



CIRCLES

FOR BUSINESS
———USERS



CIRCLES

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CIRCLES COOP WORKS ON ESTABLISHING A BASIC INCOME FLAGSHIP PILOT IN BERLIN, A CASE STUDY TO TEST AND SHOW HOW CIRCLES CAN WORK AS A COMPLEMENTARY CURRENCY. IT IS ALSO IN CHARGE OF SUPPORTING ALL THE COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD WHO WANT TO IMPLEMENT CIRCLES IN THEIR REGIONS.

CIRCLES IS AN OPEN SOURCE PROJECT. WE DON'T HAVE CONTROL ABOUT GROUPS AND COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS WHO USE THE BRAND CIRCLES. BE AWARE THAT SOME OF THEM MIGHT BE SCAMMERS. WE LIST THE ONES WHOM WE ARE WORKING WITH ON OUR WEBSITE.



Circles (CRC) is a means of payment. Exchange with CRC happens upon agreement between two trusted parties about the price and the quantity provided.

WHY ACCEPT CIRCLES (CRC)

01. ACCESS TO SUPPORT

The Circles Coop can help you to start risk-free by accepting the CRC you receive from customers and give you Euros in exchange in the beginning. This helps to subsidize the birth of a new economy. If you are interested, contact us at business@joincircles.net.

02. ACCESS TO A RESOURCE NETWORK AND OUR MARKETPLACE

By accepting CRC you get to access a pool of resources and all the products provided by the growing number of different partners in the Circles trust network (including the marketplace) without using your Euros. Using CRC, you can fulfill your supply needs by accessing resources from fellow members and users in the Circles economy.

03. COOPERATIVE INFRASTRUCTURES

By accepting CRC, you commit to the development of a nascent cooperative infrastructure in your respective industry. Circles strengthens the infrastructure needed to build more resilient localized and complementary supply chains which allow people to access their basic needs at affordable prices, using CRC.

04. LOWER COSTS

By accepting CRC, you lower your Euro cost of doing business. You can use CRC to turn any surplus or idle inventory that would otherwise go to waste into additional liquidity. By selling in CRC, you can access the things your business needs, thereby lowering your cost of production. For example, you can give CRC to your workers as a payment option, which they can use to access resources within the Circles trust network. You can also pay for services that you would otherwise have to pay in national money. Or you increase your sales by offering products for CRC in low business times.

05. STRONG NETWORK

In order to grow your share of the market and attract new people to your business, you can spend your Circles in marketing services and local forms of advertisement. Similarly, when you sell in CRC, you are growing a loyal customer base and potentially increasing your revenues, both in CRC and in national money. Circles help you create a stronger link to your customers, based on trust and common values.

06. COMMUNITY BASIC INCOME

By accepting CRC, you give meaning to a basic income system. By selling and buying in CRC, you create the value which powers communities to access the resources they need to live.

TRUST SYSTEM FOR GROUPS AND BUSINESSES

HOW DOES CIRCLES FUNCTION IN YOUR BUSINESS?

- Anyone with a Circles wallet can create a shared wallet.
- By creating a shared wallet, you can onboard your business onto the Circles system.
- When you create a shared wallet, it will automatically trust your individual account.
- You can then begin adding people in your group or business to be part of the shared wallet. For now, permissions are all given equally to everybody.
- Shared wallets do not issue a basic income. Shared wallets can only give, not receive trust
- Shared wallets can receive CRC from accounts they trust.
- Shared wallets can issue payments to other wallets via the trust network of individual wallets.



This means that once you add somebody to the shared wallet, they have the power to take you out of it. Make sure you only add trusted individuals to your shared wallet!

Make sure to trust those partners who you want to receive payment from. If somebody cannot send you money to your shared wallet, it is because there is no trust path between you and them. Try trusting them and ask them to try again. If you cannot issue a payment to another person or group using your shared wallet, make sure to trust them as an individual and try again.

CIRCLES VS BITCOIN

Circles is designed to be a means of exchange for communities and economic circles. Here is an overview of characteristics that might help you to better understand Circles in comparison to Bitcoin:



01.

Bitcoin is a digital asset. **Circles is a form of credit money used to fulfill debt obligations between different parties.**

05.

One needs fiat money in order to buy Bitcoin, **while Circles can only be issued via trusted parties giving you trust.**

02.

Bitcoin's design is made for investment and speculation, making it impersonal. **Circles is made for strengthening local economies by building trust between people.**

06.

Bitcoin has a limited token supply of 21 million Bitcoins. **Circles is designed in a way where everybody receives personal tokens constantly at a rate of 24 CRC per day.** These personal tokens can be sent as payment to other people, based on the trust relations in the network. **This is part of how Circles users can make sure that fake users don't manipulate the system and the obligations between people remain valid.**

03.

Bitcoin needs a lot of electricity to be produced. **The Circles system does not. Read more about the Proof of Authority (POA) xDAI blockchain where CRC are issued.**

04.

While the design of Bitcoin encourages hoarding, **Circles encourages spending.**

HOW THE CIRCLES COOPERATIVE CAN SUPPORT YOU



COMMUNITY NETWORKING

The Circles Coop organizes regular assemblies and encourages committees and workgroups among members. The goal is to build a living resource of knowledge and strategic approaches towards business transactions and creating local economy networks.

The community can get in touch via telegram channels, moderated Jitsi calls in English and other languages.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Since Circles is engaging in pioneering work we make sure to document the emerging community knowledge around the creation of a local economy via blog posts, research papers, videos, assemblies etc. We explore questions such as: "What is the design and implementation of the different economic circles? For example, between farms, the delivery services, supermarkets, restaurants and cafés, coworking spaces, care work etc."

The Circles Coop e.G. was established in October 2020. The Coop was created by the people who were active both in the programming part of the Circles pluriverse and in the organising of the Berlin basic income open pilot. The Circles Coop works in a strong alliance with the Bitspossed Collective, which constituted itself after the Circles protocol was launched. They build, maintain and take care of the Circles technology

DOCUMENTATION OF BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

The goal is to build concrete showcases that can serve as best practice and learning examples for other groups.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR TAXING AND BOOKKEEPING?

If you are a business, or you accept CRC for your goods or services, you should pay taxes in euros just like you would for any other kind of income: Bitcoin, Euros, Dollar, etc. Taxation is relative to your jurisdiction and must be handled accordingly. For more information, please take a look at our PDF "Tax Assessment for Business Partners in German". We do not offer individual tax advice, and recommend that you speak with an expert from your area.

PRICING AND FORMS OF PAYMENT



#01

THE MIRROR

If you do not know how much to charge people for something in CRC, we recommend you mirror the current price of your product or service in your local currency, eg. € or Pesos. Copying the unit of account (USD, Euro, etc) is an easy price finding framework for people to know what to charge.



#02

CARE WORK AND LABOUR EXCHANGE

You make a cup once but you wash it a thousand times. Taking care of ourselves, of other people, plants and animals is actually where the economy (understood as household or oikos) begins. Today, care work is undervalued and is done by many without remuneration (majoritarily women). Circles aims to facilitate a different money for a different economy with different values, one which redistributes and delegates the work needed to take care of each other and gives them the ability to decide what they want to value and how.



#03

CO-PAYMENT

You want to buy a beer at your favorite bar. The owner of the bar is your friend and nice enough to accept Circles, as long as you also co-pay with fiat money as well (Euro, USD, etc). If your locally brewed beer of choice is 3€, you could add an extra 3 CRC and make your payment using both monies. Alternatively, the bar owner could make an offer to pay in Circles after you've consumed 10€ in beer. Whatever the bargain is, co-paying in two currencies allows people to have more disposable income, lower costs and increase sales.



#04

CROWD-FUNDING / SPENDE

You want to go to the community kitchen in your neighborhood to have some warm soup and meet with your friends for the afternoon party. Usually, the organizers of the community kitchen set a range of recommended donation prices so people have an idea of how much to pay. Spende refers to the practice of paying what you can for the food and events you attend, without a fixed enforced price. This is a very nice community practice as it allows people with different economic means to participate and pay what they can without shame. If you don't have the means to pay with €, you can also use CRC!

<https://joincircles.net>
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 /circlesUBI

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 /circles_ubi_official

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