

# TIME/BANK STROOM DEN HAAG

## The Netherlands has a new bank, a Time/Bank



Project author or developer:  
**TIME/BANK STROOM DEN HAAG**

Where:  
**NL / The Netherlands / The Hague**

Website:  
**[timebank.stroom.nl](http://timebank.stroom.nl)**

The Netherlands has a new bank, a Time/Bank. E-flux started the Time/Bank. Time/Bank is a platform where groups and individuals can pool and trade time and skills, bypassing money as a measure of value. Instead, time is used as the currency of this bank. Time/Bank is based on the premise that everyone in the field of culture has something to contribute and that it is possible to develop and sustain an alternative economy by connecting existing needs with unacknowledged resources. Since the launch of the Time/Bank, several Time/Stores have opened in Europe and thousands of transactions have taken place. We strongly feel that the Time/Bank and other alternative structures have the potential to become one of the ways in which an independent critical space can be preserved. The dismantling of public funding for critical culture in the Netherlands in particular has made it urgent and necessary to develop new support structures if critical culture is to remain viable and vibrant. Alternative economies and other mutual aid systems may be one of the ways by which independent organizations and cultural producers may persevere. We, not only as a cultural sector but as a society as a whole, can get things done without the use of money. The Time/bank is a platform that facilitates this, it creates a national and international network and helps us think by doing how economic structures can be made to adapt to our needs and wishes. This is our bank. Let's use it.

