Unleashing Innovation: Ideas for a Dynamic Wikimedia Movement

Welcome to the ==“Unleashing Innovation”== idea booklet!

This compilation is a treasure trove of creative ideas born from a collaborative effort to foster a culture of innovation within our global Wikimedia Movement.

This collection of creative ideas emerged from collaborative ideation workshops. The guiding question was, How might we foster innovation in the Wikimedia Movement? Participants from different corners of our Movement contributed their unique perspectives and insights, making the ideation process an incredible melting pot of ideas.

Within these pages, you will find a vibrant array of concepts, solutions, and strategies, each contributing to the grand vision of an innovative Wikimedia ecosystem. The ideation process was unbounded, allowing participants to think beyond traditional boundaries. Whether they proposed programs, collaborative projects or a rap song, the ideas presented here are a testament to the ingenuity and commitment of our Movement.
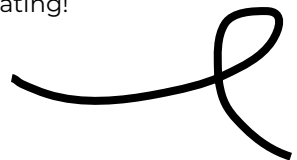
It is important to note that while this idea booklet represents a comprehensive selection of the roughly 300 workshop ideas, it does not capture every single suggestion shared.

The intention of this idea booklet is to serve as a source of inspiration, a spark that ignites action and innovation. By sharing these ideas openly, we hope to create a ripple effect of enthusiasm, encouraging other members of the Wikimedia Movement to embrace these concepts and translate them into impactful initiatives of their own. From small local projects to large-scale global endeavors, every idea carries the potential to propel our Movement into a more innovative and responsive future.

Remember, this booklet represents only the beginning of our collective journey towards positive change and greater innovations in Free Knowledge. Embrace these ideas as starting points, seeds to be nurtured, and developed further in collaboration with fellow Movement members. Together, let us create a dynamic ecosystem where creativity thrives, barriers are broken, and innovation knows no bounds.
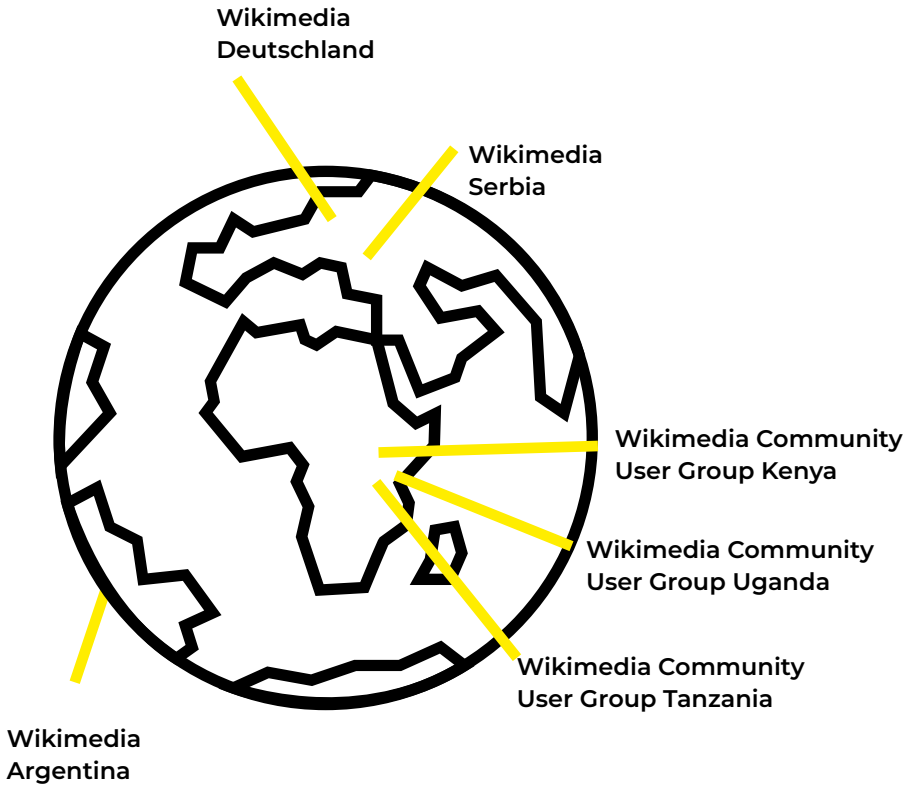
Happy innovating!

Our collaboration partners

This booklet is a collaborative effort by Wikimedia Argentina, Wikimedia Community User Group Kenya, Wikimedia Community User Group Tanzania, Wikimedia Community User Group Uganda, Wikimedia Deutschland, and Wikimedia Serbia.

Several additional stakeholders from the Wikimedia Movement were involved in the development of these ideas. For more Information on our joint project of building an innovation ecosystem for the Wikimedia Movement visit our Meta-page "Re-Imagining UNLOCK: Building a new innovation format for the Movement".

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Wikimedia Serbia

Wikimedia Community User Group Kenya

Wikimedia Community User Group Uganda

Wikimedia Community User Group Tanzania
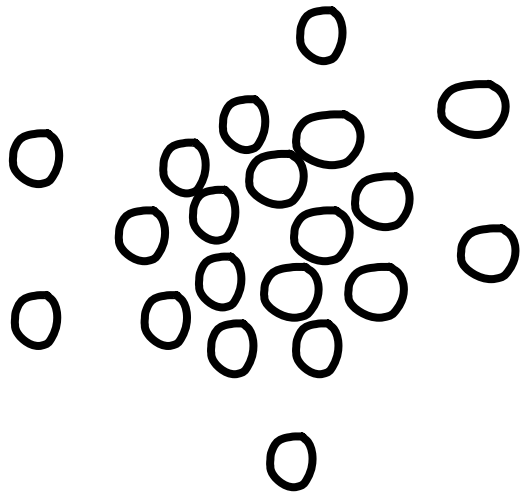
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Ideas on Gatherings

Match Movement members with project ideas with external engineers to work on these ideas, provide the financial support to make this happen

Create alliances with people outside of the Movement: invite Wikimedians and people outside of the Movement to joint events, working on projects and sharing skills without having to identify as a Wikimedian

Organize global innovation gatherings around innovation jams (inspired by game jams)

Create physical summer camps focused more on human (in-person) interaction, dedicated specifically to team building with discussions by the fire and no internet connection

Create a workshop where people build projects from scratch without having any prior ideas, they simply show up and start brainstorming together

Create radical experimentation spaces: A courage festival for failure and learning

Create a paper-based only festival where we craft and prototype only with crafting supplies (paper, glue, scissors)

Organize hack events focused on learning and exposure rather than outputs

Establish an in-person open workshop shape like a fablab where people can come in with ideas, questions, challenges and the tools readily available to use

Ideas on Funding

Build an investment accelerator for potential innovations, dedicated to the funding of innovation activities in the Movement

Establish an investment fund system

Significantly increase financial support for participants of project development and innovation programs to create more incentivization and to allow for more financial independence of participants

Provide financial support for experimentation and projects/tools that must not work out, but could also fail

Set up a "no-questions-asked" fund where the outcome is not the goal, but trying new things and just getting started, regardless of whether the initial plan works out or not

Establish funding schemes that also pay for initial needs-based research and exploration phases, thus creating basis for others to build innovations and solutions on these findings

Ideas on Skills matching

Build an AI-powered tool that finds and matches ideas with tech people across the Movement

Create a modular resource database / page where innovation resources are split into building blocks and modules which can be combined and customized depending on what you are building and require to finalize your initiative

Develop a matching platform/scheme that connects individuals who have innovative ideas for solutions to those possessing the necessary skills for implementation, thereby facilitating the formation of project teams comprising of both concept-people and doers

Map and create a linkage between technical expertise and challenges or ideas from Movement members through an app: Build an app that maps context-specific needs, where the need can be discussed and where people can offer skills or solutions

Establish a Movement taskforce designed to find out about all projects across the Movement, and try to map those out and connect to each other, matchmaking for projects

Set up a help hotline for questions around innovation formats, project and product management

Ideas on Idea implementation

Create thematic hackathons and idea competitions based on current trends and discourse, as well as challenges in our Movement that need tackling

Build an innovation support infrastructure which support the development of new solutions across all phases of innovation and people can enter at any stage depending on where their needs and skills are

Create different kinds of programs for innovation development, including an incubator program where ideas can initially be built and grown, a starter program where ideas are first developed into prototypes, a builder program where prototypes are scaled into working projects, a sustainability program where the projects are integrated into the Wikimedia ecosystem

Establishing a supporting International Innovation Lab that provides the support and tools to create needs-based and regionally-oriented innovation formats across the Movement where they are needed

Create an Innovation Lab which works as an advisory team: Members of the Movement send their requests or needs, they get support from the lab throughout research phase, ideation and prototyping of innovations or on how to establish innovation programs

Establishing a global network of Innovation Labs: Fostering individual collaboration and joint innovation programs with designated representatives in each hub

Found a thematic innovation hub for the Movement

Offer regular 1-week Design Sprints, a fast-paced method to build and test a prototype in just five days
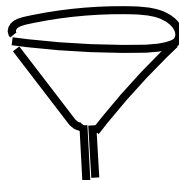
Empower local innovation through a support program tailored to diverse communities

Establish a software department in each chapter

Develop an accelerator program with the aim of supporting the development of new projects across the Movement, providing needs-based support including mentorship, tech support, and funding

Establish frequent reflection and iteration in project / program / tool development processes, establish well-documented retrospective sessions with a shift in project success metrics to prioritize learning points and stories over numerical metrics like users, contributions, or new pages

Create a multiple rotating people system for the development, improvement and testing of projects which means that it is not always the same people working a project, but that these alternate allowing for more diversity and perspective

Ideas on Tools & Databases

Build a challenge platform where problems we want to solve in the Movement are presented as challenges, anyone from the Movement can come forward and tackle one of them, share ideas on how to solve them, and build solutions

Create a blind spot identifier powered by AI that helps us understand needs and difficulties that need tackling

Build an innovation support program designed to adjust Wikimedia solutions to that specific region. It is implemented in different regional contexts and adjusted according to the specific needs of that region, facilitated by regional moderators and coaches

Create a comprehensive follow-along platform where a user can follow along a global step-by-step innovation process

Build a system where shared documentations/ shared experiences within the Movement can be synchronized easily to other platforms (Discord, Telegram, WhatsApp and more)

Initiate an innovation playground that empowers the community to experiment with new features and collectively decide on the ones that will be integrated permanently

Incorporate a SCRUM-like management system for maintenance (or innovation) so that progresses become visible

Build a WikiGPT that works across all Wikimedia projects to help localize content

Make resources and systems more accessible and popular through a marketplace documenting relevant information and resources

Establish an interactive, flexible idea sharing platform

Create an AI-powered virtual assistant to help newcomers contribute to Wikimedia projects
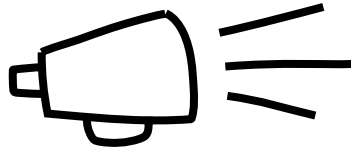
Ideas on Media & Marketing

Create more marketing campaigns showcasing innovative success stories in the Movement and increasing visibility of existing resources

Start a Wiki radio or podcast broadcasted in various languages, talking about innovation processes rather than their solutions
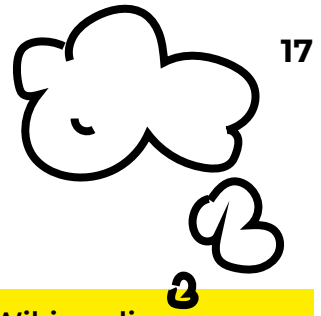
Establish an "innovation of the month/year" award

Curate a Movement podcast on innovations, innovation tools and mindsets

Create short informational and educational video content on innovation processes

Ideas on Mindset Shift

Create a set of mindset prompts for members of the Movement to live by that might foster a more creative culture of innovation. These might include staying curious, overcoming our fear of new tech advancements, and embracing failure

Be open to trying a new tool, innovation or tech application every three months in each affiliate

Set up a Wikimedia mindfulness app on the values and mindsets we need to foster a culture of innovation in our Movement

Celebrate failure by organizing "failure nights" where we share projects that didn't work and how we were challenged by our initiatives, incorporate music and dancing

Ideas on Collaboration

Create a space for peer exchange and mediation that focuses on promoting connections between similar projects or ideas across the Movement as a means to join forces and promote more cross-community efforts

Develop a capacity-exchange system for peer learning and skill sharing on innovation topics

Create a system for frequent program shadowing across affiliates

Establish a buddy system where the "tech godfathers/-mothers" of our Movement advise affiliates on how to incorporate new tools and technologies into their daily work
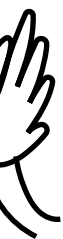
Organize decentralized events that bring together developers and community members for idea generation, troubleshooting, a helpdesk and more

Organize workshops or learning festivals with external experts on different topics related to tech and new technical advancements

Collaborate more with other communities and organizations in the same field; set up partnerships with universities and students; with developers and tech providers

Develop tandem programs or partnerships where representatives of underrepresented communities advise product and software teams

Collaborate with startups building new tools on AI that reference Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects, learn from other communities and organizations

Get in touch!
We are available for you:

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Re-Imagining UNLOCK: Building a
New Innovation Format for the Movement

Initiated by:
Wikimedia Deutschland

In collaboration with:
Wikimedia Argentina
Wikimedia Community User Group Kenya
Wikimedia Community User Group Tanzania
Wikimedia Community User Group Uganda
Wikimedia Serbia

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