

Taking back finance means recognising the range of ways of investing in communities and environments, and doing so with a view to long-term futures (even futures of seven generations as featured in the Chapter 5 Tool). There are two steps for taking back finance.

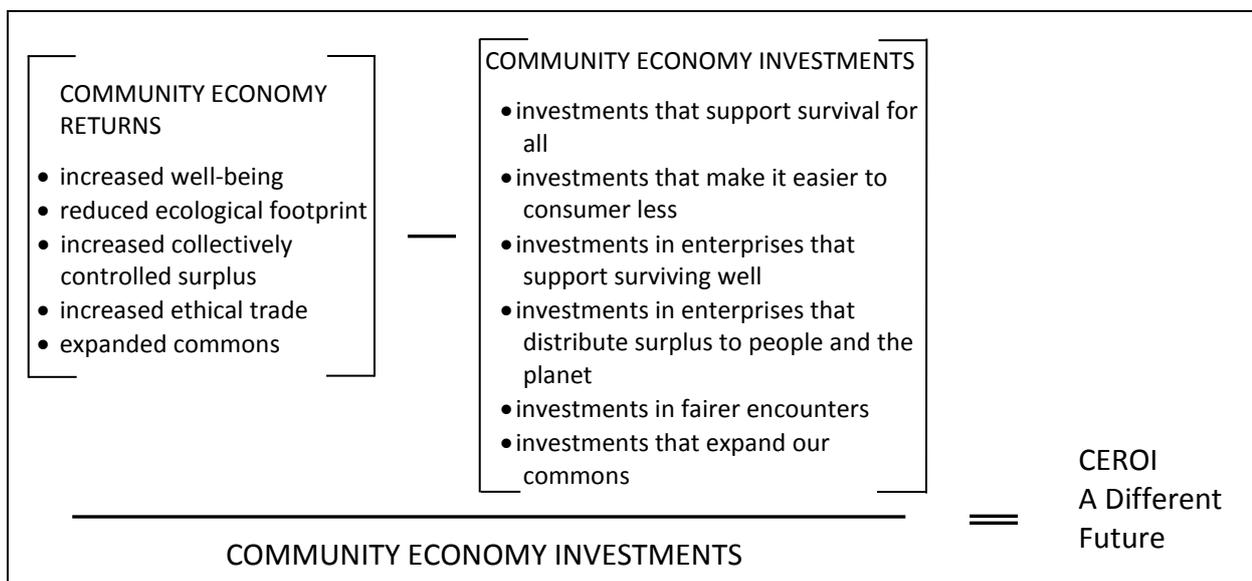
1. We start with the diversity of financial arrangements. On the right is the diverse finance identifier. Have a think about various financial arrangements that you know about. List these arrangements, and use the diverse finance identifier to help categorise the arrangements.

Building community economies means directing these financial arrangements to the interests of future generations, including the integrity of natural systems. To what extent are the financial arrangements that you have identified oriented to long-term futures?

2. We can then consider the type of investment that these financial arrangements can be used to support. As shown in the community economy return on investment tool (below) investments can be directed to any of the concerns that feature in *Take Back the Economy*: in different ways of working, producing, consuming, transacting and caring for our resources. And these investments produce a range of returns.

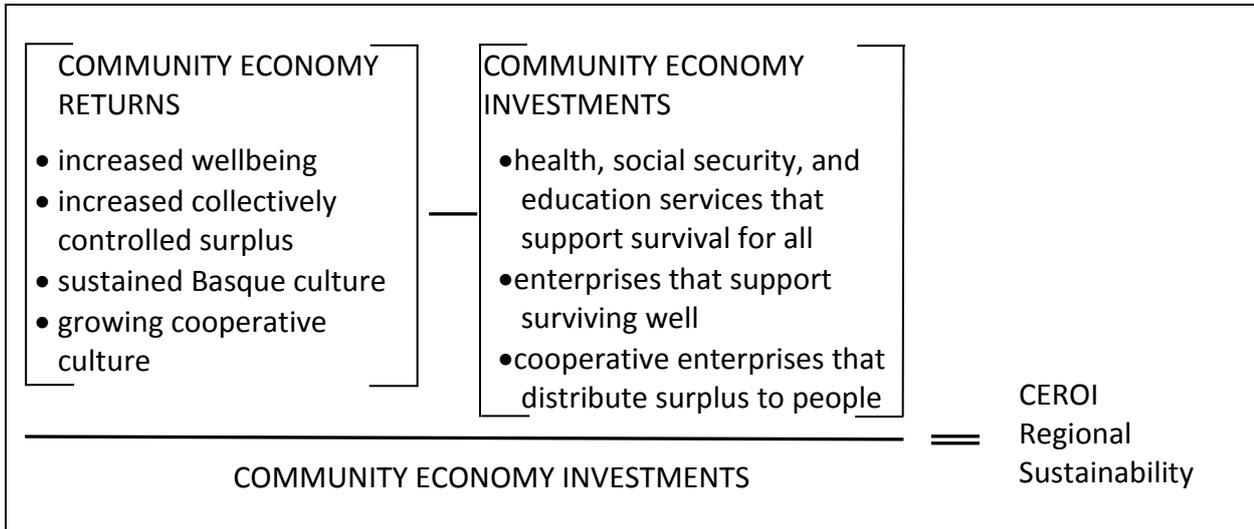
Select some of the financial arrangements you have identified and discuss the concerns that are being addressed by the investment and the likely returns on this investment. To help you, on the next page you'll find one application of the community economy return on investment tool.

<b>DIVERSE FINANCE IDENTIFIER</b>
<b>MAINSTREAM MARKET FINANCE</b>
<b>ALTERNATIVE MARKET FINANCE</b>  State banks Government-sponsored lenders Credit unions Microfinance Friendly societies Community-based financial institutions
<b>NONMARKET FINANCE</b>  Sweat equity Community-supported business Rotating credit funds Family lending Donations Interest-free loans



## COMMUNITY ECONOMY RETURN ON INVESTMENT: LA CAJA LABORAL

The Caja Laboral is the cooperatively owned financial institution that underpins the network of cooperatives in Mondragon, in the Basque region of Spain. The Caja has prioritised building a future in which the people have secure employment and dignified livelihoods—this is the return on investment it is seeking.



Source: Gibson-Graham, J.K., Cameron, J. & Healy, S., 2013, *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, Chapter 6.