How can we work better together? Part 1

WikiIndaba - Tunis 2018

Friday, March 16

Raise your hands!

- Who has worked with other Wikimedia affiliates on a specific project?
- Who has worked with external partners on a project?
- Who has sought funding together with a partner?
- Who would like to expand their collaboration with partners?

What we know

- Everyone in the movement works with partners: either external partners or partners within the movement
- External partners: GLAMs, schools, NGOs, government, public institutions, media
- Movement partners: other affiliates, WMF, different communities

What happened?

- A bunch of us thought: we can do better!
- There is so much experience and knowledge around working with partners, but we share so little of it within the movement.
- Partnerships track (WMConference), partnerships group, partnerships workshop (2 x Berlin), partnership workshops at regional conferences
- Many people work towards improve and expanding collaboration within our movement – some even in this room!

And why all that?

- If we work with partners, we can achieve more and have a greater impact!
- Working as partners within the movement will make us more effective in using existing resources and will build a stronger movement
- Only if we work well together and share our knowledge, we will be able to achieve our vision for a movement in 2030

WikiIndaba 2017

3 main themes emerged from our Partnerships workshop:

1. The need to grow and maintain a **Community**
2. Clear and concise **Communication**
3. Constant and efficient **Outreach**

Partnerships Workshops 2017

4 themes emerged from our workshop, based on the new strategic direction:

1. Diversity and Alignment
2. Resources and Structures
3. Collaboration, Learning and Sharing
4. Trust and Culture

And more than anything, many questions were posed!

Some of our questions

Culture and Trust

1. How do we create trust between our communities and new partners?
2. How do we build trust within the movement?
3. How can the movement grow into a culture of service and equity?

Structure and Resources

1. How do we improve the current structures to create the environment for an inclusive and participatory movement?
2. What are the roles of the various constituents in the movement?
3. How does the movement approach to obtaining funding have to change with the new strategic direction?
4. What is the kind of change required for distribution of resources in order to achieve diversity and equity?

Some of our questions

Diversity and Alignment

1. How do we as a movement grow in our diversity while retaining alignment on Wikimedia values and vision?
2. To what extent do we need to be aligned with our partners and allies and how do we get there?
3. How do we make sure we are ready to partner in terms of resources and competencies?

By alignment we mean functioning basically as one movement, having same core values, similar understanding of who we are and why and how we operate, as well as future goals that support each other.

Sharing and Learning

1. How do we ensure organizational learning?
2. How do we encourage partners to share experience and lessons learned?
3. How can we localize lessons learned?
4. How can we learn from failures of others?

Now: what are your questions?

How can we work better together?

But first, please get up!

Partnerships within the movement

- Collaboration on projects, programs, grants, events and much more
- Collaboration between affiliates (chapters, user groups, thematic orgs)
- Collaboration between a chapter/user group and the WMF
- Collaboration between an affiliate and a Wikipedia community
- Collaboration between an affiliates and the FDC
- Also includes partnerships where you get money from your partner to run your program!

- Not: Partnerships with companies, other NGOs, public institutions

First question:
How long have you been involved with the Wikimedia movements and its projects?

Second question: How do you think collaboration currently works in the Wikimedia movement?

Third question:
How do you think collaboration currently works within the African community?

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Now it‘s time for group work!

Please find three other people that you don‘t know very well for the next exercise

You need a few materials!

Please pick up:

- **a marker**
- **A sheet of flipchart paper**

Now:
Please choose someone from within your group

to document your discussion on the flipchart paper

Now:
I am going to ask you a few questions!

The task:
Please write down as many QUESTIONS as possible that come to mind

Important:
We are not looking for answers!

First question:
How can we improve collaboration within the African community?

5 minutes

Example:
„I think, African user groups should have more in-person meetings.“

As a question:
„Should African user groups have more in-person meetings?“

Also good: Why and how questions

Second question: How can we improve collaboration within the Wikimedia movement?

5 minutes

Now, please write down the names of your group members on the flipchart paper

And pin the paper to the walls

Cornelius Kibelka (WMDE), How can affiliates work better together, part 1, WikiIndaba 2018 02, CC BY-SA 4.0

Cornelius Kibelka (WMDE), How can affiliates work better together, part 1, WikiIndaba 2018 02, CC BY-SA 4.0

Questions, sorted by groups

John Cummings, Gereon Kalkuhl, Felix Nartey, May Hachem

How can we improve collaboration within the African community?

- Do existing African communities have the resources to support other communities?
- What kind of incentives are needed to encourage volunteerin in countries where there is no volunteering culture?
- What technical barriers exist that the community can solve?
- What policies exist that are a barrier to contribution and collaboration?

How can we improve collaboration within the Wikimedia movement?

- Is there competition between affiliates and why does this happen?
- What effect does the funding model has on collaboration?
- Why is it sometimes easier to things on your own that work with others?
- Why don't we feel inclined to work together to achieve common goals?

Dumi, Ahmed, Mahuton, Fay, Anthere

How can we improve collaboration within the African community?

- Should we restore the African hour?
- Should we imagine more continent-wide projects?
- Should we set up an African newsletter?
- Should we all learn French?

How can we improve collaboration within the Wikimedia movement?

- Would identification of current ongoing projects help?
- Would identification of difficult or easy types of projects help?
- Should we all be able to communicate in French?
- Should we have a common platform to share initiatives?

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Questions, sorted by groups

Mourad, Isla, Stephane, Woubzena, Mohammed

How can we improve collaboration within the African community?

- Do we need more transcontinental projects?
- Would it be better to work at regional level rather than continental?
- How do we start communities where there are none?
- Should we focus on languages vs countries?
- Should there be a central organisation facilitating collaboration?

How can we improve collaboration within the Wikimedia movement?

- Should there be cross-regional collaboration?
- Should there be more global initiatives with collaboration to implement?
- How do we maintain and scale up events? (ex. WLA with new themes)
- How successful projects can be maintained and given stability/security/continuity?

Blossom, Reda, Alex, Lodewijk

How can we improve collaboration within the African community?

- Do we need more user groups?
- Is there enough human capacity for facilitation?
- Should we make moving between countries easier?
- What shared activities can help boost shared ownership and identity?
- How can we better support knowledge exchange?
- Who can we have more on-wiki collaboration / join activities?
- Do we need an “African” coalition like CEE/IberoCoop?
- How can we build mutual trust? (between groups & between groups and WMF)

How can we improve collaboration within the Wikimedia movement?

- How can we become less dependent on individual brokers? (increase the bus factor)
- Can we make reporting less tedious, exhausting, discouraging, painful?
- What communication channels do we need?
- Is the Foundation responsible to make collaboration happen?
- Do people *want* to collaborate? Why? Why not?

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Questions, sorted by groups

Mohamed, Eugene, Erina, Jack

How can we improve collaboration within the African community?

- How can African communities support each other?
- What are the barriers that prevent others from collaborating?
- How do we capture other people's interest?
- Which common goals can improve synciny between African wiki users?
- Beyond regional conferences, how do we communicate with one another?
- Who can we share experiences?
- After collaboration, how do we collect feedback?

How can we improve collaboration within the Wikimedia movement?

- How do you reach out to others within the movement?
- How do we group barriers / challenges?
- How to explain / understand other cultures?
- Should we have more regional events to discuss similar shared experiences?

Douglas, Dereck, Dzoma, Kacie

How can we improve collaboration within the African community?

- How many groups are in the African community?
- What do we need to improve?
- Should we focus on building friendships?
- How can we overcome distance?
- What are the ways we can collaborate?
- What do African communities need to collaborate on?
- What are the easy collaboration problems we can solve first?
- How can communities resolve conflicts?
- What similar problems or needs do African communities have?
- What tools do communities use now?

How can we improve collaboration within the Wikimedia movement?

- How can we understand the movement better?
- How do we make it easier to meet and connect with others?
- How do we communicate better? Is there something better than e-mail?
- How do we share what we are working on?

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Questions, sorted by groups

Georges, Reda, Marc Miquel, Noha Dammak
(translated from French into English)

How can we improve collaboration within the African community?

- Could we do a regional breakdown of projects in Africa? (*Peut-on faire un découpage régional des projets en Afrique? Ex. Afrique du Nord, Africa central, Afrique de l'ouest)*
- Can we share experiences of projects carried out for their realization in other communities? *(Peut-on partager l'expérience des projets réalisés pour leur réalisation dans d'autres communautés?)*

How can we improve collaboration within the Wikimedia movement?

- Why not create links of the Foundation in each content in order to decentralize the actors of movement? *(Pourquoi pas créer des relais de la Fondation dans chaque content afin de décentralisés les acteurs de mouvement?)*

Rosalie, Reem Alkashif, Anass Sedrati, Hichem Bekhti

How can we improve collaboration within the African community?

- How do we focus on the topic in discussion and avoid conflicts? (no politics, no religion etc.)
- How can we move from the local context to the regional one?
- How can we grow the local communities?
- How do we put local and regional/international activity on the same scale?

How can we improve collaboration within the Wikimedia movement?

- How can we share experience more?
- How do we promote the local work internationally?

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Questions, sorted by groups

Mompati Dikumal, Olushola Olanyan, Ana Brandusescu, Rossou, Meriem Machghoul

How can we improve collaboration within the African community?

- Why collaboration not working among African communities?
- Why don’t we have accessible and open internet in Africa?
- What are the barriers to transform knowledge among African communities?
- Why is Wikipedia regarded as an untrusted source in African schools?
- How can we prevent regarded internet shutdowns in Africa?
- Why aren’t oral citations not regarded as reliable sources?
- What is the best way to support the Wikimedia movement in Africa?
- How much knowledge in Wikimedia movement is available in Africa?

Further thoughts and recommendations

- Collaboration: Forming good working relationships with local/national regulatory authority
- Barriers: Language, time, digital skills, volunteering, awareness
- Trust: creating more awareness and outreach programs

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