

UNLOCK Accelerator 2022 - Fact sheet

Tag line: We accelerate your ideas. Together we build the future of Free Knowledge.

What the accelerator is about: The UNLOCK Accelerator is committed to promoting solutions that make the world's knowledge more inclusive and accessible to all. To work towards this goal we believe in the power of open innovation and are looking for impact-driven ideas and concepts to support in our fully remote accelerator program. All project results developed during the program will be made publicly available under a free license. This year, the UNLOCK Accelerator is entering its third edition. Applications are open for teams from the German-speaking region (Austria, Germany, and Switzerland) and the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia).

What the accelerator offers: The UNLOCK Accelerator offers a structured online program that helps participating teams turn their idea into a functional product with the help of needs-oriented coaching. The project teams are accompanied and supported during their implementation phase and connected with each other in peer-to-peer sessions, and also with experts and supporters from an international network for input and working sessions. The program is hands-on and output-oriented. The working language is English. All project results developed during the program will be made publicly available under a free license. At the end of the program, participants have the opportunity to present their prototypes to the public.

On the application requirements: The program is open for teams of two to five members from from the German-speaking region (Austria, Germany, and Switzerland) and the Western Balkan (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) with a concrete idea that addresses this year's thematic challenge. We are looking for people with a start-up mentality, but a social spirit, who want to make a lasting impact on our knowledge society. Applications are open from April 5th to May 29th, 2022 at wikimedia.de/unlock.

Up to seven teams will be selected to participate in the UNLOCK Accelerator. The program starts at the end of June and closes in late October.

The thematic focus: The 2022 thematic focus of the UNLOCK Accelerator bears the title *Access to knowledge is a matter of equity*. The digital transformation positively influences the way we access, contribute to and share data, information and resources in the digital space. However, existing structures of power and privilege still exclude people from much of the world's knowledge, such as biases, under-representations and inequities. The result is a widening

knowledge gap. We are calling for technical and non-technical solutions that break down social and technical barriers preventing people from both accessing and contributing to free knowledge.

More information:

Website: <https://www.wikimedia.de/unlock/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNLOCK_Acc

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/unlock-acc>

Wikimedia Deutschland: Wikimedia Deutschland e.V. was founded in 2004 and is a non-profit organization with currently around 80,000 members. We understand equal opportunities in access to knowledge and education as a human right and are working to ensure that projects such as the free online encyclopedia Wikipedia can continue to exist in the future. The support of Wikipedia editors has been an integral part of the work of Wikimedia Deutschland, but we do much more: We support volunteers in many other Wikimedia projects, develop free software and technology, advocate for open science, education, and culture, and strengthen political conditions that enable free access to knowledge. More information: <https://www.wikimedia.de/>