

# HELPIX : SHARING AND DISCOVERING

By Ylaouna LECHARTIER, *Time*, Monday, January.13, 2025

Since the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we have been living in a consumer's society, that is to say many people owned consumers' goods. However, since a few years, this society is progressing to a collaborative, sharing and exchanging society instead of possessing society, which is more responsible.



The Helpx company, founded in April 2001 by an English man named Rob Prince, is a good example for this change. Rob Prince had the idea of this collaborative system during a travel in Australia and New-Zealand. Indeed, Helpx is a collaborative initiative whose aim is to work for others for free in exchange of a roof and meals. This works because the online listing includes more than 10,000 subscribers. Despite that, the hosts are mainly located in Australia, New-Zealand, Canada and Europe, but they should grow around the world. To subscribe, the helpers create a profile and pay 20€ for 2 years.

What's more, this initiative has many advantages as the discovery of the countries' culture, learning new languages, meeting people and spend less money. On the other hand, the drawbacks are not numerous : you are not free all day long and you work for free. Cédric, an usual user of Helpx, explains : **“It's not just you come and you work for free. It's sharing culture, sharing history, sharing, having fun together and seeing from the inside !”**.

The exchange platforms like Helpx, WWOOFing or Workaway don't stop increasing. So, this sort of collaborative network could charm more and more users, who are looking for a more responsible way to travel !