity and range of service that we would like. A service center in a sparsely populated area can of course have satellites.

³ The reasons for this distribution: 1) if you stay in the service center when you get older, there will always be people around that you have served with, 2) it ensures that you serve with the same people in your group and 6 month head of and behind you all the time, 3) you serve with the same 7 years older than you both when you are 17 and 24 years, 4) you will meet new people from other age categories each time you serve, 5) the people 3 and 9 months before and after you will change all the time, and finally 6) the first year you serve at 17 you will serve together with three groups from “your” credit union chain, i.e. those 24, 31 and 73.

⁴ One way of encouraging serving the recommended year is to only allow people that are serving in the “preferred” pace to be elected to leading positions, and/or paying to postpone the service, e.g. 10.000 Euro for each 6 month period.

After the basic education, educations within special occupations are also provided, but these educations are connected to additional service obligations. The service centers will provide education in health care (doctors and nurses), teachers, police and law, fire-fighters, etc. that are needed by the service centers. This is similar to how the pilots are educated in the air force, i.e. they get a free education with the obligation to stay in the air force for some additional years. When they are ready they will usually be attractive in the private sector. The amount of compulsory additional service after receiving the education has to be adjusted to the attractiveness of the education and the number of applicants. Not all of the additional service is done directly after the completion of the education, as it is advantageous to have people with more experience to serve later. This means that attractive educations will be available to all people independent of economic means.

Take as an example a 5 year medical doctor education. This could be provided in the following steps, assuming you start at the age of 20:

- 20-22: Two basic years of education
- 22-23: One year of practice in the service
- 23-26: Three final years of education
- 26-28: Two year of practice in the service
- 28-34: Six work years privately
- 34-36: Two practice years

And then going on like this with 6 years of private work and two years of service. During the service years some of the doctors will participate in educating new doctors. This means that a five years medical doctor education will require $1 + 2 \times 7 = 15$ years of service compared to the 9 “normal” years. Of course one can take a private medical education, and then serve as a doctor for the compulsory basic years.

Everyone entering the service center should be encouraged to set up both physical, practical and an intellectual goals for the year. Examples of physical goals could be lose weight, learn to swim, run a marathon, stand on your hands, or just take a walk every day. Practical goals could be to learn plumbing, learn to knit, play an instrument or paint. And finally the intellectual goal could be to learn a new language, mathematics, write a book or a song. For each goal one or several “coaches” and “peers” will be selected that will help you with that goal. Each person is also supposed to serve as coaches and peers based on their ability.

4.3 The special project

Each group of people entering the service center every third month will select one or several “special projects” that they will accomplish during their service time. These could be to build or renovate a building, make a park, or whatever that is making the service center better. The purpose of this is to give the group a common goal that they can accomplish together, and look back on with pride on when they leave. Special projects are local to a service center, but should be open to all to participate in, e.g. one service center decides to build a new IT system, and solicit support, e.g. people or money from other service centers.

4.4 Serving with the family

When people get married they can choose to change their service years and place so that they can serve together. They are free to choose the year or place where any of them serve. When a family serves together they can of course bring their children that will go to school at the service center.

Also when people get older, they can move back to the service centers, and they will come to

- an environment that they know,
- where they know many of the people,
- where they can contribute according to their ability, and
- where things are happening.

This is quite different from the existing “retirement facilities” where old people are mostly stuffed away.

4.5 Service centers and religion

For many people religion is very important, and they have special religious rules that they live by and they find great comfort and security in their religious community. I can foresee that people can establish service centers that allow them to live by these rules. However no service center is allowed to discriminate people based on race, religion, sex etc. This means that each service center can set up rules of conduct that the people serving there must comply with, and they have to accept people that obey these rules. This also means that religious people serving in secular service centers cannot demand that their religion is above the rules of that service center, i.e. Jews cannot demand not to work on the Sabbath or Muslim women to wear a hijab. As well as non-religious people serving/visiting religious service centers have to abide to the rules that are there.⁵

4.6 What shall be included in the service?

The service will provide basic security for all people. This includes food, shelter, health care, care for disabled people and elderly. Health care is provided, but you will be expected to serve extra depending on the treatment you receive. Excessively complicated treatments are not provided. This will ensure that commercial doctors will be preferred by those able to afford them, due to the distance to the service center and the need to serve extra, but it will be available for all.

The service centers will also provide criminal law enforcement and justice, firefighting, and environmental control.

People in service will provide help in emergency situations, e.g. earth quakes, flooding etc.

Transportation infrastructure (roads and railways) is the responsibility for the regions. Similarly water supply is a regional responsibility. Airports and harbors can be left to private sector to handle. The reason for not leaving roads, railways and water supply to private companies is that it is difficult and wasteful to establish a competitive market for this infrastructure.

4.7 The division between private life and service

Criminal law enforcement, firefighting and environmental control is provided by those in service. Except for that people can organize their community as they decide themselves, e.g. if people want to run a school as a non-profit organization or send their children to a school run by a company for profit is up to them. They in any case have the opportunity to get free education for their children in the service center. I can foresee either democratic communities

5 Opening up for religious service centers is questionable, as it will lead to segregation, i.e. people with a certain faith are not exposed to people with other viewpoints. This is happening today in certain areas with certain religions. However, hopefully with the use of exchanges and inspectors the quality and openness of each service center will be guaranteed. Religion should be voluntary, and everyone should be free to change their religion without any punishment (except maybe in a life after this).

as today's "counties" or more commercial communities where the whole infrastructure is provided by a company.

4.8 Law and order

4.8.1 Crime prevention

Today we have the technology to ensure that doing a criminal act without being caught is much harder than it has ever been. The following four steps will do that:

- All valuable goods shall be individually marked and registered with an owner. When buying something you are responsible that it is bought from the correct owner, and you shall get title to the thing registered. This is how the car registry is working today, and technologically this is fully possible. Larger movable goods like cars, electrical equipment etc. shall be connected to the internet and have the ability to be turned off remotely (safely, i.e. a car will not stop totally, but only be able to go in 5 km/h).
- All persons shall carry a sender and it shall be recorded where they are. It will also probably be possible to attach a microphone to each person so that sound can be recorded continuously, and possibly also a camera. To ensure that people do not stop using their sender, it shall be possible for anyone seeing a person to look up the photo of this person. Then they can see that it is the correct person, and also detect if there is no signal sent out. A possible implementation of this is discussed at the end in section 14 .
- All money and payments shall be registered, i.e. there shall be no "anonymous" paper money.
- All valuable "anonymous" raw materials, e.g. gold, etc. are registered with a certificate based on weight and marked with "artificial dna", i.e. when I buy a gold bracelet I also get a certificate for that amount of gold that I have to transfer when I sell the bracelet. Gold without a certificate and "dna-mark" should not be so easy to sell, and as the transfer of money is recorded a person that is caught for stealing can be sentenced to reveal all his previous transactions, and we can then track back the source.

This will mean that there will be information available about all movements and transactions. This information is the property of each individual person, but a court order can force access to this information. This is similar to today, where your house is your property, but the police can search it with a court order. If a crime is conducted somewhere at a certain time the police can require to get information about everyone that have been around that place at that time. Note that since the "police force" and "government" is made up of people in temporary service, there is no "permanent" police force or government that can abuse this information.

4.8.2 Information and privacy

The information collected to prevent crime is much more extensive than what is done today (at least openly), and it is important that the individual has full control over this information.

Here are some requirements on the collection, storage and use of the information:

- All stored information shall be encrypted with the private key of the owner.
- The owner of the information shall be able to decide how and by whom the information shall be accessible.
- Authenticity of the stored information must be guaranteed, i.e. when there is a record of a person being at a certain place at a certain time, it should not be possible to forge any of these. The information must be securely stored, and not possible to delete by anyone.

- It must be traceable who have accessed the information and when, but this information is also the property of the person accessing the information (and the owner of the information if he has required it.)
- It must be possible to force access to the information (as the police can get a court order to break into a house).
- People can generate and access information under their real identity, a verified pseudonym (a pseudonym where the linking to the real identity is secret but verified by a third party) or an anonymous pseudonym (where only the owner knows the real identity).
- It must be possible to send information from a device without being able to trace what information is sent or by whom.
- Only information “officially” stored in the “system” has any legal validity, i.e. if I take out a copy of some information it is of no use as a proof of anything, as it can easily be forged.

Some examples of how this can work:

- I want to publish something on the internet, but don't want anyone to know it is me, then I use an anonymous pseudonym.
- I can decide that I don't want anyone with a pseudonym (or not anonymous pseudonym, e.g. the information might be dangerous to have read) to access my information.
- I can decide that only identities with certain attributes, e.g. my doctor, male over 35 or whatever, have access to certain information.
- I can require that I'm informed about the access to my information. The ones trying to access the information will be informed about what information about their access will be sent to me, e.g. I might require to know the sex and age of real persons accessing my information (which will scare away most...).
- In certain situations it is required that you reveal your real identity, e.g. Service centers, work places etc., whereas elsewhere it is enough with a verified or anonymous pseudonym. What does it mean to register with an anonymous pseudonym? This means that it will be possible to see that this anonymous pseudonym was there at a certain time, bought something, etc. but it is impossible to find out who it is if they don't reveal it themselves. If I buy sex or drugs, I might want the transaction to be handled by one of my anonymous pseudonyms.
- The organization issuing verified pseudonyms can be forced by a court order to reveal the real identity. Each verified pseudonym is accompanied by the organization issuing it.
- The storage system can be forced to reveal certain data, e.g. all identities that where at a crime scene (an area) during a certain time period. This is again done by a court order. If it was allowed to be in this area with only an anonymous pseudonym we will not know the exact identity of the people there, so such an area will be more dangerous to visit.
- When a court order to reveal data is initiated, those impacted by the court order are informed by the system (anonymously), so they can argue against it (or anonymously hire someone to do it.)

The information system to handle this shall be developed as open source by the people in the service center. Freenet is an example of a system implementing some of these aspects.

4.8.3 Drugs

Drugs shall not be illegal, as it just creates a lot of crime and bad drugs. Some people have always and will always want to use drugs. It is then better to produce clean and “safe” drugs, but to stigmatize the use, and provide facilities to get off the drug addiction in the service centers. The use of drugs in the service centers is forbidden, and people caught using drugs are put in the detoxification units. It is possible for any employer to fire anyone using drugs. When you are tested for drugs it will be recorded in your “file”, and any employer can request you to reveal your drug file before employing you.

4.8.4 Prostitution

Allowed for the same reasons as drugs, but since we record where people are, it is impossible to be anonymous, so it will probably be less popular.

4.8.5 Traffic offenses

Since we can monitor all traffic through GPS, we will immediately know when someone is speeding, not stopping for the stop sign or the red light etc. Giving people a lot of fines is not what we want to do. When you are breaking the traffic rules it will be recorded, and if you have caused an unsafe situation or accident your traffic file, and your behavior in this situation will be used to evaluate your suitability as a driver. If your behavior is judged dangerous it will give you a sentence or taking your driving license. In particular if the incident happened while you were breaking a traffic rule, e.g. speeding. This is similar to how the black boxes in planes and trains are working. Driving using drugs or alcohol is of course also such a situation.

4.8.6 Jail

People breaking the law are sentenced to additional service. The ability to serve in a service center will enable them to prove their “worth” together with law abiding people, and hopefully get contacts that can help them reintegrate after they have completed the sentence. This more integrated type of sentence will hopefully avoid the crime fostering environment that jails are today.

All education and other facilities shall in principle be available to the people sentenced to additional service based on “good behavior”, as we want them to end up as law abiding citizens and not fall back into criminal behavior.

The possibility to be let out before the end of the sentence is partly decided by the people the criminal is working with.

Of course there will be criminals that are so dangerous/mentally ill that they require special custody, but hopefully that will be the minority. This will also be provided in the service centers.

4.9 People staying at the service center for different reasons

As we have seen up to now there are different kind of people at the service centers:

- Those doing their compulsory “7th” year service.
- Those doing extra service due to education or other reasons.
- Those volunteering to be there for different reasons, e.g. unemployment, age, sickness or just wanting time off.
- Guests that are visiting the service center for a shorter period.
- People sentenced for a crime.

Everyone is supposed to serve according to their abilities. Is there any difference between guest and the others? No, except that the guests or volunteers that do not belong to this service

center can be asked to leave in case there is a lack of space, they should then move to their own service center. People convicted of a crime shall do their sentence in the service center where they belong.

The service centers will also take in refugees. They will have to stay and serve in the service center until they can live successfully outside the service center. This means that they must speak the language, have an education, a job and a place to live. Hopefully being integrated in the service center will help them obtain these abilities quite fast, and also get contacts useful outside the service center.

Everyone entering the service center shall get at least one host that will help the entrant, but also ensure that the entrant serve. The entrant will work together with the host, and the service center will try to match the entrant and the host as good as possible. It is possible to ask to change host.

4.10 Work for money will be voluntary

By the introduction of service centers the work for money outside the service centers will be voluntary – anyone can chose to live their whole life in the service center. This will lead to that extensive labor laws to protect employees are redundant. Dirty, boring, dangerous or meaningless jobs that today are badly paid, as they are the only alternative for people to earn a living have to be better paid and/or cleaned up, otherwise no-one will take them. This is in my opinion one of the keys to be able to have a really free market, as in our current market economy selling your labor is not a choice for most people – now it will be.

4.11 Immigrants, refugees and the free movement of people

There will be regions that are more attractive to live in compared to others. Hopefully this will even over time, but until that happens there probably needs to be some control of the movement of people. Today this control is based on setting up “walls” around the attractive regions, e.g. US, EU, Australia, and controlling who are allowed through these walls. These walls are very expensive to maintain and many people are profiting from human smuggling. There are also people dying while trying to get into the more attractive regions. When they are there, they are continuously under the threat of being sent home, which is not very humane. With the removal of the “paid social security” some of the advantages of moving will be gone, however there will still probably be people wanting to try their chances in other regions, and no region can take in infinitely many new people. Here is one suggestion for how to handle this with different kind of mechanisms. It is important that the rules are clear and fair, and allows everyone a chance. Again this is just a suggestion.

4.11.1 Immigration/refugees

Each region and service center of the world is rated according to its attractiveness.

Attractiveness is measured by the number of immigrants that apply for immigrant status there. The attractiveness is used to set the minimum time immigrants have to serve there before they can be accepted as citizens. The range is determined at the global level and could be 4 years minimum and 15 years maximum.

After having served the required years, to be finally accepted as a citizen of a region you have to be “recommended” by 5 people from the service center where you serve during your final year.

To be able to recommend a person you have to be a citizen of the region for at least 10 years, have served for at least two periods, and not be sentenced for any crime during the last 5 years. Each person in a region can only recommend one person every time they do compulsory service, i.e. every 7th year.

Finally there are “competence” requirements, e.g. high school competence, but the immigrants should be able to obtain this at the service center.

Citizenship should be first on probation for e.g. 7 years, i.e. until they have completed their next service period. Probation means that if they commit any serious crime their citizenship is revoked and they are sent back to where they came from. Also if the immigrant misbehaves during their service they can be sent back to where they came from.

The persons granted citizenship in a region are of course also allowed to join credit unions when they have served their first year as a citizen.

4.11.2 Free labor market

Regions can also establish a free labor market, like the US or EU, where people can move and work freely between the different regions. In this case they will still belong to their original service center, but will get temporary support from the service centers where they are. If they want to change citizenship/service center they have to go through the same procedure as immigrants. Ideally the whole world should become a free labor market, where anyone can move freely between regions to utilize their resource potential.

4.11.3 Birthright

Young people should have the right to choose a service center and be a citizen in the region where they are born, or where their mother or father is citizens. The service center of their parents has to accept the child, but they can apply for other service centers as well. The criteria for being admitted to a service center have to be openly stated and objectively evaluated and non-discriminatory. There might however be different criteria for citizens of the region compared to those from outside the region.

4.11.4 Importing competence

Some regions might have a lack of competence which they want to “import”. In this case people can be put on a fast track where they are accepted as citizens in a region after just one year of service, but they then need the “recommendation” of 10 citizens, and again a citizen can only recommend a person every year you serve. The list and requirements of lacking competences are handled on the regional level. Note that these people also have their citizenship on probation for 7 years.

4.11.5 Guest workers

“Guest workers” can temporary work in a region without any obligation to serve. Guest workers need the “recommendation” from 10 citizens, and one person can only recommend one person at the time. Since these guest workers do not belong to any service center for health care, they need to have some private insurance. Also the “recommenders” are jointly financial responsible for the person.

4.11.6 Partnership/marriage

People will also like to marry across regions that are not part of a free labor market. This is handled by letting the pair serve one year together in the region where they want to move, and after that the spouse is granted citizenship there, also that on probation. Each person can only once in their life take a partner/spouse from another region through this procedure. The only exception is if the partner dies, then they are allowed to repeat the procedure 3 years after the death. To be allowed to take a partner through this procedure you have to have been a citizen for 10 years, and have served your first year. The service year together with your new partner can be combined with the compulsory service year.

4.11.7 Help in place

In addition to this we should try to help people as close to their homes as possible, i.e. when there are natural catastrophes it is better to support the people close to their homes so that they can get back to their normal lives, than to move them to a totally different place.

4.11.8 People not able to take care of themselves

Even with these mechanisms it might be problematic with certain immigration, e.g. old, sick or disabled people not belonging to any service center that are showing up in a region/service center. They will never be able to contribute positively to the region or service center, maybe not even be able to take care of themselves, and probably no-one wants to support them outside the service center either. One way to handle this is to register all people's DNA, and then find the closest relatives, and "force" them to take the responsibility for their relatives, i.e. they are moved to region/service center where most relatives live, and the relatives are informed. Hopefully this will work, as there will be some social pressure to support your relatives. One way for a citizen to take care of a relative is to serve together with the relative one year extra in the service center, i.e. as covered under the partnership program. Note that this can only be done once per citizen. A traditional country systematically "dumping" their social problems on the alternative regions should be "punished" with taxes on trade to cover the costs.

4.11.9 Vacations

People can move freely between alternative regions on vacation, they can also stay in service centers for a shorter period if there is space. The maximal period is determined by the service center/region, e.g. one week at each service center and one month in a region in total. When they stay in a service center they are supposed to serve, e.g. if they come in the evening, they are supposed to work during the days, and then can leave in the morning. People misbehaving in a service centers can be banned from all service centers in that region.

People on vacation from traditional countries are required to have an insurance that will cover any medical problems and transportation home. People on vacation are not allowed to work in a region, to do that they have to qualify as guest workers.

4.11.10 Example

Here is an example of how this can work. I'm an African wanting to go to Europe without any particular competence. I will then look over the different regions to find the one that I think have the best conditions for me. I will buy a ticket and insurance as a tourist, and travel through the regions visiting the different service centers. The one I like I will apply for immigrant status at. Then I will serve there for as long as is required to become a citizen of that region. When I enter that region/service center as an immigrant it will increase their attractiveness, thus requiring more serving for the next to enter. After some years I want to bring my old mother to live with me. I will then apply for bringing her here based on the partnership rule, and serve a year together with her. This will hopefully also help her get new friends and knowledge about the new region.

4.12 Interaction between service centers

4.12.1 Rotating people

To learn from each other it is important that we have a certain rotation among the service centers. This is important for several reasons:

- It is easier to propagate good practices through people.

- We learn to know other people.

This idea is similar to the Mormon's concept of proselytizing mission.

To achieve this each service center will send 10% of their serving people to other service centers during the middle 6 months of their one year stay (not the first year). The people that are sent are based on individual wishes, requests from other centers, and competence of the service center, e.g. a service center with an interesting program for detoxification will both attract people to learn and have a request for people with this competence. This is similar to the academic concept of "sabbatical", where a professor is visiting another university.

4.12.2 Auditor/Inspections

To ensure a high quality of the service provided across the service centers, there will be auditors/inspectors from other service centers that are reviewing each service center regularly. This will ensure both that no service center is falling below standard, as well as picking up and spreading good practices. The service as auditor is of course also something that a person doing service can apply for.

4.13 Facilities in service centers

Basics:

- Food: Simple mainly vegetarian food served continuously.
- Clothing: Simple uniforms.
- Sleeping: Dormitories (army style) or small family rooms. People serving their 7th year compulsory service will be given single rooms or small family rooms, except for the first year.
- Own stuff: One locker per person.
- Showers and toilets

Common facilities:

- Canteen where food is always served
- Sport facilities (swimming, gym, football, etc.)
- Meeting rooms
- Library
- Kindergartens and schools
- Hospital
- Facilities for elderly and disabled
- Detention area for troublesome criminals.

As far as possible criminals, elderly and disabled people shall be integrated in the service, and not isolated in separate facilities except when really necessary.

Staying in a service center shall be a pleasant experience, where your work is meaningful and satisfying. There should be ample time socializing and rest. One could compare the service centers with monasteries.

4.14 Charity

Giving some of your surplus back to society is encouraged, but not required. This could be done by giving money to service centers to build better facilities or provide better services, e.g. medical equipment, buildings, sport facilities, computers, etc. This can of course be given to your own service center, but also other service centers.

5 Language

It would be good with a global language that everyone could learn to speak easily. Since English is becoming such a global language already, we should build on that, but simplify it - Simlish.

- Remove all irregularities, i.e. irregular verbs (to be, be, beed, and of course no s in 3rd person singular) and irregular nouns (foot, foots).
- Clean up the spelling so that it is phonetic, e.g. <http://www.saypyu.com/>
- Make a simplified standard vocabulary and structure
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Technical_English

Native English speakers will be appealed by this, but they should have no problems understanding Simlish, and it will be much easier to learn for everyone else. All official documents shall be written both in the native languages as well as in “Simlish”.

6 Government

6.1 Organization

Service centers are organized in geographical regions, and the regions make up the world. How many service centers will it be? Assuming we are 7 billion people and each service center is catering for 100.000 people. This gives 70.000 service centers. A region could consist of 50-300 service centers (on average 200), giving that we will end up with about 350 regions with from 5 to 30 million people. Thus there are three levels, the world, the region and the service center. This will mean that small countries of today, will not be a separate region, whereas large populous countries will be many regions.

6.2 Parliaments

There are elected parliaments on each level. The parliament on the service center level as well as the representatives to the regional level are directly elected **from and by** the people doing the compulsory service year. Representatives to the parliament on the world level are elected by the region parliaments, but also here only from the people doing their service year. Thus no-one can sit in parliament permanently. It is important that the service centers and regions are reasonably similar in size since we want to have only three representative from each in the parliament above, and if they are not equally sized, the representation will be unfair.

6.3 Elections

Two months after people have entered the service new places to the different levels of government are elected among and by the people in this group (all ages). Only the people in this group can be elected and can vote. The people elected will then serve in the government for the remaining 9 months of the service period. Thus if you have been in a leading position you have to wait 6 years until you might be eligible again.

There are thus no “professional” politicians, and you can only serve in government for 9 months when you have your service year, after that you will leave your position.

People voluntarily at the service center cannot be elected to government, and can neither have any “leading” position within the service center. This will ensure that we do not get people that make it as a career to lead the service centers or government. There are thus elections every 3 months as then new people are entering the service, and the “old” are leaving. This means that 1/3 of the elected people will be replaced every 3 months⁶. Another advantage

6 Is this rotation possible? I think so. It will still be place for political parties with their agendas, members and candidates. People that are up for election will have to take a stance on the ongoing and upcoming issues,

with this system is that there will be limited need for “protecting” the politicians, as they will only be in office for 9 months, so why kill them?

6.4 Ensuring “representative” representation

For the service center parliament there are two persons elected, one man and one woman from each of the service years, e.g. 17 year olds. Only the people within that service year can vote for their candidates. For the regional and world parliaments the “people” are divided into groups, e.g. sex: men/women, age: e.g. 18-30, 31-45, 45-60, 60+, and any other “intrinsic” quality that we think should be fairly represented. Note that religion in my view is not such an intrinsic quality. One year ahead of each election it is randomly selected (based on the proportion of people in each group in that region) which combination of “qualities” will be able to run for regional office in the following election, i.e. in one election we will select among women age 18-30. The people in this category with aspiration for office can then start to prepare for their “campaign”. There might also be “for all” elections, e.g. either a women any age or any person at all. Each service center is sending one representative to the regional parliament, and each region is sending one person to the world parliament each 3 months.

6.5 Parliament decisions

The parliament of the service center is deciding matters that have to do with the service center.

The parliament on the regional level is deciding on taxes on land and natural resources and transportation infrastructure.

Parliament on the world level is deciding on taxes on pollution and utilization of global resources like open sea fishing.

Government on the global level can decide on global laws overruling local laws. Each region, service center and community can make their own laws. However there shall be some basic “human rights”/“constitution” that local laws cannot overrule, e.g. discrimination based on sex, race, age, sexuality or religion.

The parliament on world level decides on global land or natural resource taxes, e.g. oil, that are collected globally, and distributed to even out differences between regions.

All global and regional taxes are distributed proportionally back to service centers, thus there is no regional or world “bureaucracy”.

The regional and world parliament and courts, will move around between different service centers, thus there is no regional or world capital. The move is happening every 4th year, and the parliament will decide where to next move based on application from service centers.

The government on each level shall represent the majority in the parliament (no separately elected president), and depends on the support of the parliament.

both locally, regionally and globally. People that cannot vote this time will try to persuade the ones that can vote. There will however be too many that can vote to be able to buy them. This approach will hopefully be a reasonable compromise between the direct influence of direct democracy and the stability and responsibility of representative democracy.

6.6 Courts

There are “first instance” courts in the service centers. Judges to the first instance courts are elected among the people doing their compulsory service. Appeals are first brought up at a first instance court in another service center. After that there are appeal courts on the regional level. The judges to the appeal court on the regional level are elected from and by judges in the service center courts. Similarly there is a world supreme court where judges are elected from and by the judges in the regional courts. The election of judges to the higher courts are done like the cardinals elect the new pope, i.e. each service center select one representative, and we lock all the judges from the different service centers into a room until they have decided on one that shall represent the region on the world level, three new judges and two reserves for the regional court.

The courts shall oversee the parliament, government, courts and the service centers.

6.7 “The peoples voice”

To ensure a level of direct involvement from the people in the political decisions, all political decisions shall be subject to random people, i.e. the proposal is sent to random people and they are asked to say what they think about the proposal. This does not mean that the parliament needs to follow the voice of the people, but they would probably consider it. For a global issue it is sent to 1.000.000 people, a regional issue is sent to 50.000, and a local issue to 3.000. Similarly any suggestion that have the same number of supporters can be sent out for a similar polling. It will be quite rare that someone is selected as one of the voices, so it is expected that they will study the proposal thoroughly and also discuss it with their friends – it is an honor to be selected.

7 Taxing natural resources

Taxes are not taken from work, profit, sales or money, but natural resources, e.g. land, water, mines, oil fields etc. and pollution. We can change the natural resource taxes and pollution taxes to ensure that we have a sustainable future, e.g. increasing the taxes on fossil energy to promote sustainable energy sources will marginally impact the service level. This would mean that the economic activity might go down, as energy becomes more expensive, but since the service level is not dependent on the economic activity it does not matter as it does in today’s society.

The land and pollution tax is used to buy food and other things for the service centers. Assuming that 20% of the population is living in service centers, it will probably require about 10% of the total agricultural output – as the food will be mainly vegetarian, and no wine, tobacco, etc. However the tax will be distributed over all land, not only the land currently farmed, so the tax burden on farming land should end up well below 10%. The service centers shall buy their products on a commercial basis.

Taxes on land are determined by the potential and current use of the land. Tax on land made accessible to the public is reduced, i.e. if you have a large property, and want to keep it to yourself, it is taxed higher than if you allow others to access it. Opening up the land as a natural park, and making facilities for camping available is also encouraged by lowering the tax. If one charges a fee for usage the tax is increased according to the size of the fee. The same applies for renewable resources on the land, i.e. fruit and berries in the forest etc.

Natural parks will be decided and maintained on the regional or global level. People doing service in the service centers can apply to serve as maintainers of the natural parks. If we on

the global level decide to make the Amazonas rain forest a national park, the people currently owning land in the park shall be compensated from the global level. If such a decision is taken it has to be combined with a way to finance it.

There is a basic land and pollution taxes that are taken out globally and distributed among the service centers of the world to cover the basic needs for food. Of these basic taxes 25% is kept in the region and 75% is distributed globally. In addition to that each region can decide on regional land and pollution taxes to cover additional services, e.g. infrastructure etc. Of these regional taxes, 75% is kept locally and 25% is distributed globally. Thus in densely populated regions, e.g. megacities, the land and pollution taxes will be higher than in more rural regions.

8 Population control

One of the biggest threats to our earth is the number of people. Humans are by nature able to get many children, and with the current standard of living most of these can survive, whereas earlier most children died. In my view China is the country in the world that does most for the earth by their one child policy. The religions that are promoting maximal reproduction are totally irresponsible in my view – but maybe since they are just waiting for the earth to go under, and God to return they don't care about the current earth - it is anyhow not heaven. To motivate people to limit the number of children there should be progressive taxes on more than 2 children. The tax for a third child could be:

- 30.000 Euro as a one time payment,
- 2 year extra service for each parent
- 3.000 Euro yearly payment until the child is 20

For any children after the 3rd the tax is double of this. Couples that cannot afford this, should refrain from getting more than 2 children. We could also envisage that regions with a lack of population can have a lower tax, and an overpopulated region can have a higher tax. Lowering the tax has to be approved on the global level, whereas a higher tax is decided and collected on a regional level. Couples that cannot get children by themselves can of course adopt a child. The one adopting away a child is not credited with the child. The “many children” tax is a global tax.

Women that are raped have to report this within two weeks. If they don't want to take abortion, and the sexual act is judged as a rape, the rapist is “credited” as the father, but the child will remain with the woman. Women that get pregnant have to inform the man within 1 month, and if he does not want to take on the father responsibility he has to reject that within a week (this is to avoid women fooling men to be fathers). If the women still wants to continue the pregnancy she is solely credited for the child.

It might be that people reject these rules on religious grounds, and refuse to pay the “many children tax” – the sentence for this 10 years for each parent in the service center for each additional child that is not paid for. I thought about castration, but that might neither be so humane nor technically simple, i.e. they can freeze down embryos.

9 Money, banks and the economy

Money is an interesting topic I have learned by reading some economic literature. I do not think that I have any perfect solution to this, but here is at least a try.

Currently it is the commercial banks that are issuing money backed by the federal reserve/national banks. The proposal here is that each person that has served will issue money, but also pay that back.

9.1 Credit unions

Credit unions are the means for keeping official money in circulation.

Each person that has completed one year of service is entitled to a loan of official money (say 100.000 \$/Euro) for a reasonable interest⁷ (e.g. 2%, except the years of compulsory service) that must be paid back from the age of 45 with 5% per year (except the years when you serve). Payment of the credit shall neither be done before nor after.

To be eligible to such a loan the person has to join a group of 80-120 people in the same situation, and form a “credit union” with them. They will then be jointly responsible that the money is paid back. They can of course insure themselves with a private insurance company, but they will in any case be responsible if the insurance company is not able to pay.

It is also required that this credit union joins a chain of older credit unions that will mutually guarantee each other. The chain of credit unions is formed among the persons that have served with 7 year intervals. Thus when serving the first term at 17, I will serve together with those that are 24 and 31 as well as those that are 73. To be accepted to a credit union I have to be approved by at least 5 people of my own age, 3 that are 24, 3 that are 31 and 2 that are 73. Each person can only approve of 5 other people. Each credit union chain is responsible for trying to form new credit unions. Note that you belong to a credit union chain even if you have paid back your loan.

This will ensure that society has a reasonable availability and circulation of official money. The 2% interest will go back to the service centers where the people taking the loan come from for the service center to use.

The official money loaned to the people can be used for whatever purpose, but we assume since it is supposed to be paid back that it will mainly be used for investments in education or housing, and from there it will spread out anywhere.

The official money (all money) is traced, and the owner of money at any point in time is recorded.

There will be people that are not able to pay back their loan, e.g. they die or are bankrupt. The other people in their credit union will then have to pay more, and if the whole credit union is insolvent, they have to get help from the other unions in the chain. If the whole chain is failing, the money that cannot be recovered is lost. The purpose of having people jointly responsible for the loan is to avoid that people avoid paying back the money – so choose your partners carefully. We assume that credit unions are used by people wanting to join a university or a housing community. Bankruptcy of a credit union will mean that there is more money in circulation than was initially intended, i.e. the money is not gone, it is only that the person that initiated the loan does not have them anymore. To avoid that the amount of money increases through bankruptcy the service centers will be required to use the interest to cover for the bankruptcies, i.e. if 1% of the total capital is defaulting one year, there will be only 1% to spend by the service centers.

9.2 Banks and investment

Banks are only allowed to lend out the amount of money that they have gotten as deposits, i.e. a 100% reserve - there is no Federal Reserve money, and there is no guarantee that money saved in the bank can be paid back, i.e. a savings account is an investment, and depending on the bank's risk taking the interest and risk will vary. Thus the existing ability of banks to “make” money by lending out more than they have deposited is removed, and all official money is issued through the credit unions.

⁷ Some religions do not allow “interest”, so this could be called a service center fee on the money. This fee is used as a common insurance against death, bankruptcy etc., as well as to the benefit of the service center.

Companies can loan money by issuing bonds, and promise to pay interests, but the company can of course go bankrupt, and then the bond is part of the bankruptcy. There can be “safe” banks that do not lend out money, but they will neither be able to pay any interests.

Investment in companies through shares etc. will be as usual.

Any type of options is also allowed, but then it is properly registered as betting.

Any type of insurance, also against “demurrage” is allowed.

This should ensure a free and efficient financial market.

9.3 Growth and recession

Any free economy will go through periods of growth, e.g. property, stock or investment bubbles that will burst, followed by recessions before a new growth period starts.

Even if the amount of official money is fixed, the amount of “loans” and “savings” can be arbitrary big, as the same money can be loaned several times. Companies are profitable and people earn more money than they use. This will lead to a surplus of “money” that can be invested. If the opportunities for investments are considered good, there will be no problem to use the surplus capital and we have a “growing” economy, where the same money invested will give a profit that will be invested over and over again.

The price of capital (interest) will be larger than the 2% in the credit unions, and everything will work out fine. Investment in houses, factories etc. can be sold for a higher price than they were bought for, as people will feel richer. The demand for labor will be high so the wages will rise, and thus the prices of goods. We will get inflation, and it will be easier to pay back the loan when it is due, which is good. We could also increase the amount of official money by lending more money through the new credit unions. If we have an inflation⁸ of 3% per year, we can allow the new credit unions 3% more money each year, but the old credit unions that are paying back their loans will pay back only $(0,97)^{25} = 0,47$, thus the amount of official money in the economy will increase by about 2,8% per year.⁹

Assume that we have a 15% rate of savings (investments) during some years, adjusted for inflation, after 7 years we will have 2.66 times “more” money.

However no tree grows into heaven, and after a while the amount of investments, e.g. shares, loans, bonds etc. are maybe 10 times the amount of official money. This means that there are “loans”¹⁰ for 1 million Euro for each “working” person. The expected interest for this is at least 20.000 Euro a year, and if we also require some of the money to be paid back, we see that this is impossible. We are having a bubble.

Thus a reasonable amount of savings are good, but too much savings is just an illusion. If we are in a recession it will be harder to find profitable investment for the capital, the commercial interest rate will fall below the 2%, no one will be interested in forming new credit unions – if they want a loan they can get that for below 2%. It will be harder for the people that are in credit unions to pay their interest and loans. Since the money is unevenly

8 How do we calculate inflation? It should be based on the basic consumption (in raw material) of an average person, i.e. food, land prices, raw material, energy etc. We will adjust this according to the usage of different material, but not consider any “technical” improvements.

9 If we start by 100.000 Euro in year 1, by year 25 when it is supposed to be paid back the new loan will be $100.000 \times (1.03)^{25} = 209.000$ Euro. Thus the increase of money that year is 109.000 Euro. The total amount of money in the economy before that year is estimated $(209.000 + 100.000) / 2 \times 25 = 3.900.000$, thus an increase of $109.000 / 3.900.000$

10 Whatever we choose to call this, e.g. Shares, bonds, bank deposits, investment in houses, gold, collectable, etc.

distributed among the rich and the poor, the poor will be bankrupt. But also “rich” people that have done wrong investments will be hit by the recession, as companies fail and investments are lost. Investments, i.e. factories, houses, shares, investments in banks etc. have to be sold under the price that they were bought for. After a while the “excess” capital will be gone, and the price of capital will again increase above the 2%, and the economy can start to grow again. However this period of recession is not very pleasant, and can be long.

Since it is better to get out of a recession as fast as possible it might be a solution to do as follows. When a recession is declared, e.g. when too few new credit unions are formed, the excess capital will be forcefully re-distributed. This is done by “demurrage” 0,8% per month (10% per year) of the “official money” from whoever is in possession of this money at the end of the month (or maybe better 0,2% at the end of each week) (like the card game “old maiden”), i.e. if the money is deposited in a 100% safe bank it will be taken from there. This confiscated official money (as well as the money that is paid back from the old credit unions, minus the money necessary to cover for the bankruptcy of credit unions) is evenly redistributed to all people in the remaining credit unions, except the amount that is used by the service centers.¹¹

This way of handling a recession is an incentive for the “rich” to keep the economy out of a recession, as they are the ones that will pay mostly for the recession. Of course when the money is demurring, it is better to spend it now, than to wait for it to disappear tomorrow, so a recession will probably not last very long.¹²

For this to work we have to have full control at any time where the official money is, i.e. who is in possession of the surplus “official money”. Note that an investment bank that has loaned out all the money that was deposited does not have any “money”, similarly a company that keeps a buffer will get 10% of that buffer confiscated yearly.

Let us look at a numeric example to see how this will work: Assume 1000 persons per year loan for 33 years 100.000 Euro each. Thus there are 33.000 people with loans of total 3.300 million Euro (mEuro). Then they stop taking loans totally, and we have 2% total bankruptcy during the year (660 persons) – a mild recession.

Interest: $33.000 \times 100.000 \times 0,02 = 66$ mEuro (ignoring the bankruptcies)

Bankruptcy: $660 \times 100.000 = 66$ mEuro

Back payment: $1000 \times 100.000 = 100$ mEuro (removed from the economy)

Confiscation: $33 \times 1000 \times 100.000 \times 0,1 = 330$ mEuro

Redistribution= Confiscation - Bankruptcy: $330 - 66 = 264$ mEuro

This will mean that each of the remaining ($33.000 - 1.000 - 660 = 31.340$) persons in the credit unions will get 264 mEuro, i.e. each person gets 8421 Euro. The amount of interest they pay is 2000 Euro, so this well covers the 2% interest. A person that has the same amount of official money that he has loaned, i.e. 100.000 Euro will get 10.000 Euro confiscated, but get back 8421 Euro per year of this money through redistribution, thus “loosing” 1559 Euro. A person that has no money at all, i.e. he has used all the money to buy a house or get an education will get 8421 Euro, and a person that has no loan and official money capital of 200.000 Euro will get 20.000 Euro confiscated. Note that the investments that people have in

¹¹ The following should not be necessary as it is OK that the amount of “official money” is decreasing, as it has probably increased during the previous “growth” period: The redistribution requires that the credit unions also take on new loans for the amount that was paid back from the old credit unions. This means that the amount of money in the market is constant, and the service centers will get 2% of that.

¹² We could have used a constant smaller demurrage, but that would make the cost of real resources like land and housing very high, i.e. there is no reason for me to sell my house or land if I get money that will only fall in value. I think using demurrage only in a recession is better, but I don’t really know.

banks and companies (loans to them) will not be affected, it is only the “official” money that is redistributed. When we are in a recession and do redistribution through demurrage it is much less likely that poor people will be bankrupt, as they benefit the most from the redistribution.

We assume that the people in the credit unions are the “pillars” of the economy (the ones that are not bankrupt). It should then be a reasonable idea that they will use the new money wisely to get the economy out of the recession as fast as possible. Also those that have profited from the growth should be prepared to pay if/when the economy goes into a recession. Finally they who have the largest means should ensure that the economy does not get into the recession.

Note that this economic model is quite independent of the service centers, thus they will function equally well in a growing economy as in a recession, as they are built on service not taxes.

9.4 Recessions

Each region will have their own currency that will fluctuate freely compared to other currencies¹³. Recessions are handled (started and stopped) in each region by the regional parliament¹⁴. Since all money is traced we can always know who are in the possession of any official money, independent of currency, and “confiscate” part of that.

10 The “private sector”

10.1 Local communities

Outside the service centers people are more or less free to organize their lives as they want. We can have commercial companies providing communities that people can live it, or people can decide to organize non-profit communities. There should be standard community rules that are “approved” globally that can be used as templates to ease the local administration. Communities can make their own local rules, e.g. the consumption of alcohol is prohibited, but cannot make rules that are unconstitutional. Disagreement over local rules is handled locally, but the rules themselves can be brought up for the service center courts.

Are there any limits?

Can I decide to set up an airport on a piece of land that I own? Yes, but noise is pollution that you have to pay for.

If the airport is there, and people build the houses afterwards, do I have to pay them as well? The pollution tax is the same independent on who is living there.

Can I restrict the access to my land? Yes, but it will increase the land tax.

It is recommended that the private economy outside the service centers is organized so that the compulsory service is facilitated, e.g. loans are interest free when serving (the interest is spread over the other years), etc.

13 I'm in doubt if there should be one global currency or regional currencies. If there is a global currency it is not possible to declare regional recession, as we cannot distinguish between the money of different regions. A regional currency will allow that.

14 Can the global parliament overrule the declaration of a local recession? Probably yes. Another interesting question is how long the recession shall last. Probably we should let the recession last for one year, and then let the economy try a “normal” year. It should be possible to set some numeric limits to when a recession can be declared, e.g. number of individual bankruptcies above 2% and market interest below 2%.

11 Transition

How can we get to this type of society? We have to consider two types of transition, geographically and time.

11.1 Geographical transition

I think the transition can actually be done country by country, as there is no reason that an “alternative” country cannot live side by side with a “traditional” country. The alternative country will probably be much more competitive in terms of labor intensive production, whereas a traditional country will be more competitive for energy heavy and polluting production. The alternative country can impose import taxes on the products produced with the polluting technology/raw material comparable to the internal tax on these goods. Can money escape confiscation: Probably not since there are only registered electronic money, and they will be confiscated independent on who and where they are owned.

11.2 Temporal transition

It will be a challenge to do a fair and orderly transition to an alternative society. We have to take into account that those who own things and money should not be unfairly treated, furthermore there are people that have paid taxes during a long life, that expects to get “more” back than the service centers will support, and finally there are very many people that will be without “work” as their jobs will be taken over by the service centers.

Within a country the transition can be done as follows:

1. Old paper and coin money are exchanged to old electronic money and registered with an owner. Those old paper/coin money that have not been exchanged within a certain date are worthless.
2. The service centers are established, and people start serving there based on current occupation and age.
3. New official money are issued to all those that complete their first year in the service centers depending on age.
4. All government liabilities are calculated in old money. This includes mainly government loans and retirement liabilities.
5. All “old” government facilities are sold to private investors through auctions (for old money or liabilities). Thus if I have 100.000 in retirement benefits I can use that to buy some government facility or part of it. People that are working in these facilities can be employed in the new privately owned facilities, and the people that want to continue using them have to start paying.
6. When there are no more government liabilities left the remaining facilities are sold for new money, similarly if there are no more facilities left the remaining of the government liabilities are worthless. (We have liquidated the old government.)
7. All land and environmental taxes are to be paid in new money.
8. All transactions have to be conducted in the new money.
9. There will be a floating exchange rate between old and new money.
10. The remaining old money private loans and deposits will be kept, just as any loans and deposits in any other foreign currency.

How will this work for a “rich” person having 300.000 Euro in the bank, 500.000 Euro in stocks, 600.000 Euro in retirement benefits and 100.000 Euro in loans on his house. The stocks and the house will still be owned, so they will just get a new value in the “new” official money. The 300.000 Euro in the bank can first be used to pay off the loan, thus leaving 200.000 Euro. This and the 600.000 Euro in retirement liabilities then can be re-invested.

Either I can choose to exchange this to new money based on the current exchange rate, buy something, invest in government facilities, or keep it in the old currency. Note that the “retirement liabilities” might be worthless if I wait too long with investing them, as there are no more government facilities to buy.

For a young poor person with only a loan of 100.000 Euro, and no liabilities, the loan will still be there, and depending on the exchange rate between the new and the old money he will have more or less to pay back. Since he will be given a loan of 100.000 in the new currency at the end of his first year in service, he can exchange that to old money, and either pay down his loan or invest the old money in government facilities.

What will happen to banks? They will only have remaining old private loans and deposits left. People can of course also open new accounts in the new currency. But since there are no “central bank” for the banks to loan money from, the banks cannot loan out more money than they have deposited, i.e. a 100% reserve. There will also be no “deposit” guarantee, as the banks are private.

12 Conclusion

12.1 Will this be better?

I think so, and if we go back to the start of the writing I stated:

What I will try to explain in the next chapters is an alternative society where we can have:

- *the necessary security and welfare for all*
- *the opportunity to utilize our talent and skills, both for our own prosperity and the good of society*
- *the opportunity for everyone to participate*
- *an environmentally sustainable future*
- *an economy that can cope efficiently with both growth and recession*

I think that an alternative society as explained here will fulfill these criteria.

12.2 Inspiration

I have tried to read what I could find that could be relevant for these ideas. However when reading it a lot did not have very much substance – at least not that I could understand.

However the links below I have found most inspiring.

- Hyman P. Minsky, in particular The Financial Instability Hypothesis.
- Henry George, Progress and poverty, in particular his idea of taxing “land”.
- Silvio Gesell, The natural economic order, in particular the idea of “rotting money” to counter recession.
- The Freenet and Tor providing a distributed, anonymous, secure data system.

12.3 Next steps

I will contact some quite random people that seems to have good intentions, 10 at a time that I look up on internet through email from the account kahit-na.hata@mail.com .

The first 12 people that contact me back, I will try to stay in touch with at least for some time, but then I would like to withdraw from any further direct participation. And I will prefer to stay anonymous.

[See how to create a movement.](#)

12.4 Name, slogan and symbol

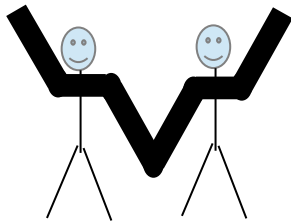
A name and a symbol are good so that people know what they refer to. I would like this alternative society to be called "evenism", from the English word "even", that have several meanings:

- Equal and fair
- Balanced
- Smooth
- Fully paid back
- Exact and precise
- Used to emphasize something surprising or extreme
- A mathematical function (the service level) that remains the same even if the sign of the independent variable changes (the economy) increases or declines.

This is a simple little word that covers quite a lot of what I want to convey.

As a slogan, I would prefer "solidarity and freedom". Solidarity within and between generations as well as freedom to pursue ones dreams.

The symbol that I propose to use is the bold lines in the figure below, symbolizing two people holding hands (solidarity, love) and the free hands reaching for the sky (freedom, ambition).



12.5 What can you do?

If you find this interesting you can:

- Spread it to your friends, either directly or through social media.
- Discuss and propose how this can be implemented, e.g.
 - How should the service centers look, maybe an architecture competition?
 - What shall the service cover and how?
 - How can we implement the pervasive information system but keeping individual control and the privacy over the data?
 - Does the economic system proposed here work, or how does it need to be adapted?
 - How can this be implemented in less developed countries?
 - How shall the constitution be?
 - What laws shall there be?
- Help realize this:
 - Create and sell "gadgets"
 - Organize meetings
 - Write a novel about how it is to live in the alternative society
 - Make a movie
 - Influence existing political parties or start new ones
 - Run for office
 - Write a song

I think if we really want, we can change things much faster than anyone can believe, just look at how fast the communist system collapsed.

12.6 What you shall not do

This must not be a violent or imposed “revolution”, it is important that it is based on the will of the people, and that all people’s rights are respected. If an undemocratic government suppresses the changes, it is better to vote with your feet, i.e. leave the country and convince other countries to use trade embargoes than to use violence inside the country. Help people to escape, support them and teach them, don’t arm them to shed blood – if this is a just cause it will win in the end. Let this this change be inspired by Gandhi and Mandela rather than Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Mussolini or Hitler.

12.7 Who am I?

It does not really matter, as I don't want to be famous – I prefer to be anonymous. I'm quite content with the life I'm living now, and neither fame, fortune nor power has much attraction – the downsides are too big. I will be glad if these ideas can lead to a better world. I have tried to cover my tracks so it shall not be so easy to find me, let us see if that works.

If anyone claims that they are me, and you don’t believe them, ask them to sign their message with my private PGP key. Here is my public key.

-----BEGIN PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

Version: BCPG C# v1.6.1.0

```
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JNzkDm5rvQ==
```

=M8mi

-----END PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

12.8 The end

Thanks for reading ☺ - let evenism be a good thing that happened in the 21st century and maybe the 3rd millennium. If I could leave a world for my children that is based on these ideas, I would die happy.

13 Contacts

Initially I had a list of organization 100+ with email addresses for “important” alternative organizations, political think tanks, religious organizations etc. that I intended to send this to. I also wanted to include the list in this document. But I had collected this list by just using my normal browser, meaning that Google or NSA could easily correlate this list with the search history of a certain IP address or google account, and would find me in 10 seconds. So I have now just looked up 5 semi-random email addresses on each of RiseUp and IOPS and send this to them using a more secure browsing.

The following email is sent with a pdf attachment of this document to these 10 people.

Dear Rise-Up user/IOPS member,

*I write to you as you might help me spread the ideas that I have written down in this document. I hope you can take the time to read and hope you will find interesting. It will not take more than an hour. This email is just written to the 5 persons from RiseUp and 5 from IOPS.
Thanks a lot for your time.*

Kahit

If they ignore this, I will try 10 more, but then I will probably not do anything more, as then it was maybe not any good idea afterall. I don't want to end up as a spammer.

Then I hope that someone else can come up with something better that can save our beautiful planet!

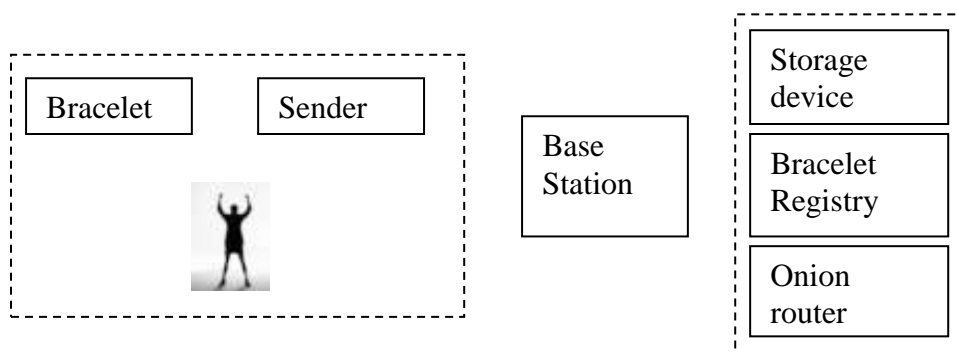
14 Some further details

These sections contains some ideas on further details that I got while writing the rest down. They are not necessary for understanding the idea, and might be quite unpractical, but at least they are a start.

14.1 A possible implementation of the tracking system

The following is a possible implementation of the information system used to keep track of where people are. The purpose to secure the information collected, keep it private to the owner, but reveal the information if that is necessary, e.g. crime investigation, medical emergencies, etc. I have also tried to take into account malicious devices in the system. This suggestion most likely needs to be improved, as I'm not a security expert. It uses private and public/private key encryption and Tor onion routing.

There are 6 main components as shown in the picture below and explained in the text:



- The Bracelet is attached to the person's body. It contains two pieces of information:
 - A public key unique for the Bracelet (the ID of the Bracelet). The person owning the Bracelet has the corresponding private key.
 - Several (13) encoded Tor routings to the owner (person) of the Bracelet. A random Tor routing is chosen each time. When it is used it is stored in the Base station file.¹⁵
 - The 13 return encoded Tor routings to the Bracelet are stored in the Bracelet Registry to connect the person to the Bracelet.¹⁶ On the Bracelet side we don't need any validation, as all messages from the person are signed with the Bracelets Private key, and can be verified through that.

The Bracelet could be implemented by some RFID technology.

¹⁵ We use static Tor onion routes, i.e. they are preconfigured when the person is configuring the Bracelet. We can create both forward and backwards Tor onion routes. These routes are based on the public key of each transit node, i.e. the message to node A is encrypted with node A's public key, so only node A can decrypt it, then it says forward to node B, and the message to node B is similarly encrypted as the message to node A. The content can be left alone as it is encrypted with the public or private key of the Bracelet. Since the Tor onion routes are statically stored on the Bracelet, they might fail (nodes not existing, damage of the Bracelet), thus if no answer is gotten another one is selected, and the person owning the Bracelet is asked to replace it. If the person owning the Bracelet cannot be contacted, the Sender and Base Station will record this.

¹⁶ To ensure that we are somewhat resilient to malicious Tor routers we use 5 Tor hops. This will with 10% malicious routes give a leakage probability of 10^{-5} , and with 13 possible routes we have a total denial probability of 9×10^{-6} . This is not great. With 8 hops and 33 routes we get 10^{-8} , and with 10 hops and 54 routes we get down to 10^{-10} . The protection decreases fast with increasing number of malicious routers. If there are 20% malicious nodes we need 10 hops and 140 routes to get a 10^{-7} probability, (8, 70, $2,5 \times 10^{-7}$), (5, 20, 0,0003). It also improves very fast with sinking percentage of malicious routers.

- The Sender is in contact with the Bracelet and is carried by the person. It needs to be in vicinity of the Bracelet (1-2 meters). The Sender could be a mobile phone or any similar device. The Sender is using GPS to establish its location. Senders will try to establish contact with all Bracelets in their vicinity, i.e. read their information. Thus when I have been in the vicinity of a person with a bracelet, I can through the Tor routings get in touch with him, but I don't know anything about the person behind the Bracelet. The Sender will choose if it shall track the Bracelet or not – tracking means that information about the Bracelet is sent to the Base Station if required. If the Sender decides to track the Bracelet the Base Station and the Sender both send messages to the Person (through a Tor routing in the Bracelet) that you are tracked by the Sender, and where the Sender is. This message can be confirmed or rejected, e.g. someone is trying to capture my identity, as it is easy to fake a Bracelet. This message is encrypted by the private key of the Bracelet that only the person knows. A tracking confirmation is sent regularly to the person owning the Bracelet. The person is confirming that he is tracked by a Bracelet by storing the reverse Tor routings to the Bracelet in the Bracelet Registry.
- The Base Station is a fixed item in contact with the Senders in its vicinity. It can be a mobile network base station or a Wifi receiver. Close by base stations are in contact with each other so they can by the triangular method determine where the Sender is. This will avoid that the Sender is lying about its position, and it will also help the Base Stations to determine if the Sender is within their jurisdiction. Whenever a sender tracking a Bracelet is within the “jurisdiction” of a Base Station it will negotiate the information to be stored about the Bracelet. All information collected by the Base Station is regularly stored. The information for a certain time period is stored in a file. The content of the file is encrypted with a key also stored in the file, but in such a way that we need to have the complete file to decrypt the content. The encrypted file is split into 1000 pieces and each piece is stored in 10 randomly selected Storage devices. The information is stored five times with overlap¹⁷. Onion routing is used ensure that it is not possible to know which storage device is storing the information. Note that several Base Stations can communicate with a Sender and store information about it at the same time. Note that the we do not know globally which Base stations are in contact with which Sender and Bracelet at any point, thus information to a certain Bracelet has to either be broadcasted to all Base Stations or we need to send the Base station with the return message (the user that gets a message from the Bracelet knows which Base station has sent the message). When a message comes out

¹⁷ The reason for this storage system is to protect against malicious or destroyed storage nodes. Malicious storage nodes might either pass on their information to someone else or refuse to give back the information when requested. Assuming that 30% of the nodes are malicious, they will be able to disclose the file content if they have one copy of all the 1000 pieces or deny access if they have all the copies of one piece. With some statistics it is possible to show that the chance of disclosing the file is $3,6 \times 10^{-13}$ (actually 5 times this as there are 5 files with the same information), and denial of one file is 0,00589, but since we have 5 files with the same information the chance that they can deny all 5 copies is $7,07 \times 10^{-12}$. Note however that the security falls sharply if the number of malicious nodes increases over 30%. See table below. It is assumed that the Storage devices are run by the Service centers, thus there should a small chance that they are malicious.

Malicious nodes	Leakage probability	Denial probability
30%	$3,6 \times 10^{-13}$	$7,07 \times 10^{-12}$
33%	$1,0 \times 10^{-8}$	$8,11 \times 10^{-10}$
35%	$1,3 \times 10^{-6}$	$1,49 \times 10^{-8}$
40%	0,0023	$9,78 \times 10^{-6}$
50%	0,37	0,094
60%	0,90	0,99

of the Tor routing the last node will decide this, if the content contains a base station it will send it there, otherwise it will contain a Bracelet ID, and then it will be broadcasted. The jurisdiction and requirements of each Base Station is published and available for all people to see, so that you know what will be tracked when you enter a certain area.

- The Storage device is where the information is stored. We assume that there are many (1.000.000) such devices storing parts of encrypted files from the Base Stations. All requests for information from the Storage system have to be signed by a private key so we know who wants it. Whenever information is retrieved, all Persons, Senders and Bracelets appearing in the information are informed that the information has been retrieved, by whom and for what purpose. This access information is also stored in the system so we can find it later.
- The Bracelet Registry is a node where a person register that he uses a Bracelet by submitting the 13 Reverse Tor routings to the Bracelet Registry. All communication to the Bracelet has to be signed by the Bracelet Registry's private key so it can be verified. The Bracelet Registry is also keeping track of that the Person does not have more than one Bracelet. Note that the Bracelet Registry does not know the Bracelet. The Bracelet Registry will not allow several Bracelets (determined by the number of Return Tor routings to be registered to the same person. It is the Bracelet Registry that is selecting which Tor return routing to use. The Bracelet Registry is also keeping track of which Bracelets are active, i.e. connected to a Sender and Base Station. This information is stored freely accessible in the Bracelet Registry. Note that no other information about the Bracelet is stored. This is useful when you meet someone, and you want to verify that the Bracelet that they wear is really connected. A person not wearing a connected Bracelet is suspicious. The Sender will automatically warn for a non-connected Bracelet, so if you see 3 persons, but only 2 connected Bracelets there is a problem.¹⁸
- The Onion router is used to route the information between the Person and the Bracelet. Each Onion router has a public key that is used when creating the Tor onion routes. The Onion router can also be forced to reveal the information in a Tor route, i.e. if we need to know which person is connected to a certain Bracelet, and the person does not answer when asked through the Tor route. The information about who requested this information is stored in the Onion router (storage system)¹⁹.

Normal usage:

1. A person configures a Bracelet and stores the Private Key of the Bracelet in his personal database.

¹⁸ There is a potential problem here if a duplicate of the bracelet is tracked somewhere else. To protect against this the Sender will also check with the Base Stations that they are connected to the Bracelet. This check can only be done by Senders that are connected to the Base Station. To avoid that two identical Bracelets are used in two different places, each Base Station is assigning a random large integer to the Bracelet, and sending that to the Bracelet Registry. Two Base Stations will then with very low probability assign the same number to the Bracelet, and we have discovered that it is use in two places. There is a further problem here as several adjacent Base stations can send information about the Bracelet, and we cannot see if these different Base stations are adjacent or far apart when they update the Bracelet Registry. To fix that the Base stations are assigning a random large number to each Bracelet they see. This large number is changed regularly and negotiated among the Base Stations. This requires that all Base Stations knows about each other, but this is a reasonable requirement, as they are fixed.

¹⁹ The disclosure of a TOR onion route can be done as follows. All routers are asked to reveal the path, so the information about revealing is stored in each node. The first node in the path checks with 10 peer nodes if they also think that it shall be revealed, if a majority agrees the node will reveal its part and pass over to the next node. The same thing happens there until the complete path is revealed. This should ensure that no-one can reveal the route by just going one step at the time, without the whole system knowing about it.

2. The Bracelet is detected by a Sender (the person's mobile phone) and the person decides to use the phone to track the Bracelet.
3. The mobile phone informs any Base Stations that the phone is connected to, e.g. Wifi, GSM base stations etc. that it will track the Bracelet.
4. The tracking information is sent via the Bracelet Registry to the person (his personal database) from both the Base Stations and the mobile phone.
5. The person registers the Bracelet Return routes with the Bracelet Registry and confirms that he allows the tracking.

Different types of attacks and consequences.

There are many different types of attacks and malicious use of this system that we should try to protect against:

- People trying to take over the identity of a person
- A person trying to fake his identity
- Malicious nodes (senders, base stations or storage devices)
- A combination of these

Below we have discussed some of these attacks in more detail.

- Faking a Bracelet. This is easy, as creating a Bracelet is just to load it with the necessary information. However connecting the Bracelet to a specific person is not so easy, as the Tor onion routing cannot be faked, i.e. it has to end with the correct person, and be confirmed. If someone creates a Bracelet in my name, I will just refuse it. This can be checked automatically if I'm already tracked somewhere else.
- Duplicating the Bracelet. A Bracelet can be totally duplicated, however this can be easily detected as all Bracelet public keys can be stored, and if the same Bracelet appears twice it is easily detected by the owner. Both Bracelets and the owner can then be informed. The owner can then decide which Bracelet to erase. There should be a function to erase the Bracelet with the Private key of the Bracelet.

14.2 Process for selecting special projects

The following outlines a process for how the special projects are selected and started.

Time plan. x is when the service period starts, and $x-7$ means six months before.

- $x-7$: Proposals submitted
The proposal should contain a plan, necessary resources, both people and material, money.
A plan for financing.
Both people at the service centers and those to join can propose projects.
A local proposal needs a certain amount of local backing, both from those in service (e.g. 100 people) as well as those entering (e.g. 25).
- $x-5$: Vote for priority (those at the service center and those to join)
All people currently in the service center as well as those who shall enter when the projects shall start are allowed to vote on the importance of these projects. The votes from each group is counted equally (thus the people that are going to do the work are fewer but have the same say as those at the service center that wants the work done.)
- $x-4$: Approved by parliament, allocation of resources
- $x-3$: End of sign up to both local and other projects.
- $x-2$: Decisions on what to start, assignment of persons
 - Full time staff: these will work full time with the project, and be freed from other duties

- Volunteers
- x: Newcomers enter, projects "start"
- x+5: Project is evaluated to see if extension is needed

All special projects are open for global participation, i.e. people that think they have special skills or interests can apply to participate in any special project as part of their local service. To avoid an excess of applicants, the application shall first be approved by the service center where the applicant belongs, both to check the suitability of the applicant, and also to limit the number of people not serving locally.

Of course anyone can apply to participate in a special project as an additional serving year. It is not however compulsory for the special project to accept their participation, i.e. too many cooks spoil the broth.