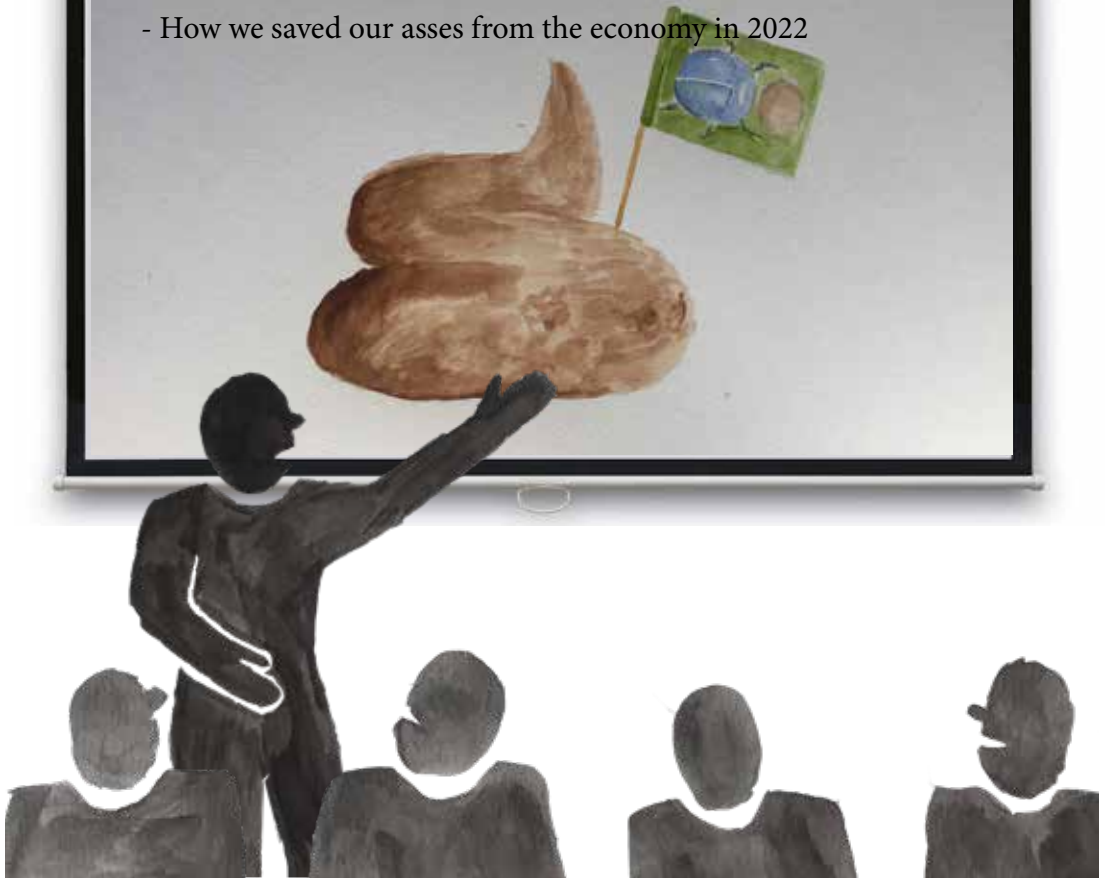


The first sketches for a shitty economy

- How we saved our asses from the economy in 2022



“Hello my name is Ulla Hvejsel. Today I will talk about my small contribution to the the shitty economy that I was part of creating in the wake of the COVID19 crisis in 2020.

It all started in a small study-group in 2020 where we somewhat jokingly declared ourselves to be dealing with what we called “the excrement that was poisoning society”. This led to the first theoretical steps towards the economy where everyone gets paid for their shit, that we all know and use today - and now I will let you in on how that happened.

The excrement that was poisoning society



First of all the “excrement that is poisoning society” that we wanted to deal with, was a reference to a 1596 book: *“Metamorphosis of a Jax - a new discourse on a stale subject”*. This book was written by satirist and inventor John Harington, and it was an interesting combination of a detailed instruction for building a flush toilet and a satire targeting “The excrement that was poisoning society”, which people at the time understood as some specific persons in high society.

The aim of our studygroup was to think up ideas that could be both practical and satirical too. We hoped that a good laugh at some of the stale ideas of our time would perhaps be able to generate fresh ideas on how actually do shit.

The old economy that was poisoning society



When we tried to identify the ridiculous and stale excrements that was poisoning society in our own time, it was quite clear to us that one of these excrements had to be “the economy”.

That this economy was its own kind of poison to society became especially apparent during the COVID19 healthcrisis in 2020. At this time, many people argued that an economic breakdown would potentially kill more people, than this deadly virus would. A truism at the time was therefore, that it was somehow as important to save the economy as it was to save people from the virus.

We thought however, that the idea that we should save an economy that was out to kill us, was so ridiculous that it was even a kind of funny.

We didnt just laugh though, and instead of trying to save the old toxic economy, we came up with a proposal to try replace it with a new shitty economy instead. Our proposal was quite simply, to create a new economic system based on the value of shit.

From satire to serious shit



This drawing here is our first simple sketch of our idea.

To begin with I think most of us just thought of it all this shit-talk as a satire on the economy. We soon came to believe though, that our idea was actually possible, and that there was in fact already a nearly functional economy of shit that we could tap into to make shit happen.

Sewer treatment plants would for instance already take money for processing sewerwaste, and some were also beginning to generate value from using selling the processes sewage as fertilizer, biogas heating and other things. If we could improve and refine this process and economy - we thought it should be possible to generate a much bigger economy, and then it was our idea that we would then share this improved value between the actual shitters.

These shitters would of course be all of us - because as we all know, even the queen must go to the bathroom, and we started to think about how an economy of shit could become a sort of Universal Basic Income.

A new infrastructure of shit



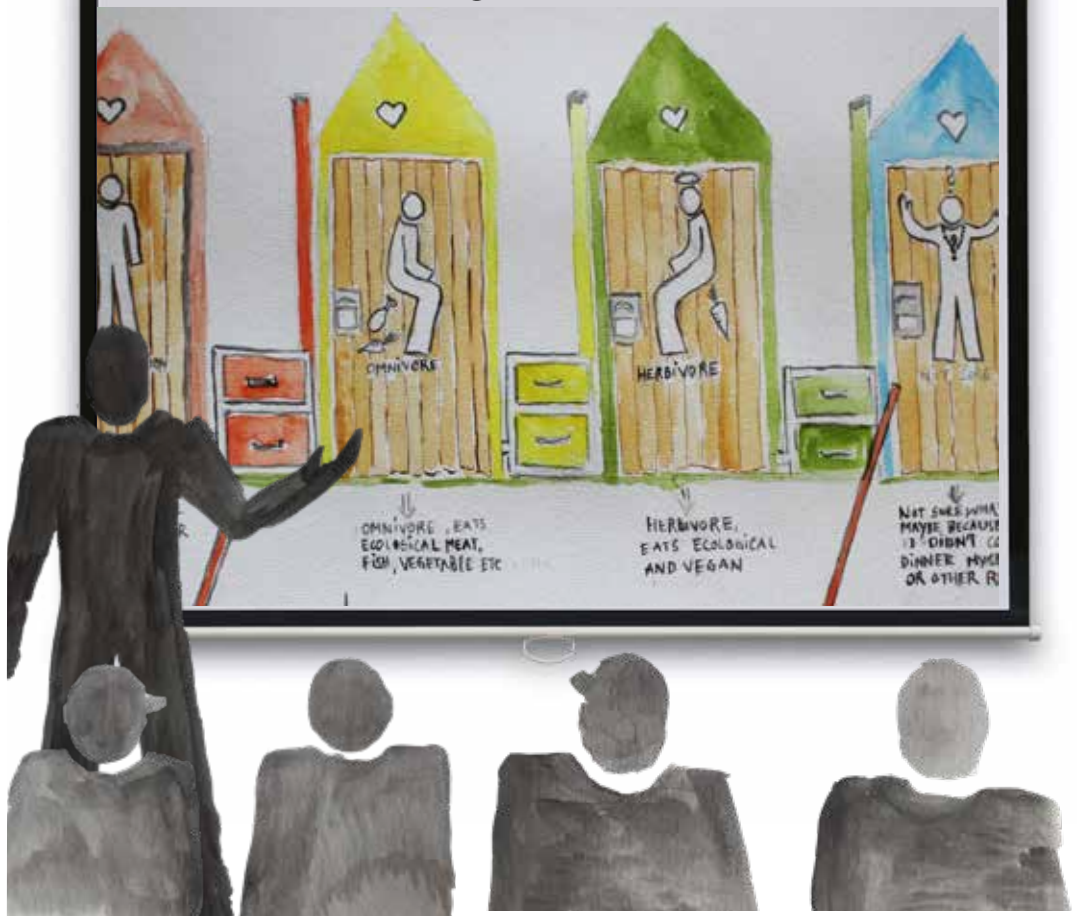
If we really wanted to make shit more valuable and useful, we first had to imagine substantial changes to the existing infrastructure of shit.

The means of transporting shit at the time was an elaborate sewer system where the refuse from millions of people would travel in the same pipes to the same big sewage basins in big sewage treatment plants.

This became one dirty mess off course, and even after cleaning and composting, all of this mixed matter would not be entirely free from medicines, heavy metals and other toxins. There were off course big concerns about the usefulness and dangers of pouring this poisonous shit back into the fields and ecosystem.

If the shit was separated though, there would be a lot of good shit that could be used more safely and easily, and to generate more value and a better use of our shit we needed a system of sorting and separating it.

Sorting shit out



So to generate the value from our shit, we suggested therefore, a whole new system of sewage treatment and transport that would enable us to sort good shit from bad shit, and make a more healthy output.

Our simple proposal was, first of all, to abandon the sewers and make a system of toilets, with each their own tank, where the shit and shitters was separated based on digestive habits or current medicinal status.

This meant that there could for instance be separate toilets for those who were “ecological vegan”, “ecological meateater”, currently on medication, or “not sure what I ate” and so forth.

From toilet to treatment



If we abandoned the sewers we would of course have to think about how we would transport the shit from the toilet to the treatment plant instead. For that purpose we sketched up this loose idea of a rack of closed and sanitary units that were easy to handle and change and which would easily be picked up by sanitation workers on the normal sanitary rounds.

We also imagined that the trucks that picked up shit could be designed so that it would be possible to directly attach one of the units to them and use them as fuel.

Some treatment plant had also already developed a system using sewer matter as fuel for the garbage trucks and we liked to imagine this could be employed in a grand scale here too.

Non Olet - a shitty currency



In our proposal the value of shit that we each earned would be paid in a new currency of what we called Non Olet Points. These would be deposited and paid out on a creditcard (not personal due to reasons of privacy among other things) after each trip to the toilet. The card was to be available for anyone for free at any kiosk or toiletstall.

In order to make the Non Olet points accepted for payments by shops and traders we thought that we would need to organize a network of shops and stores that would accept them. Our idea was then that we should be able to exchange the earnings in Non Olet points from these shops back into regular currencies. The value that should make us able to do that was generated by selling our good shit and its outputs in regular old money. In the long run however the Non Olet currency should not be standing on the shoulders of these old and outdated economic institutions.

As you all know however, the Non Olets became its own institution sooner than we could have foreseen, and in the light of what we know about how the shitty economy works today, all these very particular ideas of how to make people use and believe in the purchasing power of Non Olet Points may seem strangely naive and antiquated.

So...



..and speaking of naive it is also quite obvious from these early drawings, that none of us were actual scientists in the field of neither shit or money.

But even so, and with a lot of help from progressive bankers, scientists, farmers, plumbers and other people who actually knew their shit, we were able to implement the first 1000 pay-for-shit-public toilets in the beginning of 2022. Apart from the help of those experts the first steps were also helped along with substantial support from some of the huge funds that were allocated for saving our asses from the economy after the COVID19 health crisis.

Soon after we installed these toilets things really took off. I feel it makes sense to say, that “the shit really hit the fan” and this shitty economy spread out to all corners of the world, for better and for worse, and in ways we could not have anticipated.

As you know, the rest is history, and maybe we will talk about that some other day.”