We learned one thing from organizing the Wikimedia Conference. How could we apply this in the Movement?

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WMCON

- Wikimedia Conference is the annual gathering of the affiliates + WMF
- Privilege of being one of the few continuous event hosts in the movement
- Earlier this year, we published a 3 year report on organizing WMCON 2015–2017
Our 4 key takeaways:

○ Move away from being a one-stop shop
○ Focus the event on strategy and governance
○ Strengthen the profile and infrastructure of Wikimedia events, regionally and globally
○ Build more and stronger connections to be a truly global movement
Our suggestion
  - WMCON will focus on Strategy + Governance
  - Move “learning” to regional + thematic conferences
Let’s focus on learning #3: Strengthen the profile and infrastructure of Wikimedia events, regionally and globally.
We have some thoughts + questions for you about this.
#1: Organizing more conferences leads to (more) burn out of volunteers
#2: Logistics are top priority; programs lack quality
#3: How can we ensure that events stay connected?
#4: How can (volunteer, rotating) organizers pass on the knowledge?
#5: Learning equity > Knowledge equity
Change is coming, we need to improve.

How should we move forward?
Enkosi!

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Thoughts / Comments
(based on notes taken by Cornelius afterwards)
Thoughts on regionalization of events / the events “eco-system”

- Wikimania 2018 was successful because of its contextualization (Nikki)
- I’d like to see more regional events, think about “satellite Wikimania” or “satellite WMCONs” (Phoebe)
- Regional conferences are less useful for me, because budget-wise I cannot go to all of them. WMCON is highly attractive to due its high concentration of people (James A.)
- Regional conferences are a waste of energy (Deror)
- Idea: Regional ambassadors between regional events (Elena)
 Thoughts on improvement of conference programs

- Wikimania is a one-stop-shop as well, we need to improve a lot on the program, differentiate (Phoebe)
- On conferences, like here at Wikimania, we should focus on agenda doing, not (only) on agenda setting (Lukas)
Further thoughts on conferences in the Movement

- Re-think what kind of content needs (as in: can only) be discussed in person, and what can be done online? (Elena)
- Conferences are more and more pushing the participants to their (physical) limits (Andrei)
- How can we collaborate better beyond language barriers / regions? (Andrei)
- We’re not really including out surroundings at events, we don’t include enough local people like here at Wikimania (Vernon)
- We need to be more outside together, to have joint experiences outside (Stacy)
- Have you thought about offering special tourism programs to avoid no shows at WMCON itself? (Yuri)