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## Information for sustaining members

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*AGORA would like to invite you to support this exciting project that is designed to convert theory into practice through the creation of ethical, ecological and sustainable housing.*

### **What is AGORA?**

AGORA is a co-housing project for young and old based on a not-for-profit cooperative corporation principle. Our mutual vision consists in creating a social, cultural and ecologically sustainable environment working both in and outside the local community. We plan to build 45 to 50 living units for approx. 70 adults and children near the Ostbahnhof in Darmstadt. To promote and support the community we will organize a café with cultural events, offer various workshops and provide guest rooms. We are searching for alternative means of financing the project.

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### **Why support AGORA?**

The aim of AGORA is to create as little dependence upon banks as possible. To achieve this we need the help of lots of people who support our ideas and want to see a practical initiative succeed. We will call these people „sustaining members“. With their commitment we will be far more likely to succeed in creating an affordable and sustainable living space, so that those with less financial means can also live in AGORA.

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### **How to support AGORA?**

To become a sustaining member it is necessary to complete the application form which must then be officially accepted by the managing committee. To join the cooperative sustaining members subscribe to non-interest bearing shares of at least 1000 Euros, which will be refunded at the end of the period of membership.

Sustaining members who wish to support AGORA financially over and above this amount can grant a private loan to the cooperative. (It is necessary to become a sustaining member first otherwise this would be considered to be an illegal banking transaction) Any amount over 1000 Euros is very welcome. Interest will be paid at a rate from 0 to 1.5% on a minimum 5 year term, according to the status quo and depending upon the individual wishes of the member.

We are legally obliged to point out that the invested money could possibly be lost due to (an extremely unlikely) case of bankruptcy or liquidation. Members shares are liable equity of the cooperative. Private loans are subordinated to the claims of the banks.

Both the Cooperative Societies Act (Germany) and the statutes of AGORA ensure the conscientious handling of all loans and receipts.

Detailed information, including the AGORA concept and statutes are available (in German) on our homepage: [www.agora-da.de](http://www.agora-da.de)

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### **What advantages are there in supporting AGORA?**

Sustaining members can participate in the work of the cooperative. They will regularly be informed about the activities of the cooperative. They have limited voting rights and at ordinary general meetings they can form a transparent and comprehensive opinion of the life and work of the AGORA cooperative.