WikiChallenge Ecoles d'Afrique

WikiChallenge Écoles d'Afrique – Empowering African students through knowledge sharing

"The child has the right to freedom of expression. This right includes freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice."

- ARTICLE 13 DE LA CONVENTION INTERNATIONALE DES DROITS DE L'ENFANT

WikiChallenge Écoles d'Afrique engages students from primary schools across Africa to contribute to Vikidia, the little sister of Wikipedia. It teaches them to create and improve articles on topics related to African culture, history, environment, and more. The initiative seeks to promote knowledge sharing, digital



literacy and cultural diversity.

The **WikiChallenge Écoles d'Afrique** plays a crucial role in empowering African youth, promoting digital literacy, and fostering a sense of ownership over their cultural heritage. It contributes to the growth of African content online and enhances the representation of African perspectives in the global knowledge landscape.

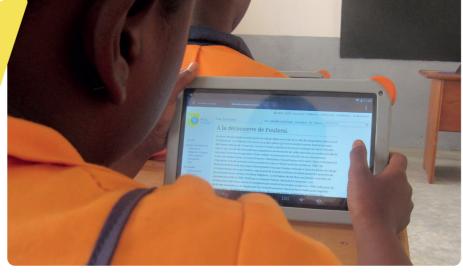
The specifics

- Targets students aged 9 to 13 in French-speaking Africa
- Organized within the official education framework
- Open to schools members of the Digital Schools Network of Fondation Orange
- Free writing theme... but encourages contributions on local cultural, historical, and environmental topics
- Texts and illustrations are published under free licenses on Vikidia and Wikimedia Commons
- Winning institutions receive prizes ranging from
 € 2,500 to €5,000 per school to spend on
 educational materials or school infrastructure

Impacts and benefits

- Promotes educational engagement and active learning among African students
- Amplifies online representation of Africa's culture, history, and knowledge
- Fosters cross-cultural understanding and appreciation among students
- Enhances digital skills and familiarity with online platforms, like Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, and Vikidia
- Empowers students to become contributors and creators of knowledge
- Builds teamwork and collaboration among participants
- Provides a platform for students to showcase their talents and creativity
- Increases access to information about Africa for a global audience
- Inspires a sense of pride and ownership in African heritage and identity
- Finally, the prizes offered to the winning schools improve the quality of the studying environment of hundreds of children

Students are invited to participate in the challenge by researching and writing articles. In doing so, they not only expand their own knowledge, but also contribute to creating information about Africa that is then accessible to people (and other children) worldwide.



The participating schools are given access to digital equipment (tablets and mini-servers) and resources, such as

2 The digital mediators were trained in 2 in-person sessions, organised in Senegal and in Tunisia, facilitated by Wikimedians. In addition to the training, the facilitators receive assistance from members of the Wiki in Africa team and the Vikidia and Wikimedia community.



Participation becomes integrated into each school's educational plan. This has occured through visits to museums

International partners



Partnering Wikimedia Usergroups





5 Students receive guidance and support from educators, volunteers, and Wikimedia affiliates using WikiChallenge training materials and resources. WikiChallenge introduces collaboration and teamwork to students, encouraging knowledge sharing and ideas exchange.

offline Wikipedia or Vikidia. Often with limited or no internet connectivity, schools were given WikiFundi, the offline editing platform that mimics editing Wikipedia.



At the end of the contest, awards ceremonies are organised in all countries to celebrate the participating schools. This recognition acknowledges their combined achievements and motivates the young people to continue their journey as open knowledge contributors. and places of interest, encouraging students to conduct interviews with notable persons, or participating in cooking or drawing workshops.



The WikiChallenge Écoles d'Afrique 2023-24 international award ceremony was held in Morocco during the SIEL.

WikiChallenge Ecoles d'Afrique is a Wiki in Africa project.



Elevating Africa's Voices Globally www.wikiinafrica.org



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