

# OPENDOORS VALENCIA DECLARATION OCTOBER 2017

**Promoting the spread of the sharing and collaborative economy in Europe.**

We, participants at the openDoors project meeting held in Valencia, Spain, in October 2017, with a view to contribute to a smarter, more sustainable and more economically and socially inclusive European Union, and aware that we live in a global and evolving world, believe that the sharing and collaborative economy is a new window of opportunity that may spark innovation processes, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of exchanges, enhance the use of available resources, bring back friendlier forms of sociability and exchange and contribute to the dissemination of values such as sustainability, respect for the environment and trust in the community.

We understand sharing and collaborative exchanges as a broad, complex concept that goes far beyond the sharing of vehicles or accommodation. Basically, we understand the sharing and collaborative economy as exchange and communications spaces where

- The participants have a self-awareness of belonging to a new way of doing things that has innovation at its core.
- The relationship between supply and demand is horizontal. The mediation between these two elements is just an interface that does not take any risks and does not take advantage of information asymmetries from a monopoly position.
- Many experiences entail the re-use of idle resources. This concept is linked with the concept of circular economy, a regenerative model based on feedback-rich flows combined with new circular economy business models.
- The aim is not only to maximize individual utility but to achieve social, collaborative, participated, common and global ends.
- The activities involved contribute to the building of social capital.
- The rules are built less on coercive agreements and more on mechanisms of trust and reputation.

We have strong evidence that suggests that the net welfare effects of the sharing and collaborative economy could be positive for the economy, the territories, and the society, including consumers, employers, and possibly workers, especially in the Mediterranean regions. However, regulatory and policy guidance is urgently needed.

Following the Commission, the signatories to this declaration advocate a balanced development of the sharing and collaborative economy, providing legal certainty, boosting consumer trust, maximising the potential for growth and ensuring compliance with the relevant rules and regulations

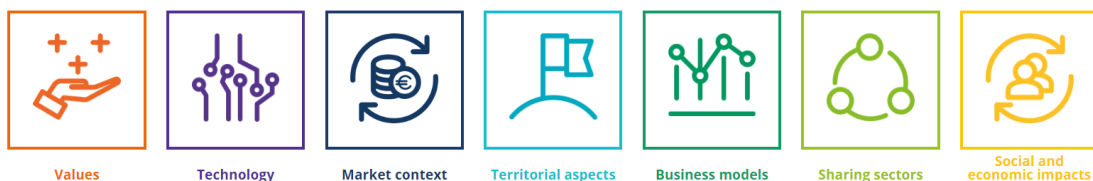
We urge institutional actors and public authorities to pay attention to a phenomenon that, if promoted and developed in a responsible manner, has the potential to make an important contribution to prosperity, social innovation and fairness in the European Union.

Signatories encourage citizens, businesses and third sector organisations to explore and engage confidently in the sharing and collaborative economy and to participate actively in discussions concerning the regulation and social control of such activities, seeking to amplify their positive effects and minimise their potential costs.

Finally, we invite interested actors to participate, to the extent of their possibilities, in the constitution of a support network for the sharing and collaborative economy promoted by the openDOORS project through the MED interregional cooperation programme to further the knowledge of the processes and mechanisms that facilitate its development and to promote a solid network of stakeholders capable of boosting sharing and collaborative practices across Europe. The goal of this network will be to act as an essentially European network that supports organisations, companies and individuals developing sharing and collaborative experiences and open innovation ecosystems to enhance the EU's research and innovation capacity and build a modern and prosperous society.

VALENCIA, 3rd OCTOBER 2017

## Creating a Network of Cooperating Creative Communities for Developing a Sharing Economy



More information: <http://opendoors-network.eu/>