Innovation Policy and Resourcing Challenges:  
The case of Timebanking  
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Which Timebanks and Timebanking organizations did we study?

- hOurworld, Transnational support organization
- TBUK, national membership organization, UK
  - Fair Shares, Gloucester; London timebanks
- Health and Family, NGO, Spain
  - Catalanian timebanks
  - Ser Hacer
- Japan, US, England, Wales,
- (New Zealand, Australia)
- (Timebank Hull and East Riding)

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What is timebanking?

- Member organized service exchange networks
- Establish a local complementary economy and currency (time)
- Time (hours) unit of exchange and account
- Values and principles based
  - Assets
  - Redefining ‘work’
  - Reciprocity
  - Equality
- Self- and mutual aid; not barter, work, or volunteering; services have equal value; receiving as important as giving
- Legal status of ‘time exchange systems’ in US and UK

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How does it work?
Why is it interesting?

- Resourcing structure: mobilizes un-used, under-used and wasted assets for productive use; high social returns possible from low financial investments
- Inclusive
- Versatile and flexible
- Widespread presence
- Works with other social innovations
- Works with NGOs, businesses, local and central government: not anti-establishment; complementary; builds missing infrastructure

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What can it do? How can it contribute?

Timebanks support:

- Community building
- Social Inclusion
- Economic resilience
- Care in the Community
- Social enterprise
What kinds of activities and projects?

Some of the work we do

Fair Shares is funded to work with a wide variety of individuals. To demonstrate the effectiveness of our work, you can choose a category below to view some of our specific projects.

What kinds of activities, projects and partners?

- Enhancing ‘employability’
  - Nationwide
- Care home residents
  - Multiple locations
- Urban resilience – Anti-Poverty – Mutual Aid Networks
  - Kingston-Upon-Hull
- Asylum seeker and refugee assimilation
  - Kingston-Upon-Hull
- Migrant ‘buddy’ project
  - Barnet

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Transformative Potential:

In synergy with other social innovations:

- Re-define 'work': how we use time; how income is allocated; how social security is achieved (in-kind contributions)
- New roles and responsibilities in society: co-production of welfare
- New ways to be competitive and productive: work readiness; avoid preventable costs; mobilize wasted resources; social enterprise; secondary economies
- New approaches to inclusion: not just full employment
- New (immaterial) ways to achieve wellbeing and QoL

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Policy insight

CHALLENGE: constant 'struggle for survival’

- Governance: co-produce, shared visions, equal partnership; cross-cutting agenda and financing
- Part of an under-developed infrastructure: financial support: modest, longer, scaled funding; structural funds? Need to ‘bridge’ the funding ‘gap’.
- Professional support for transitioning: for entrepreneurship; for being ‘investment ready’
- Public sector as a 'buyer’ of services and/or performance
- Science policy: universities could do more; create incentives

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Thank you!

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Development of Timebanking

**HISTORY:**

1970s: First time bank – Osaka, Japan – Teruko Mizushima
First US service exchange, Gracehill Settlement, St Louis

1980s: MORE program developed at Gracehill

Early 1990s: Activities of Edgar Cahn, Time Dollar Institute, RWJ interest

Late 1990s: **Richard Rockefeller** establishes TBs in New England
First international timebanking conference held
Timebanking brought from US to UK – Fair Shares, TBUK
Timebanking brought to Spain from Italy – Health & Family

2000s: Worldwide spread of timebanking

**TODAY:** Timebanks in many countries
ca 250-300 Timebanks in each of US, UK and Spain
Biggest networks: Japan, New South Wales, Australia

**CHALLENGE:**
Sustaining time banks – networks treading water