Another Website is Possible

discussion contribution

AnnotatİST, May 2015

Another World is Possible

At this point in history many deep threats to human existence are coming together at the same time.

For human civilization to survive, another world is needed – a world that is not based on greed and power, but on the care for each other.

That requires that everyone have a fair share in decision making.

Revolution or Evolution?

We need a fundamental change in the way power is distributed.

- mainly 18th/19th century:

  Monarchy/Tyranny ⇝ Aristocracy/Oligarchy

- 21st century?:

  Aristocracy/Oligarchy ⇝ Democracy/Anarchy

A fundamental systemic change like that is a *revolution*.

What kind of revolution?

Famous historical examples of "successful" revolutions:

- French Revolution (1789 until 1799);
- Russian Revolution (1917 until 1923).

Both were very bloody, and in the end one power elite was replaced by another power elite.

This is obviously not the kind of revolution we need.

When will the revolution start?

With these historical revolutions, you can point to the date when they started:

- French Revolution: 14 July 1789;
- Russian Revolution: 7 November 1917.

With the kind of revolution we should aim for, historians will later not be able to pinpoint its beginning on the timeline.

A metaphor

Think of a mighty river. Can you tell where exactly it starts?

The river is formed from smaller tributaries coming together. Each is formed in turn from brooks or small mountain streams, which are fed from a diversity of sources: small springs, melting snow, the runoff of rains.

So, maybe, the revolution has started already…

Something is flowing, something new.

Need to overcome fragmentation

Still, each single brook or mountain stream can easily be blocked

The brooks and mountain streams that flow to the same ocean have to come together before they become a powerful force

Likewise, the fragmentation among those who aspire to a better world must be overcome if we are to hope to ever reach it.

Overcoming fragmentation

Many people who want a better world feel that there is nothing they can do (individually).

Most activists for a better world are engaged in single-issue groups.

What is missing is a sense that all are part of a large, world-wide movement.

To overcome fragmentation, not only do we need *One World* consciousness, we also need *One Movement* consciousness.

The Common Website Project

What we hope for (1)

The website functions as the go-to place for people seeking to create another world, a world based on social justice, participatory democracy, ecological sustainability, and international solidarity.

It appeals widely to people who believe that another world is possible and necessary, and is tolerant of a wide variety of opinions on what that other world should look like and how we can hope to reach it.

What we hope for (2)

Participating groups and individuals can use the website for working together by:

● comparing notes, discussing ideas and sharing insights;

● making plans, building resources, creating projects, organizing events, planning and evaluating campaigns and actions, practising mutual aid, socializing, engaging in crowdfunding, reading and posting news, learning, and teaching.

What we hope for (3)

The website fosters a sense of inclusiveness and community, a community that is *self-managed* by its users.

It is a shared space that helps to overcome the fragmentation and foster an appreciation of our diversity as a source of strength.

It also helps develop that greater coherence and solidarity-in-diversity that will make the idea of Another World move from possibility to reality.

Where we are now

We are still at a *very* preliminary stage.

"We" are right now a small but diverse group of ten people, mostly without any technological background.
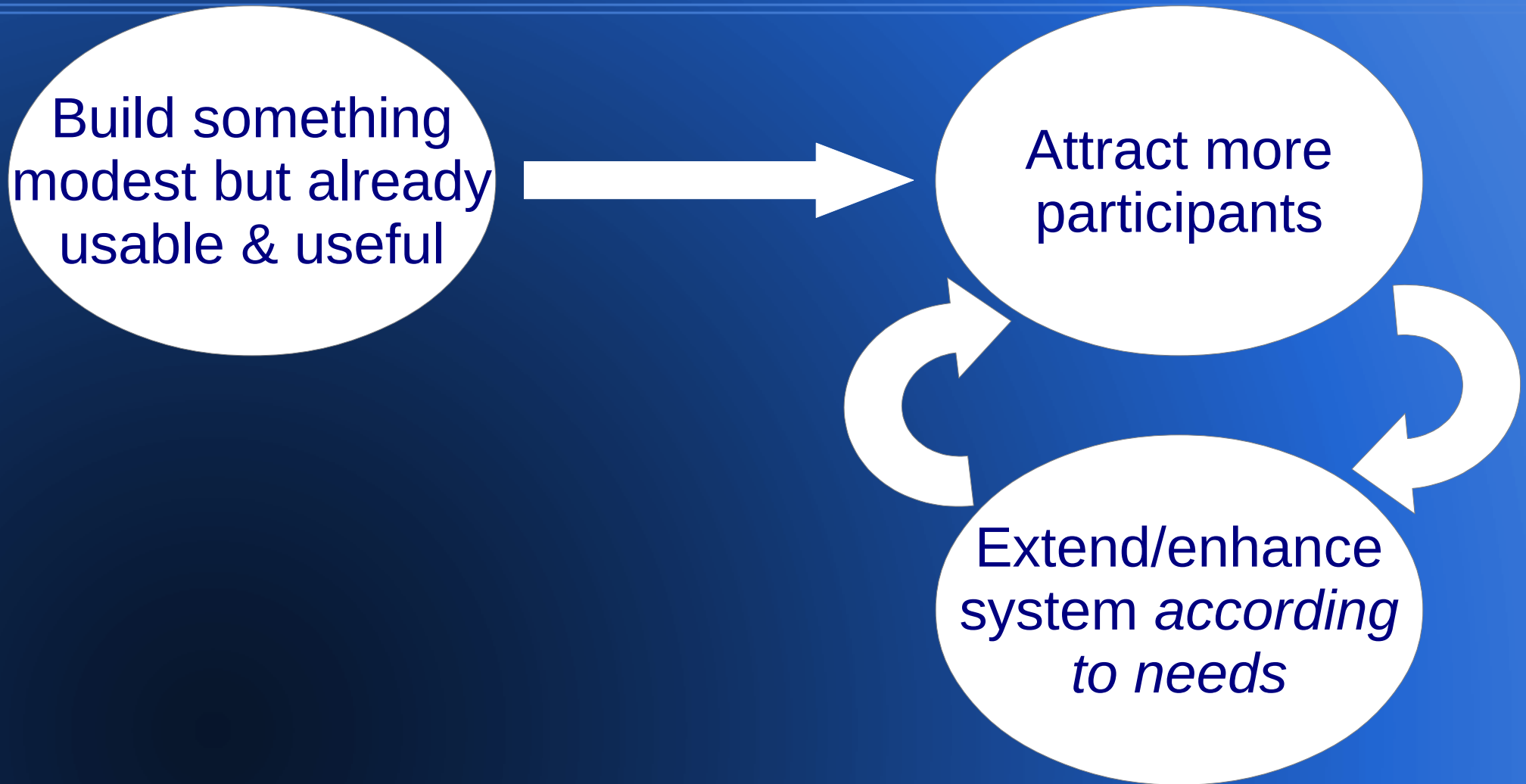
We have drawn up a long wish list (56 items) of requirements and desirable features, which still need to be prioritized.

We intend to go slowly but steadily.

Some requirements from the list

1. The system is malleable to the needs of participating groups and anyone who has the technical savvy can contribute to its further development.

10. There will be facilities to support translating content items.

56. There is a way of building up reputation as being reliable using some recommendation system.

Vague plan

Build something modest but already usable & useful ⟶ Attract more participants ⟷ Extend/enhance system *according to needs*

Sources of inspiration

Wikipedia:

- started very modestly, with further functionality development driven by user need;
- governance by the user community.

Open Street Map:

- started very modestly, with most further functionality development by its users.