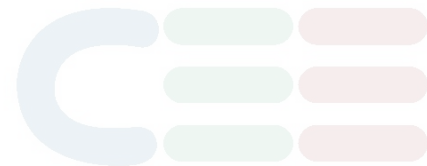


# CEE Hub Proposal 2022

*Wikimedians of CEE, CEE Hub Group*



# Agenda

---

- How did we get here?
- Research summary
- Proposal
- Governance
- Endorsements

*Please raise your hand if you don't understand a topic that we are talking about :-)*



# How did we get here? The road so far

---

- Wikimedians of CEE since 2011
- Start of designing a CEE Hub in October 2020
- Research since mid-2021
- Decision to move forward with the CEE Hub at CEE Meeting 2021
- Grant proposal to be submitted by mid-March 2022



# Research summary (1)

---

- The CEE research provides the basis for the work and the goals of the CEE Hub
- Survey among the CEE communities with 12 responses
- Interviews with 21 affiliates and communities between September 2021 and February 2022
- Others were contacted but didn't have time or didn't respond in time



## Research summary (2) - Findings

---

- Administrative burden in communities is too high for the small number of volunteers willing to engage in this kind of work
  - Spending time on administrative works takes away from programmatic work
  - Even small tasks like responding to emails or filling out forms become overwhelming when they pile up
  - A lot of legal and financial responsibility rests on volunteers
  - CEE Spring shows a way of how the administrative burden can be reduced



*I think the reason it feels like we have less of this resource than we actually have, is because we get caught up so much in the administration of the activities (...) We are so consumed by applying for the rapid grants, administering the rapid grant, sorting out prices, and all the administrative work that goes with putting together an event like 'Wiki Loves Monuments', that we then... [ ] ... don't have the capacity to do the other things*



## Research summary (3) - Findings

---

- Global participation and cooperation is complicated and overwhelming
  - Too many things to participate in internationally
  - Difficult to know who to talk to at the WMF (also because of the high turnover at the WMF)
  - Information often only provided in English or non-CEE languages
- Technical support for volunteer tools that many communities rely on to conduct projects is lacking
- Some affiliates have difficulty receiving funds



## Research summary (4) - More details...

---

- Detailed report (also in order to fulfill the strategy grant) will be filed in the next few weeks
- Other findings will also be highlighted in the grant proposal
- You can contact [cee-hub-l@wikimedia.pl](mailto:cee-hub-l@wikimedia.pl) if you are from an affiliate or community that hasn't been interviewed yet, to build connections and understand what your needs are





# CEE Hub Motto!

- Together Through Diversity
- Aim high!
- Let's build a bridge!
- CEE forward!
- Improve together!

- CEE HUB - we see and act with you
- Enhance Education through Wikipedia!
- To Know Wisdom and Get Information.
- Go bigger!



# Proposal - Introduction

---

- Application for a grant from the General Support Fund
- Goal of establishing a stable structure that can rely on multi-year funding
- Fiscal sponsor will be Wikimedia Poland
- No centralised structure, goal is to distribute the funds across the CEE region and use existing affiliate infrastructure
- No general distinction between EU and non-EU countries



# Proposal - Mission

---

- The CEE Hub is the formalisation of the CEE network that exists since 2011
- Create a stable structure with fair access for every community in the CEE region
- Support communities that weren't part of the initial growth of Wikimedia affiliates in the early 2010s
- Solve challenges that all CEE communities face together
- Move towards the 2030 strategy goals together



# Proposal - Principles

---

- The CEE Hub is the formalisation of the structures and connections we have built in the region since 2011
- The CEE Hub is owned by the communities, with equal access for everyone
- The CEE Hub is a network of non-profit organisations and Wikimedia communities
- The CEE Hub is a knowledge network
- The CEE Hub is not a political network



# Proposal - Short-term goals - Administrative

---

- Simplify and enable administrative processes that currently reside with the WMF
  - Support communities in writing applications for WMF grants, or pooling requirements and writing applications on their behalf (similar to how CEE Spring is handled)
  - Find solutions together with affiliates who have trouble receiving funds
- Act as a hub for communities and affiliates to connect with other interested parties (affiliates, thematic projects, campaigns, ...)



# Proposal - Short-term goals - Programmatic

---

- Create support structure for programmatic work, like research, technological or outreach work
- Develop initiatives that build the capacity of volunteers, affiliates and communities in general
- Support and maintain the participation of communities in regional/global projects like WLM, WLE, WikiScience Competition and others
- Facilitate development, maintenance and adoption of new technological features (both volunteer tools and WMF tools)
- Support region-wide efforts in topics that aren't tackled locally

# Proposal - Short-term goals - Communication

---

- Establish and maintain connections between individuals, initiatives and communities within and outside of the CEE Hub
  - In-person visits, Capacity Exchange Platform (cXc), etc.
- Support information flow between CEE communities and the wider movement (FKAGEU, other regional hubs, etc.)
- Streamline and structure communication channels in CEE
  - Make it easier to find news on a particular topic or stay up-to-date with news
- Onboarding of volunteers and staff members interested in international work



# Proposal - Long-term goals

---

- Decentralisation of processes and decision-making
- Create organisational knowledge that is not dependant on individuals
- Grant making within the CEE region
- Facilitate conflict resolution within communities
- Fundraising within Wikimedia projects and outside of them
- ...





# Budget

---

- Aim is to have three staff members by the CEE Meeting in October 2022
- Depending on their location, either WMPL or the local affiliate will take over their salary part of the grant
- Other items include equipment, travel and legal services
- Administrative overhead for the affiliates hosting a staff member are ~8% of the total budget
- Uncertainty of many of the next steps adds considerable contingencies to the budget (~30% of total budget)
- Total budget estimated between 100,000 - 150,000 USD

# Governance (1)

---

- Interim Steering Committee (CEE SteerCo) will oversee the implementation of the CEE Hub until the CEE Meeting 2022
  - If you are interested in participating in the Interim Steering Committee, please email [cee-hub-1@wikimedia.pl](mailto:cee-hub-1@wikimedia.pl)
  - SteerCo is also tasked with creating a governance process until the CEE Meeting 2022
  - Selection/Election of the new Steering Committee will then take place around the CEE Meeting in October 2022



# Governance (2)

---

- Responsibilities of the SteerCo
  - Manage grant funds
  - Oversee the hiring of the CEE Coordinator (possibly involving outside help)
    - CEE Coordinator will have similar role and responsibilities as an ED of an affiliate
  - Further hiring of staff will be conducted jointly by SteerCo and CEE Coordinator
  - Support planning of the CEE Meeting 2022



# Next steps

---

- Endorsements will be important in order to show that this CEE Hub proposal is supported by many affiliates and communities
  - You can sign the list on Meta at [\[\[Wikimedia CEE Hub\]\]](#) as an individual or for your affiliate
- Deadline for the General Support Fund proposal is March 18th, 2022
- Final decision will be made on May 18th, 2022
- Planned funding is scheduled to start in June 2022



# Thank You!

---

- Thanks to Klára, Ivana, Natalia, Susanna, Željko, Gergő, Reda, Stas, Michał, Łukasz, Kiril, Anton, Mickey, Mykola, Vladimir, Philip, and Farhad!
- Thank you to every one of you shared their views in interviews, surveys, at the CEE Meetings and in other discussions!
- Thanks to Kaarel, Chris and Cornelius for replying open and honestly to sometimes pretty difficult questions!
- Thanks for taking part in this meeting!

