



## Introduction of the Fuchsmühle and its vision

On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, we, 13 people from different backgrounds, moved into the beautiful Fuchsmühle (in English: *Fox mill*) at the edge of the small town Waldkappel in the middle of Germany. As young people that are aware of the challenges and global crisis of our time, we came together with a big vision: To build sustainable and communal-based structures within the whole region to support bottom-up system change, regenerative ways of living and a long-lasting, resilient community network.

From October 2020 until February 2021, we committed ourselves to a “Prototype” – a time, in which we could practice living and working communally, explore different realms of holistic change making and create the legal and financial conditions for us to buy the Fuchsmühle.

For that cause, we started a cooperative, our legal framework to also acquire more houses for other communities to move to the region and become a part of our mission in self-management and under long-term fair, commons-based conditions. With that, we’ve now successfully done a crowdfunding, to fund the Fuchsmühle as our first base within the region. The cooperative can also acquire agricultural and forestry fields and buildings in which people can be active on a voluntary and needs-orientated basis.

We also founded an association “Region im Wandel e.V.” (in English: *Region in change*) for our non-profit work and projects. This association geared to the organization principles of sociocracy can be home and legal structure for many people and projects of very different kinds to all work on regional change. As beautiful as this region is, it is known to be “structurally-weak”, which we see as an opportunity to build new and needed structures, that work under different conditions than our current capitalist system. In our theory of change, we need a holistic approach towards change. This is why we spread our work into all the different layers, ecologically, economic, socially and culturally. We want to create many seedlings of alternative systems, that than can connect with each other and weave webs that are autonomous, resilient and in solidarity with each other. In our vision, this is how a network of community and support can emerge in which many people can be part of in their own ways.

Until now, we are getting to know more and more people from Waldkappel, connecting with different actors from the region and starting our first projects: An “Allmende-Wald” (Commons-based forest), where citizens can participate in restoring the forest that surrounds them, implementing participation processes within the village, opening up the mill as free space for people to come and connect, hosting events and educational courses and a food-coop to provide many people with local, organic, low-emission transported food and many more. Other groups looking for a place to start community have already shown interest in joining our project and we are actively looking for other houses and spaces for more people to move to the region. Our outreach also includes activist groups and the climate and social justice movement, as we would love to provide safe spaces, homes and structures of provision for people active within different movements.

We’ve been also very supported by different networks and actors of the ecovillage, commune and solidaric economy movement, which has been incredibly helpful for us. We are excited for the next steps along our path towards a regenerative, self-organized region in change, the people we will meet and the experiences we will make along the way.