



# Impact Report 2021

Digital   
for Youth





**Digital for Youth strives for the digital inclusion of young people in Belgium.**

In our society, a basic **digital knowledge** is as essential as being able to read and write.

**In Belgium, there is a gap between the digital 'haves' and 'have-nots'.** Not everyone has access to the digital world. That access starts with having your own laptop.

# Activities in 2021

*During the pandemic, when young people had online lessons, the need was clear and there were massive donations. But in 2021 as well, we were not yet rid of the coronavirus and its consequences. Online and hybrid classes are becoming more commonplace and our society continues to digitize, **so the need for laptops remains enormous.** Digital for Youth receives requests every day to help young people get a laptop.*

## Collected and distributed

### 5 652 laptops collected

In 2021 we collected no fewer than **5 652** laptops. Laptops are only a part of the many donations made by companies. We also receive desktops, screens, smartphones, etc. So, in total, we collected 11 248 devices. We refurbished as many of them as possible. If this is not possible, we recycle ICT hardware in an environmentally friendly way. It is the company CTG Circular that takes care of the refurbishment of our material.

### €343 218 collected

Besides laptops, in 2021 we also collected €343 218 and used them to finance the costs of collecting, transporting, refurbishing and reshipping the laptops. Most organizations that received laptops also received financial support to cover the start-up costs of a project. This includes, for example, furnishing the classroom where the laptops end up.

### 3 852 laptops distributed

Of the 5 652 laptops we received, we were able to restore 3 852 of them for a second life and distribute them to young people in Belgium this year. We do this in cooperation with the King Baudouin Foundation (KBF). Social organizations in Belgium can apply for free laptops and financial support three times a year. All they have to do is submit an application form to the KBF. In this way we supported 86 associations in 2021.

## Floods in Wallonia

In the summer of 2021, several Walloon municipalities were hit by severe flooding. Thanks to an agreement with Minister-President Pierre-Yves Jeholet, we were able to set up a very nice partnership with the Federation Wallonia-Brussels and distribute 1,040 laptops.

The Federation Wallonia-Brussels decided to co-finance the distribution of these laptops. The laptops were for pupils and students affected by the terrible floods. We wanted to avoid that young people, next to the trauma of the flood, were also confronted with digital exclusion.

The nine municipalities where we distributed laptops were Trooz, Pepinster, Verviers, Esneux-Tilff, Limbourg, Theux, Liège, Chaufontaine and Rochefort. The local Social Welfare Centre organized the distribution. They determined who was eligible for a laptop.



← 1,040 laptops distributed after the floods in July 2021

# Donating laptops is a triple win

Companies that donate laptops win three times. They have a great **social impact** and make a real difference for young people. They help **develop the digital skills** of young people, skills that are indispensable on the labour market today. They also contribute to the **circular economy** by giving their laptops a new life.

Luckily, even after the coronavirus crisis, many companies continued to donate their ICT hardware in confidence to Digital for Youth last year. We gave it a valuable second life. In total, 52 companies and organizations in Belgium donated laptops to help close the digital gap.

Each individual donor touches our hearts. To give you an idea of these donations, we have listed some of them:

- **National Lottery.** To promote digital inclusion, the National Lottery decided to support our organization financially. Digital for Youth received the fantastically beautiful sum of €143 785 because of its special contribution to our society at the time of the pandemic.
- **Fluvius** was looking for a way to maximize the social return on its obsolete IT hardware. After a first nice donation in 2020, three more donations followed in 2021. Together, these accounted for a quarter of all the laptops we distributed.
- **Volvo.** Digital for Youth was one of the chosen recipients of the seasonal gift from the Volvo Group in Belgium. Volvo gave us a Christmas gift of no less than €100,000 by the end of 2020. That amount enabled us to start the new year well and provide a thousand youngsters with a laptop.
- **Quick.** An unexpected success was a playful and innovative campaign on social media. Quick Belgium and Happiness Brussels auctioned the secret recipe of the unique Giant sauce online. The recipe was sold to a superfan who paid a staggering €27 755 for it. Quick Belgium wanted to use this action to help close the digital gap and gave us all of the proceeds.



*'Digital inequality in Belgium seems unthinkable and yet there are too many young people who are not 'on board'. It is our social duty to give the youth every opportunity and to involve them in the unstoppable digitalisation. As a company, you can easily help: donate your depreciated IT material to Digital for Youth'.*

– Philip Du Bois (President Digital for Youth and General Manager DNS Belgium)

# Visibility of Digital for Youth

Great strides notwithstanding, we must continue to raise awareness about digital exclusion. Donations are still needed and many companies have never heard of Digital for Youth. That is why we launched a number of appeals in 2021 and increased our visibility. We asked the **FEB** (Federation of Enterprises in Belgium) to support our activities and promote our organization. Pieter Timmermans, managing director of the FEB, was immediately won over by the idea. We also contacted other professional federations to do the same.



*'It is unthinkable that not all young people in Belgium have access to a computer to explore and learn whenever they want. That is why we must address the top level of the business world: business leaders can and dare stick their necks out to create more opportunities for our youth. After all, our young people are the employees of tomorrow. Let's make sure together that they are ready for it!'*

– Pieter Timmermans, managing director of the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium

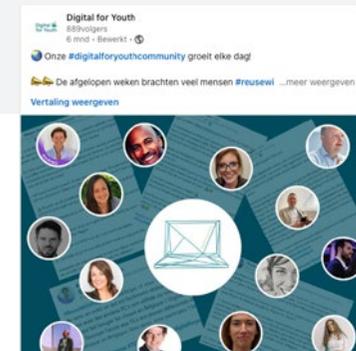
**Assuralia** and **Federgon** also gave us their full support and launched a call for donations to their hundreds of members.

We also launched a great campaign on social media and summarised our mission in a hashtag: **#ReuseWithPurpose**. That is what we stand for and what we do: reuse corporate laptops for a social purpose.

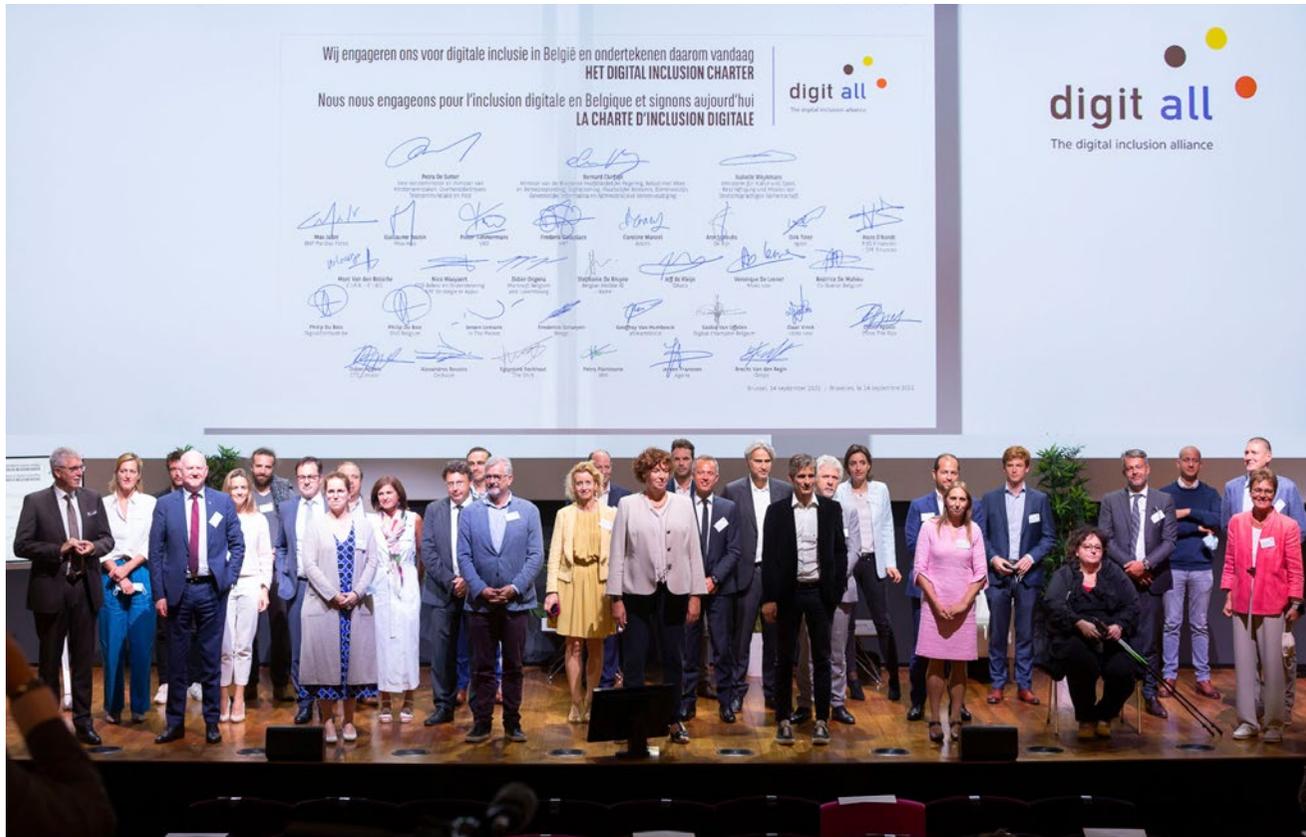
*Did you know that not everyone in Belgium has access to the digital world? Shocking right? No access to the digital space often leads to social isolation and learning disadvantage, leaving the next generation at risk of falling behind in their education. There has never been a more crucial time to ensure that everyone has access to digital tools. #reusewithpurpose*

– Nadia Aimé - Security Technical Specialist at Microsoft

**#reusewithpurpose**



# Digital Inclusion Charter



In September 2021, we signed the **Digital Inclusion Charter** together with DNS Belgium and Close the Gap, our founders. At the initiative of BNP Paribas Fortis, thirty companies, public authorities and social organizations have joined forces for the same purpose: to create greater awareness of the digital divide in Belgium.

At Digital for Youth, we know only too well what the consequences are: digital inequality leads to **social exclusion**, learning difficulties and less opportunities. The digital divide weighs heavily on the social integration of the most vulnerable segments of society. Together with DNS Belgium and Close the Gap, we share the goal of ensuring that everyone is included in our digital society. We focus explicitly on children and young people. Contributing to a fair digital society is simple: **make a donation; every laptop counts.**

# Cooperation with the King Baudouin Foundation

In October 2021, we extended our cooperation with the King Baudouin Foundation by setting up the Digital for Youth Fund. This fund aims to close the digital gap among vulnerable young people in Belgium by strengthening their IT skills. It partly finances the project calls that we organize via the KBF. It also gives us the opportunity to support specific activities and digitalization projects in Belgium.



*In Belgium, 33% of young people between the ages of 16 and 24 (all social categories combined) are in a situation of digital vulnerability. This percentage increases to 47% for young people with only a lower secondary school diploma. It is alarming, especially when digitalization has invaded many areas of our daily lives. Access to a computer is not the only solution, but it is an essential first step in combating digital inequalities.*

Data from the Statbel-Eurostat 2021 Survey, calculations IACHOSS (Institute for the Analysis of Change in History and Contemporary Societies), Catholic University of Louvain

– Périne Brotcorne, Chairwoman of the Management Committee - Researcher in sociology at the CIRTES (Interdisciplinary Centre for Research in Labour, the State and Society) and assistant at the FOPES (Open Faculty of Economic and Social Policy) (Catholic University of Louvain).

# Submit your application now

## Apply for laptops

Are you a social organisation? Do you give computer lessons or stimulate digital skills with children or young people in another way? You may be able to apply for free laptops for your organisation.

*We empower children and young people to use technology creatively and to go beyond mere consumption.*

Maks vzw

*Digital skills are not evident for young people. They lack IT knowledge and often hardware as well. Thanks to the extra laptops, we can connect with them: literally and figuratively.*

PROFO vzw

*Our young people are enthusiastic to learn about the different making technologies. They immediately see a result: a car that drives, a lasercut project, a programmed micro:bit.*

Makerlabo Anderlecht



## Applying for laptops is easy

Your application goes through a file that you submit to the King Baudouin Foundation. They group and treat all applications per quarter. A jury of experts examines all the applications every four months and decides who gets what.

# Projects in the spotlight

## Bonangana

*Bonangana is a pluralistic association where volunteers work for the welfare and socio-cultural emancipation of all citizens. Everyone is welcome.*

With the first application in 2020, Bonangana received ten laptops. Another twenty-five followed in 2021. Thanks to extra funds from Welzijnzorg, the organization now has 45 laptops. They make them available via a lending circuit to families without a PC.

*'Families can borrow a laptop from us free of charge for the duration of the school year. We only ask for a deposit of €25. This gives children access to the online learning environment and tools such as Bingel. The donations enabled us to cover all the requests this year.'*

— Piet Callens, Bonangana.



## Language training for asylum seekers

*Abrusco informs and guides young people from Dutch-speaking schools in Brussels to fight against school dropout.*

Via the 'Taalkot' project, they focus specifically on non-Dutch-speaking young people in Brussels. They want to offer a fair chance at education to young people who arrive in our country and are unable to find their place in our school system. 'Taalkot' does this by strengthening their knowledge of Dutch.

Via Digital for Youth, Abrusco received 12 laptops to use at school. **That is much better than the tablets we had. It is the perfect compromise between something easily portable and comfortable to work on.** The fact that we are now all working with the same material and that all the laptops are touchscreens is a nice bonus.

## Form'Anim and Digital for Youth say no to exclusion

Form'Anim tries to facilitate the social integration of everyone who is excluded. It does so by organizing a wide range of activities such as French courses for non-native speakers as well as with an offer of social and administrative monitoring.

Digital for Youth gave Form'Anim ten laptops and a budget to install them. Form'Anim uses these laptops constantly and in the most diverse circumstances. Thanks to the laptops, the organization can for example help participants to start online banking, so that they can then also bank safely on their smartphones. Young people can use the laptops to prepare for their theoretical driving test or to find a new home or job. The laptops also offer the opportunity to educate young people about online security.

*'What we appreciate in particular about the initiatives of Digital for Youth and the King Baudoin Foundation is their long-term vision. They are not taking one-off actions, as we have seen during this crisis. On the contrary, they share our goal of raising awareness at all levels of society so that we can achieve sustainable change and create a more inclusive society for all.'*

– Sarah Steffens, Form-Anim



# Donors 2021

- Agentschap Natuur & Bos
- AGSO
- Arlanxeo
- Arrow ECS €
- AVIQ
- Bancontact €
- CILE
- Civadis
- CRAS
- Daoust
- Deloitte €
- Departement onderwijs & vorming
- Duke and Grace
- Educo
- Eras
- Ethias
- Fednot
- Fluvius
- Gentis Recruitment
- Grensland
- Give a Day €
- HP €
- INASTI
- ING €
- Irex Consulting
- Lantis
- Massive Media
- Michelin
- Mölnlycke Health Care
- Nationale Loterij €
- Neste
- NRB
- Onespan
- Ordina
- Pfizer
- Pracsis
- Politie Zone Leuven
- Proximus €
- Quant
- Ravago
- Regenesys
- Sensoa
- Snop Automotive Gent
- SNOF
- SSI Schäfer
- Stad Antwerpen
- Thomas More
- Vlaamse Onderwijsraad
- Volvo €
- Willpharma

# Financial report

In the context of financial transparency, Digital for Youth relies on corporate auditor Grant Thornton, which conducts an extensive financial audit each year.

The auditor concluded that the **presented** annual accounts fairly reflect the assets and financial situation of our organization and its results for the financial year. All this is in accordance with the accounting reference system applicable in Belgium.

The balance sheet and income statement at the end of 2021 show that Digital for Youth is in a healthy and stable financial situation. We ended the year with a profit of 212.054 euros. We will continue to put these funds to good use in 2022 to answer the daily requests for laptops.

## Rapport annuel 2021

<b>Operating income</b>	<b>952.629</b>
Turnover	117.645
Contributions, gifts, legacies and grants	833.147
Other operating income	1.836
<b>Operating charges</b>	<b>739.941</b>
Raw materials, consumables Purchases	486.934
Service and other goods	130.747
Remuneration, social security costs and pensions	121.205
Other operation charges	1.056
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>212.687</b>
<b>Financial income</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Financial charges</b>	<b>534</b>
Recurring financial charges	534
Debts charges	239
Other financial charges	294
<b>Profit for the period</b>	<b>212.054</b>
<b>Profit for the period available for appropriation</b>	<b>212.054</b>



## Colofon

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# Thank you for your support!

## Also make a gift or laptop donation



BE10 0000 0000 0404 using the reference "960360: DigitalForYouth Fund"

or using the structural code \*\*\*196/0360/00088\*\*\*

Gifts as from 40 EUR are tax deductible.



Laptops or other IT hardware can easily be donated. Start with an e-mail to [laptops@digitalforyouth.be](mailto:laptops@digitalforyouth.be)



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