Thinkathon Winning Recommendations

Our Digital Future c'est ICI
INCLUSION COLLABORATION INSPIRATION

1 *Montréal, Canada*

Digital Literacy   **Education**   **Disinformation**

Government officials at the provincial level should allocate the necessary resources to funding programs that are aimed to improve and expand universal digital literacy. They must prioritize vulnerable and excluded citizens through targeted and tailor-made initiatives.

2 *Montréal, Canada*

Data Privacy

A public consultation should be conducted to investigate the possibility to adopt a Canadian equivalent to the European Union "Right to be Forgotten" legislation.

3 *Brussels, Europe*

E-Voting   **Digital Comms**   **Data Privacy**

Our recommendation for policy makers would be to develop an easier, cheaper and trustable European e-voting system (by using new technologies such as the facial recognition and the block chain application). This will eventually be used at national level. This solution would integrate (and eventually replace) the existing, expensive and traditional "voting in person and in one day" system. Moreover, we would recommend extending the voting period (e.g. two weeks) to grant every citizen more time to vote. Finally, we would recommend enhancing and make the information flow between institutions and citizens more effective (and youth friendly). This can be done by using a more comprehensible language and the appropriate modern channels (e.g. social media).

4 *Brussels, Europe*

Taxation   **Transparency**   **Security**

We recommend to create for all liable tax payers (and therefore 27 national subsystems linked to the platform) a common, public, secure, transparent and easy info-sharing platform regarding taxes dues and, with private access, (to be) paid by all tax payers (corporations, NGOs, private persons, associations, etc.). In this respect the use of new technologies is crucial such as big data, facial recognition, secured payment systems, apps and block chain.

5 *Edmonton, Canada*

Netiquette   **Regulation**

The Empathy Act calls on federal legislators to draft and implement policy that requires social media and forum platforms to actively remind users to take into account intersectionality (such as with Gender-Based Analysis+ lenses). This requires them to reflect on whether the content that they are posting is offensive to marginalized groups and/or visible minorities.

6 *Edmonton, Canada*

Education   **Netiquette**   **Digital Literacy**

A streamlined curriculum (at federal and provincial levels) that features a slow integrated approach designed to promote responsible behaviour online and improve netiquette should be developed.

7 *Milan, Europe*

Active Citizenship   **Democratic Engagement**

Direct participation of citizens into decision-making within local communities (i.e. city level), surely represents a democratic opportunity to engage together people living in the area and approach local project development more effectively. In fact, citizens are aware of real-existing needs in the area they live. In this respect, we would recommend policy makers to make greater use of participative tools such as:

1. "Participatory budget", to involve citizens in the allocation process of the municipality budget to local projects, so that local investments can better target the community's needs.

2. Use of digital platforms to allow citizens to plan, vote and monitor the winning projects of the participatory budget. This tool would also allow constant interaction among people living in the area. The use of this digital tool would be complementary to offline connections.
Providing people the opportunity to exercise active citizenship, would also help to strengthen the inclusion process of immigrant communities living in the area. Needless to say, this would also increase trust in local institutions, while easing the ability to meet expectations at the governmental level. We would recommend considering Milan and Turin as best practices for the above measures as they have already been implemented in the past years with great success and tangible results.

8 *Milan, Europe*

Disinformation   **Fake News**   **Globalisation**

In the last 20 years, availability of information in an increasingly globalized world has become more accessible to everyone. However, this has also brought many challenges. The viral spread of fake news has created unreliable sources of information, that have lead to misperceptions on reality. This is profoundly related to social relations, where we see the spread of hate based on the misleading viral expansion of untrustworthy information.
1.Therefore, we would like to recommend a stricter regulation and certification for news sources and their proliferation. This must be carried out by an independent body at the EU level and balanced by the implementation at the national level. This could lead to an improvement in the quality of the information that reaches citizens.
2. Also, incentives such as vouchers or full financial disclosures for accessing certified information would undoubtedly lead people away from the fake news and towards more reliable sources.

9 *Vancouver, Canada*

Accessibility   **Education**   **Digital Literacy**

Launch digital literacy after-school workshops in inner-city schools, once every week, in addition to providing basic broadband/internet access at home in order to practice and reciprocate through weekly assignments.

10 *Vancouver, Canada*

Accessibility   **Transparency**   **Data Privacy**

Open a new avenue of engagement by implementing quarterly roundtable stakeholder meetings at the provincial and municipal level between private tech companies, local communities, and government actors.

11 *Madrid, Europe*

Smart Cities   **Digital Skills**   **Active Citizenship**

Many cities are turning on smart and fast solutions to better deliver public services.
However, smart cities might inadvertently not encourage inclusion because of disparities in digital access along geographic and economic lines which generate gaps in digital knowledge and skills. In this respect, we would recommend policy makers to expand digital access and skills by:

1. Simplifying and easing the access for all citizen to public services.
2. Providing free and powerful Wi-Fi around the city.
3. Reducing the stigma for which citizens are afraid to share certain personal data that would foster security and better services.

12 Madrid, Europe

Smart Cities **Participation** **Active Citizenship**

To fully exploit digital technologies' potential, cities must understand better citizens' needs. Thus, we would recommend policy makers to ensure civic inclusion and participation by:
1. Creating integrated APPs to provide equal access to public services and amenities.
2. Creating a common database for all citizens to access administrative information.
3. Securing data protection to all citizens by securing ownership, creating expert committees, increasing cybersecurity and designing more European technologies.
4. Raising awareness around city's decisions through a combination of traditional and modern (social) media to reach all generations.

13 Online, Canada

Digital Skills **Education**

The holistic reintegration of incarcerated individuals cannot take place if we do not provide them with opportunities to develop digital skills. These skills have become increasingly important in our digitized society. We recommend the Government of Canada support the establishment of a pilot-study which will explore the implementation of digital skills learning opportunities for incarcerated persons in federal correctional facilities.

14 Online, Europe

Data Sharing **Active Citizenship** **Data Privacy**

Data-sharing policies are vital in order to improve communication between citizens and public services during emergency situations. The recommendation is based on the usage of Digital Identity and Data Sharing which enables citizens to have full ownership over the usage of personal data to ensure privacy. By authorizing on (pre-) set rules to share information efficiently with governmental organisations. Through these authorisations, data sharing becomes more transparent and beneficial for citizens, the government and public services.

15 Online, Canada and Europe

Education

Make public speaking education a priority by offering it as a separate course at every K-12 school. Invest in an online platform to educate educators on how to deliver these programs consistently to ensure accessibility to all individuals.

16 Online, Europe

Teleworking **Gender equality** **Smart working**

Policy makers must develop and implement a strategy to urge workplaces to offer smart and remote working alternatives whenever possible. This must be done to ensure that women are not limited in their career whilst caring for a family and doing hours of unpaid domestic work in addition to care work every day.

17 Online, Canada and Europe

BIPOC SMEs **Wealth Disparity** **Inequality**

We recommend the Canadian federal government allocate an interest-free loan program for BIPOC SMEs that will enhance equity by ensuring these businesses are recognized, supported, and sustained. Returning value to BIPOC communities is the only way to reverse the historic and pervasive disruption that has prevented

SMEs from flourishing. It is also vital to afford BIPOC full autonomy in where and how funds are allocated as only those within these communities have lived experiences to know where investment would be most effective.

18 *Online, Europe*

Telemedicine   **Health**   **Education**

Technology in the health-care system can offer the answer to the exclusion of individuals living in rural areas through telemedicine and formation. We recommend developing telemedicine to reduce the inequalities of medical access and to ensure a better educated population in regards to healthcare.

About the Thinkathon

Over the past 30 years, a new digital culture, interactivity, and instantaneous communication have fundamentally changed our world. We are now at a new crossroads: advances in augmented, virtual reality and artificial intelligence; the "internet of things"; big data and user experiences that are tailored to the individual will all change how we live, work, play and participate in society - administratively, economically, socially and politically.

What are the potential benefits of these changes, what are the drawbacks? How can we ensure that such changes lead to the further development of inclusive societies?

While public awareness of some 'negative aspects' of a digital world (on-line bullying, 'fake news') has increased, there has as yet been very little public discourse on how these aspects can be 'fixed'.

"Our digital future, c'est ICI" offers young adults a new platform for a debate that addresses our digital future in a holistic and positive way and focuses on identifying the principles, processes, and decisions that will lead to the most inclusive digital societies.

About the Winning policy Recommendation Outcomes

During onsite and online events, groups of young Canadian and European adults (aged 18-30) met and debated, with the support of facilitators. The groups were tasked with developing ideas for the political direction of Canadian and European governments. Initially, the participants brainstormed on several problems related to the theme of each event and their effects on digital inclusion (for example: citizenship, social relations, life in cities, racism, health in a post-pandemic time). Among the discussed topics, the most pressing issues were selected for further elaboration under the form of feasible policy solutions and actions. To tackle these challenges, participants drafted policy recommendations with specific sets of actions to be taken.

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https://thinkathon.agorize.com/en/challenges/24-hours-thinkathon