Valorising digital commons through an IP license

CONTACT:
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Where does Coopcycle come from?
Starting point

- Delivery riders: day-to-day embodiment of gig economy reality
  - Work-on-demand via a capitalist platform
  - No social protection (paid leave, minimum wage, etc.)
  - No voice, isolation
  - Global impact on the welfare system

- In a fragile winner-takes-all economy
  - Bankruptcy of Take it Easy in 2016
  - Withdrawal of Foodora from France, Australia and the Netherlands, summer 2018
Context of the project

● Summer 2017, Europe: all the ingredients are there
  ○ growing discontent from the riders
  ○ collective actions of riders (strikes, demonstrations)
  ○ creation of a new union

● And us: a small group of activists
  ○ About twenty benevolents
  ○ Coming from diverse backgrounds
  ○ Gathered around one idea:

Create an alternative model where riders are the cornerstone of the bike delivery activity
What is CoopCycle exactly?
Our Idea

A network of local, worker-owned, bike delivery cooperatives

Strengthened by pooling their resources together
What are we working on

- Build the network
  - 22 local coops
  - across Europe
  - ~60 riders
  - 1,2 millions € turnover

- Develop the pooled services
  - software (platform)
  - bulk purchases
  - marketing
  - answer global-scaled requests for tender
  - promote our values
Les coopératives et associations membres du réseau CoopCycle

**Angleterre**
- Canterbury
- York

**Belgique**
- Bruxelles
  - Dioxyde de gambette
  - Moserbike
  - Mission locale Saint Gilles
  - Le Clou
- Liège
  - Rayon 9
- Mons/Namur
  - Les Couriers wallons

**Allemagne**
- Hambourg
  - Tricargo
- Berlin
  - CCOCC
  - Tricargo

**Espagne**
- Madrid
  - La Pejora
- Barcelone
  - Coop de Pedal
  - BarcelloneCity

**Italie**
- Milan

**France**
- Bordeaux
  - Les Couriers bordelais
- Dijon
- Lille
  - Ulsabike
- Lorient
  - Feet à vélo
- Lyon
  - Traboullette
- Grenoble
  - Sacavélo
  - Vélocité
- Montpellier
  - Tempo
  - En roue libre
- Montauban
- Nantes
  - Les Couriers nantais
- Paris
  - Olivo
  - Carton plein
  - Régie de quartier de Stains
- Poitiers
  - La Poit’ à vélo

**Italie**
- Milan

**Projet en activité**

**Projet en construction**
What are the challenges?
Challenges

● Economical: how to build a sustainable activity around bike delivery?
  - pooling resources
  - diversification of the activity
  - public financing
  - setting up a membership fees’ system

● Legal: how to protect the digital common and the commoner’s work against capitalist companies?
Pros and Cons of making CoopCycle a Free and Open-Source Software

Broader question about the protection of digital commons
An atypical license for an atypical commons

Classic Common Scheme

Benefit from

Contribute to

Ressource

Community
An atypical license for an atypical commons

Developers

Contribute to

Riders

Benefit from
Coopyleft License: how does it work?

- AGPL v3 basis
- Commercial use of the code only allowed to cooperatives
- Commercial use's definition based on the SACEM - Creative Commons agreement
A transposition of E. Ostrom’s “bundle of rights”

Anybody

Right of Access

Right of Withdrawal

Cooperatives
What are the next steps?
Next Steps

- Development of the Federation as a way to value work inside of the digital commons
  - Setting up a membership fee’s system
  - Making the platform’s development a salaried employment
  - Making every work riders benefit from a paid activity
Next Steps

- **Generalizing Coopyleft** to all the cooperatives-produced digital commons and join the membership fee’s system to it
- **Further work**: thinking about other legal tools to protect digital commons and ensure retribution at a bigger scale: cooperatives, mutual companies, trademark policies, etc.
Thanks!

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