Wikimedia CH - Education Strategy Overview

Why does WMCH need an Education Strategy?

Education is considered an important topic among Wikimedia Foundation, chapters and community alike, and was chosen as a strategic impact direction for the 2017-2020 period. Classrooms need to incorporate new technology to keep up with web 2.0 as well as to integrate Wikimedia projects into their curriculums to encourage better use of online information. Schools also need to teach students essential digital skills in order to build a technically literate Swiss workforce.

What is the goal of the strategy?

WMCH's goal is to raise visibility and engagement in educational institutions so that Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects become go-to resource for objective information and learning. We also aim to help students build skills such as using digital tools, managing information and critical analysis by encouraging them to write their own history by using or contributing to Wikimedia projects.

How will we achieve our goal?

- **Introduce innovative education** at every level, both for children and adults
    - Facilitate the acquirement of digital skills and the correct use of media
    - Foster inclusiveness among students through the use of Wikimedia projects
    - Train students to build specific soft skills (critical thinking, collaborative editing)

- **Create open, collaborative hives** in high schools and universities to develop talent and encourage engagement
    - Hack-a-thons and edit-a-thons for students to edit Wikipedia
    - Encourage knowledge-sharing and open-source tools
    - Position hives as developing talent and digital skills among the future workforce

- **Setup a certification path for volunteers or professionals**, including "train the trainers" programmes and university credits for editors
    - Increase knowledge and skills among professionals through Wikimedia projects
    - Retain volunteers by offering development opportunities
    - Improve quality and sustainability of training model

- **Develop website as a resource repository** for teachers and trainers to encourage use of Wikimedia projects as part of their curriculum
    - Provide educational resources for teachers
    - Develop trainings to help develop both soft skills and technical skills
    - Offer content and tools that are accessible for younger students

- **Lobby group and education committee to create partnerships** and collaboration with other organisations
    - Partner with organisations to introduce schools to the domain of digital innovation
    - Co-create educational events that include workshops on Wikimedia projects
    - Develop a framework for partnerships

- **Develop tools for schools and trainers** by partnering with technical schools/ other orgs
    - Partner with WikiToLearn to develop tools and protected areas for students
    - Leverage offline tools like Kiwix for student use
    - Improve existing tools, such as Wikimini to make them easier-to-use and more engaging