

### **Sustainable Money System (Sumsy) action atelier**

- **What is the aim of your workshop or installation?**

The aim of the workshop we developed is to teach participants about the current monetary system and an alternative system called the “sustainable money system” (Sumsy) by playing a serious game, followed by a general discussion, a brief presentation with background information about the fundamental concepts integrated in the educational game and results from a real-life research experiment using Sumsy.

- **What is the main didactic approach of your workshop?**

1. A serious game

The educational game is used to immediately immerse the participants in the subject matter. The game incorporates the economic concepts in two rulesets. The consequences of changing the rulesets or introducing other/additional concepts is experienced both in the material outcome of the game and in the emotions felt while playing. By showing and not telling first, participants are eager to learn what they just experienced.

2. A group discussion

The game moderators facilitate a group discussion among the participants to let them unearth what the concepts were behind the game’s rulesets, how they felt during the game and what concepts can influence different ‘material’ and emotional outcomes. By having a discussion with the group about their shared experience, they learn from each other(’s viewpoints) and it forms a bridge to the final part of the workshop.

3. An interactive lecture with room for Q&A

In an interactive lecture, we connect the mechanics of the game and the results of the group discussion with the underlying concepts. We briefly explain how the current monetary system functions, how Sumsy works and what beneficial impact changing the way we approach our money can have on people and planet. We also include results from a research experiment implementing Sumsy in a real-life setting to enforce the notion that alternative monetary systems are not mere food for theory or games, but can be applied in the real world.

- **How will your workshop proceed?**

The workshop during the summit will be a shortened version to enable time for participant feedback.

The participants will first play the serious game, in two rounds (20min). In the first round, the Sumsy ruleset is used. In short, money is created through a basic income, demurrage disincentives accumulation of funds and supporting projects for the common good is encouraged. In the second round, the current money system is simulated, with money created through debt with interest.

The group discussion will be next (20 min), facilitated by the workshop organizers to enable the participants to contemplate on what they experienced and what was behind these experiences.

The next 20 min will be for the short version of the interactive lecture. We will briefly walk through the different economic concepts behind both monetary systems and (potential) emotional and environmental consequences. We will also briefly introduce the experiment that is currently implementing a modest basic income in a complementary currency using the Sumsy-logic in a Flemish village and what the impact is on its inhabitants.

The final 30 minutes will be used to discuss how we can improve our workshop with the participants.

- **Why do you think that your workshop has potential for transformation?**

This workshop uses different approaches to teach participants about how our current money system works, what its effect is on people and planet, and that alternatives are available and can be implemented. Enabling change in our monetary system is a key prerequisite for meaningful transformation away from the growth obsession towards a more balanced, holistic view on progress.