

# State of the community

Dariusz Jemielniak, “pundit”

(the WMF Trustee)

**Wikimania 2016**

<http://tiny.cc/wikimania>



# State of the community?



I do not know.

And I am not sure anyone does

# Disclaimer

User digest presentations are talks which provide an overview of a topic and are meant to be useful to anyone, without any particular background knowledge

Read more here: [https://wikimania2016.wikimedia.org/wiki/User\\_digest\\_presentations](https://wikimania2016.wikimedia.org/wiki/User_digest_presentations)

# [[Wikimedia projects]]

Wikipedia	Wiktionary	Wikiquote	Wikibooks
Wikisource	Wikispecies	Wikinews	Wikiversity
Wikivoyage	Commons	Wikidata	MediaWiki
Meta-Wiki	Incubator	Labs	Foundation

From [https://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Our\\_projects](https://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Our_projects)

- Thus 16 different projects\*
- 11 of them are content projects (Wikipedia, Wikibooks, Wikiversity, Wikinews, Wiktionary, Wikisource, Wikiquote, Wikivoyage, Wikimedia Commons, Wikidata, Wikispecies)
- 8 of them can be in different languages...

\*A full listing of Wikimedia projects is available here: <https://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Special:SiteMatrix>

- Wikipedias exist in almost 300 different languages...
  - But **only around 100 of them** are active and mature enough to be **useful as encyclopedias**

\*A list of Wikipedias is available here: [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Wikipedias](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/List_of_Wikipedias)

# Structure

- A core element and basis is **Volunteers**
- [[Wikimedia Foundation]], a non-profit American organisation, was founded by the community in 2003 to support Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects

Read more here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia\\_Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation)



- In 2004 Wikimedia Deutschland, the first Wikimedia chapter was organised
  - As of now 42 chapters exist formally, (2 of them are long-time inactive)
  - 60 informal user groups exist

Read more here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Wikimedia\\_chapters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Wikimedia_chapters)  
[https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia\\_user\\_groups](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_user_groups)

# [[Special:RecentChanges]]\*

\* Mostly some of the recent changes Dariusz highlighted in his original slides

- **SuperProtect** (a WMF mistake) was removed from the codebase
- Even many veteran editors are switching to **Visual Editor**
- The **last Board elections** engaged the largest number of votes (over 5.5 thousand votes)

- The WMF's annual plan is back under some community evaluation (through the FDC)
- Fundraising toward a \$100 million endowment to secure the future of the projects has begun
- New ED; restored staff morale and trust; basis for rebuilding

# Some Persistent Problems\*

\* Mostly some of the recent changes Dariusz highlighted in his original slides

- A large and stable **gender gap** among contributors, as well as low participation outside Europe and North America
- **Insufficient communication** from the (overworked) Board
- A bit of **stagnation** and preference for things to stay as they were (even though technology and social expectations change)

- Low (and declining) participation in **inter-community dialogue** (on mailing lists, Meta). (But rise in dialogue via Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.)
- **Harassment**, especially by established contributors, is still tolerated on many of the projects.

Thoughts for the future



- **Better communication across the movement** (including from the board) should greatly reduce frustration for all parties:
  - When to engage with planning? With decisions?
  - Where and how to engage effectively?
- Many large questions (“strategy”, “identity”) have been attention-starved for too long. We should make significant progress on them this coming year

# Questions?

[ntymkiv@wikimedia.org](mailto:ntymkiv@wikimedia.org)

[[user:antanana]]