

What we learned from pre-hackathons across the region

Andrei, Claudia, Jan, Marios, Rachel, Tamás



Wikimedia Hackathon 17







- Two coding workshops 6 weeks prior to the Hackathon (one for all genders, one for female/non-binary)
- Finding and preparing suitable mentors
- Outreach to and cooperation with hack spaces, feminist (hacker) networks, and like-minded communities
- Goals: install party, Wikidata basics, networking and group feeling, getting people interested in the Wikiverse

- The location/venue has a large influence on the atmosphere
- Retention rate among the participants of women/non-binary coders workshop much higher
- Clearer management of expectations of what happens during the workshops
- Laundry lists of how to prepare for the workshops (how much space on the laptops is needed etc.)
- Wikidata is a better entry especially for the more new coders



- Contact with OKF and SheSharp
- Used WMF wishlist
- One single-event with ampitheater for talks and a large room for hacking
- 20' talks on Mediawiki, Phabricator,
 AutoWikiBrowser, Open Data
- Hacking covered MediaWiki, Pywikibot,
 Mobile, AutoWikiBrowser and
 documentation for rookies

What did we learn?

- Phabricator is not easy for newcomers
- WMF wishlist is not appropriate target
- More tutorials
- Need to repeat event! (WikiFemHack!)

Logistics:

- 150 attendees
- 85 participants (40% female)
- Budget all covered by sponsors



- Contact long-time university partners
- Prepare grading interface to allow objective grading
- 3 hackathons throughout the semester
- Large coverage of topics, from Upload
 Wizard (still not reviewed :() to MediaWiki
 core and Pywikibot
- A lot of good will: nobody left without at least a patch submitted

- The partner's recent activity (or lack thereof) can affect you badly
- MediaWiki Vagrant setup is a pain. Some already prepared Virtual Machines would make thing work more smoothly
- Promotion! Promotion!



- Long-time event planning
- E-mail + Wikimedia campaign
- Online survey + connection building with other communities
- Combined event:
 - Introduction + education
 - Discussions and hacking
- Three main topics:
 - MediaWiki, Wikimedia infrastructure,
 ecosystem, Wikimedia APIs
 - Wikidata + SPARQL, queries, pywikibot
 - Maps and Wikimedia

- Make it clear, what is the realistic goal
- Local WM tech. community is very weak
- Registered vs. participating number
- Keeping the schedule is important
- Making these event regular can help on long term





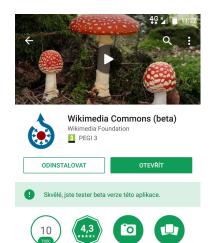
Organisation

- 12 attendants
- 4 days
- Organised by non-tech Vojta and tech
 Josephine

What did we do?

- Improving Commons app
 - bugfixing
 - Two steps verification
 - Map of unphotographed places
 - Everything continues in Vienna
- Promoting materials
 - o To present the app in Vienna

- Get the team together!
- How to organise small international event (first day problems:)
- Home atmosphere (accommodation, venue, events)
- Everything at one place (work, food)





WMF Technical Collaboration Team

What do we do?

- Support for volunteer developers
- Onboarding new developers
- Multilingual technical documentation support (coming soon)
- Featured projects and their mentors year round (coming soon)
- Quantitative and qualitative research on volunteer developers: Who are they? Why are they here? How can we help? (coming soon)
- Technical Events (Hackathons / Dev Summit)

How can we help?

- Help support your event:
 - o WMF developers
 - o event organization advice / documentation
- Phabricator trainings
- Connect your local developers with:
 - Programs (Google summer of code, outreachy, etc.)
 - o International community of developers
- Organize the spring Wikimedia hackathon together.
- Review rapid grants funding request before submission

