

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY EXCHANGE SYSTEM ?



© <https://www.communityexchange.net.au/>

The CES is essentially an exchange system.

It allows us to exchange our narrow specialisations for the narrow specialisations of others.

The regular money system, of which we are so familiar, is another exchange system. Throughout history there have been many different exchange systems. All of them assist us to overcome the inconveniences of direct barter. While the monetary exchange system uses a value representation to mediate exchanges, the CES has no such medium. Instead it uses information as the organising principle.

Value is transferred from sellers to buyers and a record is kept of it. These records ensure that buyers 'pay' for what they have received by doing or selling something for/to someone else. This works just as well as money but sets up a completely different relationship between people. In the monetary exchange system production is geared towards maximising the amount of the exchange medium that can be obtained, whereas in the CES production is geared towards the satisfaction of needs. This imparts a completely different logic in our relationships with each other. [...]

The CES is not a club or organisation but a new exchange or 'money' system. Therefore you do not 'join' and become a 'member' of an association. You register to use the CES as a new way of trading, without using your national currency. You will feel that you are part of a community but this is because you will experience a different spirit among the traders of the CES. The CES is characterised by openness, friendliness, honesty and trust, which is quite different to what you are likely to experience in the 'old' money system.

You don't need credits to trade so there is no point in this. In any case, your credits are someone else's debits, and they will question your false trades with them. Your balance, which is open for everyone to see, will also reveal what you are doing. There is no need to cheat in the CES because you can simply go into debit and 'pay back' what you have received by delivering goods and services to others at a later time.

If someone exploits the system it is the community that bears the burden, not any particular user.

(Source : <https://www.communityexchange.net.au/info/qanda.html>)