



Vivier de Projets Numériques

Pool of Digital Projects

A project by



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## Introduction

Vivier de Projets Numériques - Pool of Digital Projects (VPN) is a European project run by Animafac, Action Médias Jeunes, EPMA and HelloAsso. The aim of the project is to provide young people with tools to help them create digital tools to support their commitments. This best practice guide complements the tools that have already been created. It is aimed at those in society who want to help and support these committed young people in their projects. It suggests a range of actions to be taken, based on examples from all levels of organisation and for all budgets. These actions are initiatives that would certainly not have been possible without adequate funding. We would therefore strongly encourage any organisations that are able to do so to offer support, calls for projects, grants or any other form of funding to young people involved in digital projects with a positive impact.

The topics covered are those identified in the videos produced as part of the VPN project, and include examples of good practices seen in Europe:

- Collaboration and sharing practices
- Eco-friendly digital technologies
- Digital for all
- Digital accessibility
- Protection of personal data

## Collaboration and sharing practices

The Internet and digital technologies have always represent spaces for sharing and collaboration, but some initiatives are reinforcing this approach by setting up forms of collaboration that have a more ethical, or less profit-oriented, dimension than those we are used to see.

### Molengeek

<https://molengeek.com/coworking>

Molengeek is a non-profit organisation based in Brussels. Its aim is to stimulate digital entrepreneurship and make technology accessible to everyone. The organisation offers a wide range of digital training courses, as well as a workspace open to all. The workspace is free, as long as you give some of your time to share your knowledge with the other people working there. This is a particularly interesting format, because it allows people of modest means not only to find a place to work, but also to learn from the experiences of others and share their own.

By offering both training and a stimulating workplace for committed young people, Molengeek is creating a fertile breeding ground for new projects. Among other things, the organisation offers training in programming, graphic design and digital marketing, enabling young people to master the technical, commercial and strategic aspects of their ideas. In addition, Molengeek enables networking and access to other organisations and institutions that support positive impact projects.

## Latitudes

<https://www.latitudes.cc/>

The Latitudes association, based in France, is a community of technology players who share a common vision: to create a committed and responsible technology. Bringing together professionals, entrepreneurs, researchers and digital enthusiasts, Latitudes promotes the ethical and thoughtful use of technology to tackle societal issues. The association works to raise awareness and mobilise the tech community around issues such as the environmental impact of technology, privacy protection and digital accessibility.

Latitudes offers a number of initiatives enabling committed young people to receive advice and support for their digital projects.

Its "1h pour changer le monde" (1 hour to change the world) programme offers invaluable advice free of charge to non-profit organisations, and therefore to committed young people. For one hour, they can take advantage of free advice from a technical specialist.

The programme is also accompanied by a call for projects to take positive-impact projects further with a group of engineering or computer science students. Finally, the "Tech for good" community is also a source of great solidarity and a network for all those involved in the digital sector, with a common messaging system for all members across France, the organisation of innovative events in different cities, and so on.

## Youth Forum

<https://www.youthforum.org/>

This platform is a website dedicated to the self-organisation of young people by young people. It brings together structures (associations, informal groups, networks, etc.) made up of committed young people across Europe, enabling them to exchange ideas, create joint projects and meet each other. Founded by the Council of Europe, the Erasmus+ agency and the European Youth Foundation, this platform provides a range of organisational tools for committed young people.

The platform brings together discussion forums, examples of projects by committed young people, and tools for training, self-assessment and analysis of current political events. Its ambition is to give visibility to the opinions of committed young people from a political and democratic point of view, so that they can bring the issues that interest them to the attention of political, European and/or local authorities. By putting young people in touch with each

other, the platform hopes to create synergies that will enable committed young people to help each other and make their voices heard collectively.

## Eco-friendly digital technologies

To think about the world of tomorrow without considering the environmental impact of our actions on the planet is impossible in view of the climate emergency. That's why we've selected a number of initiatives that take a step towards ecological responsibility and enable committed young people to combine ecology with the realisation of projects that have a positive impact.

### French government donations website

<https://dons.encheres-domaine.gouv.fr/>

The French government's donations website is an initiative aimed at encouraging the re-use of surplus or unused movable assets from public bodies in France. This online platform enables administrations and other public sector bodies to donate a wide variety of goods such as office furniture and IT equipment. The aim is, on the one hand, to reduce waste by preventing these goods from being thrown away and, on the other hand, to support local initiatives and associations that can benefit from these resources.

By offering household goods and, in particular, surplus and/or unused IT equipment, this platform enables young people to considerably reduce their project start-up costs, while at the same time taking an environmentally-friendly approach to reuse. Although set up here at state level, this initiative can be replicated in government departments, businesses, foundations and even large organisations structures.

### Institute for Sustainable IT

<https://isit-europe.org/>

The Swiss Institute for Sustainable IT (ISIT) is an association founded in 2020 with the aim of creating a space for reflection and action dedicated to responsible digital technology. ISIT is committed to three key areas: reducing the economic, social and environmental footprint of digital technology; using digital technology to reduce humanity's overall carbon footprint; and creating sustainable value through digital technology by promoting inclusion. The association brings together companies and organisations to promote best practices for a regenerative, inclusive and ethical digital world. ISIT tackles a range of technical subjects, uses and social aspects, and explores the role of digital technology in the transition to a more sober, virtuous and circular economy.

ISIT is an asset for committed young people who want to develop digital projects with a positive impact. By becoming members of this association, they commit to a responsible digital approach and benefit from a solid network of experts in the field. What's more, this initiative strengthens their ability to design digital solutions that have a positive impact on the

society while preserving our planet. This enables them to make more responsible technological choices and reduce the carbon footprint of their projects.

## Alliance Green IT Global

<https://alliancegreenit.org/green-it-global>

The Alliance Green IT (AGIT) is an association of professionals committed to promoting responsible IT. It strives to become a benchmark for Green IT by bringing together manufacturers, service providers and users of IT equipment and software. The aim of the alliance is to raise awareness, share best practice and promote the adoption of environmentally-friendly IT technologies and strategies. The association is also the originator of the Green IT Barometer, a tool that assesses the degree of maturity of companies in terms of their environmental responsibility strategy and practices.

As an organisation committed to Green IT, the Alliance Green IT (AGIT) offers committed young people privileged access to a network of professionals involved in responsible digital technology. This collaboration enables them to connect with a large community of players who share similar objectives. In addition, the Green IT barometer developed by AGIT can help committed young people to assess and improve the sustainability of their projects.

## Digital for all

Even today, digital technology is still seen as a male domain, where women and gender minorities are still few in numbers. But this doesn't have to be the inevitable outcome, and across Europe, structures and initiatives are being set up to change this state of affairs and make digital technology more inclusive of these groups in particular.

## Czechitas

<https://www.czechitas.cz/en-2/courses>

Czechitas is a non-profit organisation based in the Czech Republic dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in the field of information technology. The association's mission is to reduce gender disparities in the technology sector by offering programming and digital training to women and girls.

Czechitas offers young people the chance to acquire cutting-edge technical skills at their own rhythm, whether through evening classes or more intensive training. By adapting to the needs of the women who join their programme, Czechitas opens up new employment prospects and projects for these women. In addition, Czechitas encourages the creation of an inclusive and supportive environment that enables women to combat their imposter syndrome and gain self-confidence.

## The Government's Gender 2021 programme

<https://www.digitalwallonia.be/fr/publications/femmes-et-numerique-2/>

The Gender 2021 project of the Agence Du Numérique is a Belgian initiative of the Walloon government aimed at mapping inclusive management practices in the digital sector. After a first 3-year cycle focusing on training women, this time the programme is interested in promoting and documenting what keeps women in digital companies. The programme includes a study of the situation on the ground within digital companies, analysing the challenges faced by women and identifying best practices for promoting gender diversity.

The Gender 2021 initiative presents a valuable opportunity to understand how to make young people's projects more inclusive and thus avoid the pitfalls of a lack of women in the digital field. By providing data on the participation of women in the technology sector, this initiative will provide a better understanding of gender-related challenges in the digital sector.

## Wikipedia queer edit camp

[https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia\\_for\\_Peace/Wikipedia\\_for\\_Peace:\\_Queer\\_Edit\\_2022](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia_for_Peace/Wikipedia_for_Peace:_Queer_Edit_2022)

The "Wikipedia for Peace: Queer edition" project is an initiative that aims to promote the inclusivity, diversity and visibility of queer people within the online encyclopaedia Wikipedia. The project mobilises editors and contributors from all over the world to create and improve articles related to queer issues, in particular by highlighting LGBTQ+ movements and people. The main aim is to fill content gaps and ensure that information on queer issues is accurate, well-sourced, comprehensive and accessible to all.

Through an event format set up for committed young people where all their travel, food and accommodation costs are covered. This kind of initiative enables young committed people to meet, exchange ideas and collectively improve their practices. By organising this meeting, Wikipedia for Peace is creating a network of peers who can meet each other, improve their technological skills and create a network of solidarity and mutual support.

## Digital accessibility

When it comes to digital technology for and by everyone, accessibility for people with disabilities is often overlooked in impact projects, as it can seem difficult to put in place. To remedy this problem, there are a number of initiatives that present different ways of including this issue in the projects of committed young people and raising their awareness of it.

## Youth lead

<https://www.youthlead.org/resources/making-digital-skills-initiatives-inclusive-young-persons-disabilities>

Youth lead is a network dedicated to young people working with these topics. Among many other projects, they have produced a guide to inclusive digital skills initiatives for young

people with disabilities. Focusing on the challenges of employing young people with disabilities in an increasingly digital economy, it aims to develop their digital skills so that they can have professional opportunities and a decent job.

This guide provides young people involved in digital projects with more information on how to include people with disabilities in their projects, as well as promoting the development of their digital skills. By focusing on inclusion and equal access to digital skills, it helps to build up a pool of diverse talent and shows that it's not so difficult to make digital inclusion a reality.

## **Diversity and Ability**

<https://diversityandability.com/>

Diversity and Ability (D&A) is a disability-led social enterprise dedicated to promoting inclusion, empowerment and diversity. It offers a wide range of services, including assistive technology training, academic skills enhancement and mentoring programmes specifically designed for the education sector. The company provides personalised support, workshops and training to help employees with disabilities in their work environment. In addition, D&A is actively involved in social justice projects to support marginalised communities, working with charities and associations.

For young people who aspire to create digital projects with a positive impact, Diversity and Ability (D&A) is a valuable resource, both in terms of putting young people in touch with people who are currently disabled, helping them to make their projects accessible, and also working with the organisation to include committed young people with disabilities in impact projects. This reciprocity is an interesting feature that makes it possible to consider the inclusiveness of projects, whatever their level of advancement.

## **Escape Game Hackstub**

<https://hackstub.eu/home/fr/schedule/escape-game-a11y-2>

Hackstub's "Digital Accessibility Escape Game" initiative aims to raise public awareness on the importance of digital accessibility. The project offers an immersive, fun experience, inspired by escape games, to highlight the challenges faced by people with disabilities when surfing the web. Participants are confronted with puzzles and obstacles related to digital accessibility, encouraging them to think about solutions and best practices for making the digital world more inclusive.

Escape Game Digital Accessibility can be very useful for committed young people who want to set up a digital project. This immersive experience makes them aware of the barriers faced by people with disabilities when interacting with online products and services, encouraging them to incorporate accessibility solutions into the design phase of their projects.



## Youth Knowledge

<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/young-people-social-inclusion-and-digitalisation>

The Youth Knowledge initiative explores the links between digitisation and the social inclusion of young people. It looks at the impact of digitisation on young people's lives and examines the potential role of youth policy, youth work and youth research in this context. This publication offers a critical analysis of the opportunities offered by digitalisation to foster the social inclusion of young people, exploring the policies, tools and platforms available in Europe. It focuses on aspects such as access to education and employment opportunities for young people, the development of digital youth work, the participation of young people with disabilities, the integration of migrant communities and young refugees, and support for young LGBTI people.

For committed young people who aspire to develop digital projects with a positive impact, this initiative is of great importance, as it documents many aspects on which they can take concrete action. Through the study, podcast and guides, committed young people can find inspiration for designing projects that support social inclusion, access to education and employment opportunities, groups such as young people with disabilities, migrants, refugees and LGBTI people.

## Protection of personal data

### Student Privacy Compass

<https://studentprivacycompass.org/>

Student Privacy Compass is an online platform that provides essential information on the protection of students' personal data. This information is aimed at a wide range of education stakeholders, including students themselves, their parents, teachers and local education agencies.

Student Privacy Compass provides a variety of essential resources on personal data protection. By exploring these resources, committed young people will have the opportunity to better understand the issues surrounding data confidentiality. They will also be able to access best practices and legal references that will help them design digital projects and services that respect the privacy of users, particularly their peers.

### Wiquaya

[https://en.wiquaya.org/practical\\_cases#section\\_title](https://en.wiquaya.org/practical_cases#section_title)

Wiquaya is an initiative set up in France by young LGBTQI+ people to protect the online privacy of the queer/lgbt+ community. It aims to enable members of this community to protect themselves against potential attacks or abuse on the Internet. Wiquaya offers scenarios to provide a practical response to the various situations that committed young people may encounter. The site also offers a list of tools, a glossary, summary infographics and a directory, designed to provide individuals in the queer/lgbt+ community with the means to strengthen their online safety and preserve their privacy on the Internet.

The Wiquaya initiative is extremely useful for committed young people who want to set up digital projects with a positive impact. The tools offered by Wiquaya can serve as a reference for developing technological projects that respect privacy and ethics, helping to create a more inclusive and secure Internet for everyone. But it's also an initiative that can help young people to learn about the specific issues facing these communities and think about how to better protect everyone's data.

## **Fight for the future**

<https://www.fightforthefuture.org/projects>

The "Fight for the Future" campaign is an activist initiative that fights for digital rights, the protection of online privacy and the defence of freedom of expression on the Internet. The campaign mobilises a vast community of activists, human rights defenders and organisations to raise awareness of the crucial issues affecting the digital world. "Fight for the Future" uses strategies such as online petitions, virtual demonstrations and awareness-raising actions to combat threats to net neutrality, mass surveillance and breaches of online privacy. The initiative aims to empower citizens and influence politicians to ensure that the Internet is open, accessible and respects the fundamental rights of every individual.

The "Fight for the Future" initiative is proving useful for committed young people as it offers a source of inspiration and resources for understanding the crucial issues relating to regulation, net neutrality, the protection of privacy and freedom of expression online. In addition, "Fight for the Future" provides them with tools and methods to advocate for fairer and more responsible digital policies, strengthening their ability to design technological solutions that respect fundamental rights.

The diversity of campaigns, actions and documentation can also inspire them in the design of their project and serve as a basis.