

What is the P2P Foundation and its role in research?

Identity

The P2P Foundation is a non-profit organization, a “Stichting”, founded in Amsterdam in 2007, under Dutch law. The local registered name is: Stichting Peer to Peer Alternatives, dossier nr: 34264847. It’s legal address is Realengracht 196 - 1013AV Amsterdam, Netherlands.

The P2P Foundation is a knowledge commons and a global community of researchers and advocates that monitors the emergence of peer to peer dynamics in society, i.e. through peer production, governance, and property models that are characterized by open access, participatory process of governance, and property formats that guarantee universal access. This is monitored in every field of human activity.

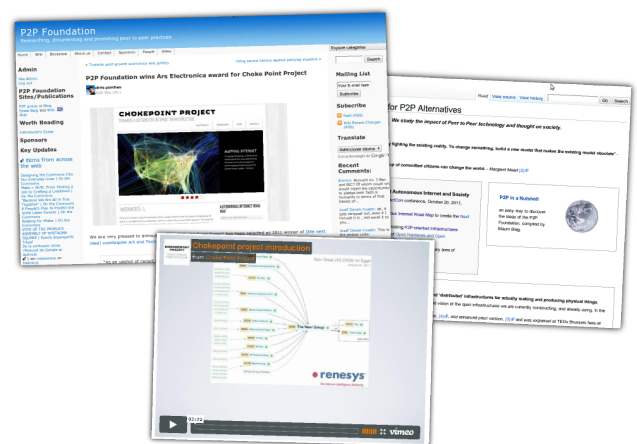
The P2P Foundation community consists of both academics and independent researchers, which collaborate on a number of funded research projects, such as those for the EU Commission. A provisional and incomplete list of academic collaborators [can be viewed here](#). A provisional collation of appreciations by the scientific community of our work and approach can be found here at [this link](#).

Objectives

- to study and create a comprehensive knowledge commons about peer to peer developments that can be used by the general public, business actors, and researchers
- to interconnect advocates, innovators, entrepreneurs and policy makers, as well as artists and cultural producers, by allowing them to enrich their own initiatives and business through a knowledge of what others are already doing
- to curate the best material appearing on these topics in the global internet, to the degree we can understand the languages; but with a focus on English as international language

- to create a pluralistic understanding through dialogue both within and outside our community of practice, by attempting a theoretical understanding that is continuously challenged by new facts and critiques
- to scale interesting projects by letting them use an active network of expertise as well as publishing and promoting their projects

Our work



The information ecology consists of a blog for the interpretation of current events and trends which according to Topsy is a top **2% globally** retweeted blog, published four times a day; a wiki with **16,000 entries** that have been consulted **17 million times**; Google gives us **138.000 results**, a Ning forum and several mailing lists for discussions; a network of bookmarks using Delicious and an interconnected set of social bookmarking sites carrying more than **50,000 tagged** information sources. The total interconnected reach of the P2P Foundation has been calculated at **2.000.000 in terms of secondary audience**, during early 2010.

A community

The aims of the P2P Foundation is to act as a global community of researchers, focused on understanding the emerging impact of peer production, peer governance, and peer property. This includes associated phenomena such as open innovation, co-creation and co-design, crowd-sourcing and crowd-funding. Of particular interest is the intersection between the newly enabled 'horizontal' social processes, with the pre-existing, more 'vertically' oriented institutions, such as corporations and governments. The P2P Foundation covers all domains of social activity, combining different experts for different projects. In our research collection we have particularly focused on the sustainability of open practices, i.e. on open business models.

The P2P Foundation members are present in all the world. It has representatives in Europe, Asia, South America, North America and Africa.

Partnerships

The P2P Foundation is a part of a number of research consortia such as the [3D Living Innovation](#) consortium, a [Living Lab](#) research project created on the initiative of [La Fabrique du Futur](#). It works or has worked with partner organisations such as: [Appropedia](#); [Espians](#); [Fing](#); [Global Village Network](#); [Global Swadeshi](#); [Hipatia](#); [The Hub](#); [Institute for Distributed Creativity](#); [Oekonux](#); [Open Source Ecology](#); [OpenKollab](#); [openMaterials](#); [Open Manufacturing](#); [openp2pdesign.org](#); [P2P Research Group](#); [Platoniq](#); [United Diversity](#); [Entrepreneur Commons](#); [Re-public](#); [Ethical Markets TV](#); the Transitioner.



Awards and ground-breaking projects

The P2P Foundation has won research-oriented awards, such as recently the 2011 [Next Idea award of Ars Electronica](#).



Conferences and seminars

The P2P Foundation also co-organized 7 academic conferences and the leading members are also very active in the global lecture circuit, creating teams of local sympathizers in at least 60 countries. Michel Bauwens, founder and referent of the organisation, visits about 15 different countries per year to provide talks and keynote conferences and connect with local audiences.



A provisional list of the last hundred invitations can be [found here](#).

EC Projects

The P2P Foundation have plenty of experience working in official EC funded projects. Here we provide the very detail of the projects in which the P2P Foundation was involved:

- **Free Technology Academy**

- Erasmus Programme for Higher Education - Lifelong Learning Programme. 2009-2011. Reference number 142706-LLP-1-2008-1-NL-ERASMUS-EVC
- Partners: Free Knowledge Institute (The Netherlands), Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain), Open University (The Netherlands), University of Agder (Norway), Gleducar (Argentina), Seed (Italy), Free Software Foundation (USA), Rey Juan Carlos University (Spain), ict@innovation (Germany), Varna Free University (Greece).



- **Public Sector Reform and the Digital Citizen Toolkit**

- Small/medium scale Collaborative Project (cooperation) - SSH.2010-1.3-1 The Public Sector of the Future (not approved)
- Partners: University of Salford (UK), Hoshin (UK), VURB (Netherlands), International Slovenia Centre for Promotion of

Enterprises (Slovenia), University of Milan (Italy), Polytechnic University of Milan (Italy), Strategic Design Scenarios (Belgium), Istanbul EU Pioneers (Turkey), University of Iceland (Iceland)

- **CloudPublishing**

- Presented in Short Medium Enterprises, ICT - 7th Framework Programme. 2009-2013. Reference number: 296146-FP7-ICT-2011-SME-DCL
- Partners: Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain), Free Knowledge Institute (The Netherlands), EVALUATIONS AND LANGUAGE RESOURCES DISTRIBUTION AGENCY (France), Prompsit Language Engineering (Spain)

- **eDuck Project**

- Presented in Short Medium Enterprises, ICT - 7th Framework Programme. 2009-2013. Reference number: 296311-FP7-ICT-2011-SME-DCL
- Partners: Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya (Spain), Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain), Free Knowledge Institute (The Netherlands), Bps-System (Germany), Notemary (Romania), Layers (Spain), metaVentis (Germany).

- **MIG@NET, “Transnational Digital Networks, Migration and Gender”**

- Collaborative Research Project, Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities - 7th Framework Programme. 2009-2013. Reference number: 244744
- Partners: Panteion University (Greece), Symfiliosi (Cyprus), Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (France), University of Hamburg (Germany), University of Bologna (Italy), The Peace Institute - Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies (Slovenia), University of Hull (United Kingdom)