



Impact Report 2022

Digital 
for Youth



Our reason of existence

Almost half of the Belgian population is at risk of digital exclusion according to a recent study by the King Baudouin Foundation.



Our dream

Safe and easy access to a laptop for all children and young people in Belgium.

Our work method

We collect as many discarded company laptops as possible, refurbish them and give them to those who need them most.



Free

We collect ICT hardware from companies.



Sustainable

One recycled laptop is equivalent to 160 kg of CO2 emissions avoided.



Safe

Certificates of refurbishment and data wipe.



Impactful

The ICT hardware is delivered to social projects in Belgium.

4.479 laptops collected

In 2022 we collected no fewer than **4.479 laptops**.

Laptops are only part of the many donations made by companies. In addition to laptops, we also get desktops, monitors etc. We thus collected **9,005 devices** in all and refurbished as many of them as possible. Where not possible, we recycle ICT hardware in an ecological way.

Donors in the spotlight

Companies that donate discarded laptops via Digital for Youth make a major contribution to society by making a substantial difference to young people. A simple donation helps improve their digital skills so that they can become the digital talents of the future.

A total of **63 companies and organisations** in Belgium donated laptops to reduce digital inequality.

"We are happy to do our bit through this donation to reducing the digital divide and thus indirectly the gap to the labour market. Moreover, the project meets our environmental objective of not letting used computers go to waste"

— Birgit Wachtelaer, CSR Advisor at
Randstad Group Belgium



"Partnering with Digital for Youth is part of our sustainability strategy, and this collaboration yields a win on two fronts: We support young people in a difficult situation, but also the circular economy by giving our discarded IT hardware a second life."

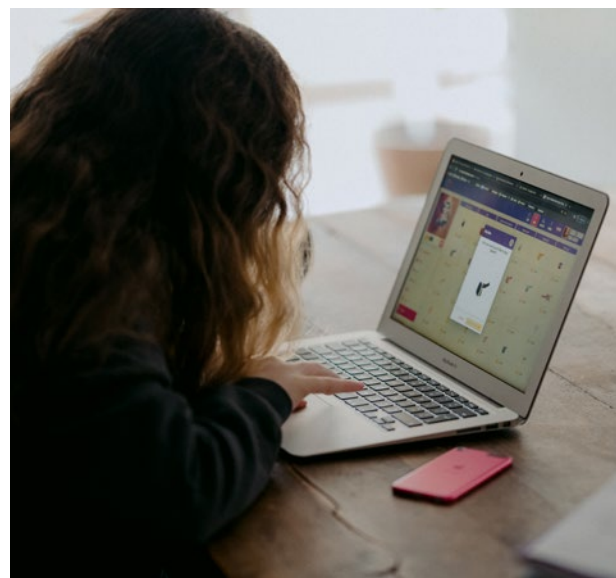
— Serge Jacobs, CSR Advisor at Ethias

"With sustainability and our social responsibility in mind, we consciously opted to give our discarded laptops a meaningful intended use. As a family business that is in constant renewal, Digital for Youth was an obvious choice for us. We are happy to help build a society where everyone gets the chance to grow."

— Philippe Verellen, Managing Director at
Wolf Oil

"Giving our IT hardware a second life and contributing to the integration of young people in the digital society fall perfectly in line with our vision of corporate social responsibility."

— Orion Devriendt, CSR at National Bank
of België



Thank you

Every donation counts: big or small, financial or hardware. **1,000 thanks** are in order for all the organisations that support us. Together, we are making a difference for scores of children and young people. On the next page are our fantastic 2022 partners.





Would you like to donate also? You can do so in 2 ways:

1

Hardware donation

Tick off the list below and we will come and collect your ICT hardware:



You have at least 20 working laptops or 30 "ICT assets" (monitors, printers, servers, etc.)



Your ICT hardware have the following minimum specifications:

- **Laptops and desktops** – Core i3 CPU – 4GB RAM
- **Monitors** – 19" TFT screens
- **Printers** – laser jet

In practical terms: Would you like to donate ICT hardware? Great! Go to our website for the next step or contact laptops@digitalforyouth.be.

2

Financial donation

Where does your donation go? We use such funds to pay for our logistics activities such as: collecting ICT hardware, removing data or software from them, refurbishing the collected laptops and sending them to social organisations where they can be used again.

In practical terms: Would you like to support us financially? Great! Follow these steps:

- Donations should be made to the King Baudouin Foundation, account no. BE10 0000 0000 0404
- Use preferably this structured communication ***196/0360/00088*** or the following reference: "960360: Digital4Youth Fund"
- Donations as of €40 are tax deductible



Did you know that we attach the highest importance to data security for laptop donations?

We provide every guarantee for **safe handling or removal of data** still on the devices. They are removed at once professionally and in line with the **GDPR** by our refurbishment partner **CTG Circular**. They are also **ISO 27001** and **ISO 9001 certified**. Once the data have been removed, you will be issued a **data wipe certificate**.



De Warmste Week

De Warmste Week 2022 focused on poverty. This theme falls seamlessly in line with our mission: digital inclusion for all children and young people in Belgium. Digital for Youth was therefore selected for De Warmste Week, along with 269 other projects. We aspired to create greater awareness, visibility and publicity through our participation.

Some pictures



Visit to Radio Roem
(Thomas More Hogeschool)



Invited to
VRT NWS



DNS Belgium supports
Digital for Youth at
the warmathon

20.000

We look back on 2022 with a wonderful feeling. When Digital for Youth was founded in 2019, we could only dream we could do it, but now it has already happened: we handed out the **20,000th** laptop last year. We would like to thank everyone who did their bit.

Unfortunately, the digital divide in Belgium is still a reality. We want to help even more children and young people in the coming year. But we cannot do that without your support. Find out on our website how you can make a difference.



Impact study

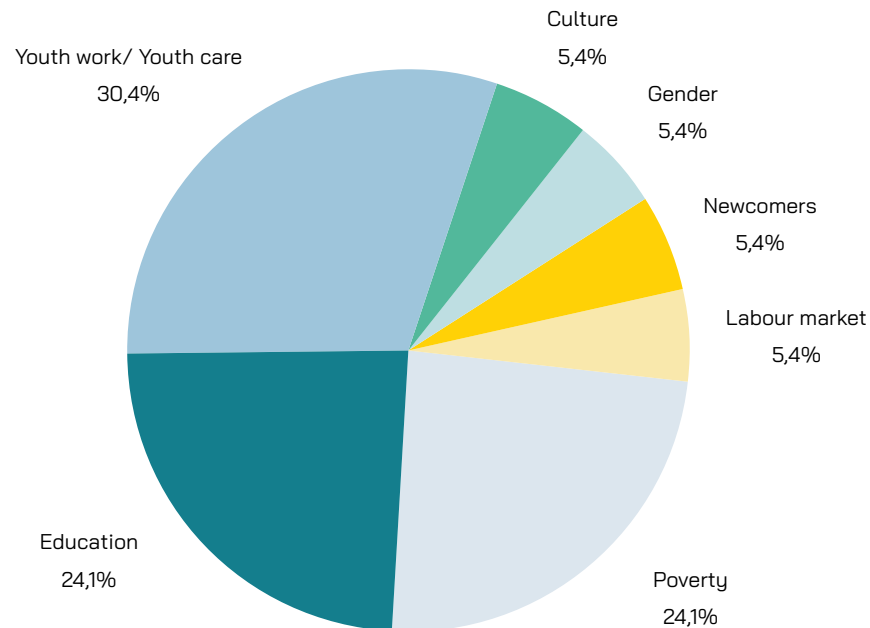
Donors like to know where their donation goes and what it does, and rightly so! Our founders (DNS Belgium and Close the Gap) and us also want to know what effect our actions have. In cooperation with Eva Wuyts of the UCLL (University of Applied Sciences), we have developed an instrument to measure our social and ecological impact.

For the theoretical framework of this study, cf. our [website](#). Based on the theory, we have drawn up a questionnaire to gauge our direct and indirect impact. We asked social organisations to complete it one year after donation. 75 social organisations did so. We discuss the main results here.



Which organisations get laptops?

The impact study shows that organisations that received support from Digital for Youth in 2021 are mainly active in special youth care, poverty and education. Other organisations work with newcomers, or on gender, culture or labour market topics.



Impact on young people and on social organisations

Young people develop digital skills, learn to search for and process digital information, and they are better protected against the dangers of the digital world. Their self-confidence increases, not only online, and they gain a sense of belonging. With these skills, they can take a full, active role in the digital society. They participate fully in education and the labour market.

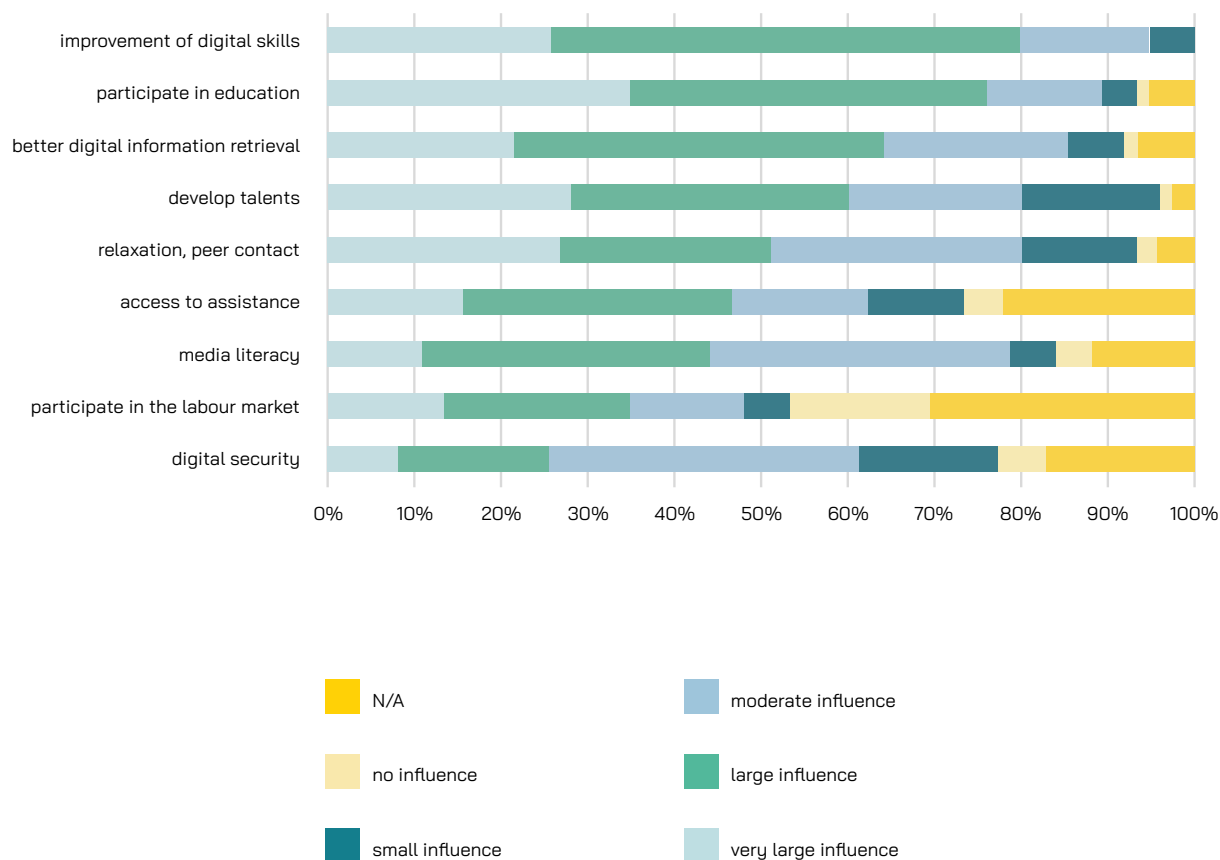
Besides social impact on young people and organisations, Digital for Youth also has an **ecological** impact. Organisations buy fewer laptops themselves, which means significant savings for many and a remarkable reduction in CO2. We saved a whopping **40 tonnes of CO2** by not purchasing **248 laptops**.

High-quality laptops

Of all the laptops distributed in 2021, only 75 turned out to be permanently defective over time. Barring a few exceptions, hardly any technical glitches occurred with the laptops in 2021. When they did, they were fixed in the same week in which they were reported, and sometimes, even on the same day.

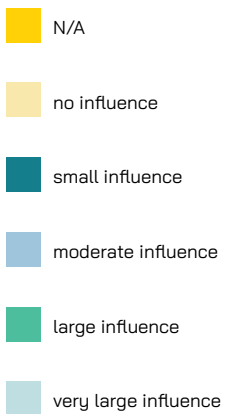
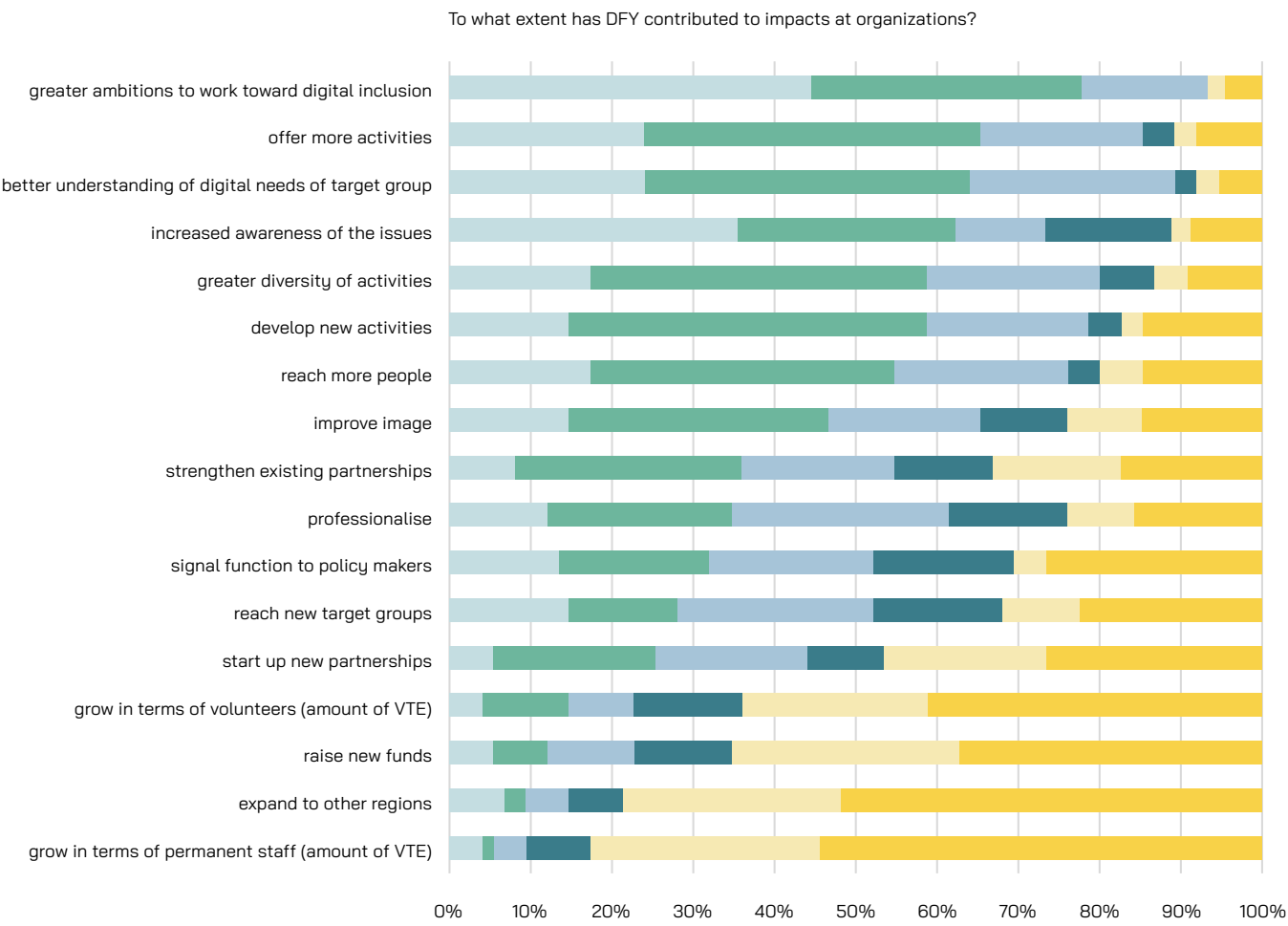


To what extent has Digital for Youth contributed to effects among young



"N/A" means that a particular effect did not occur according to the organization

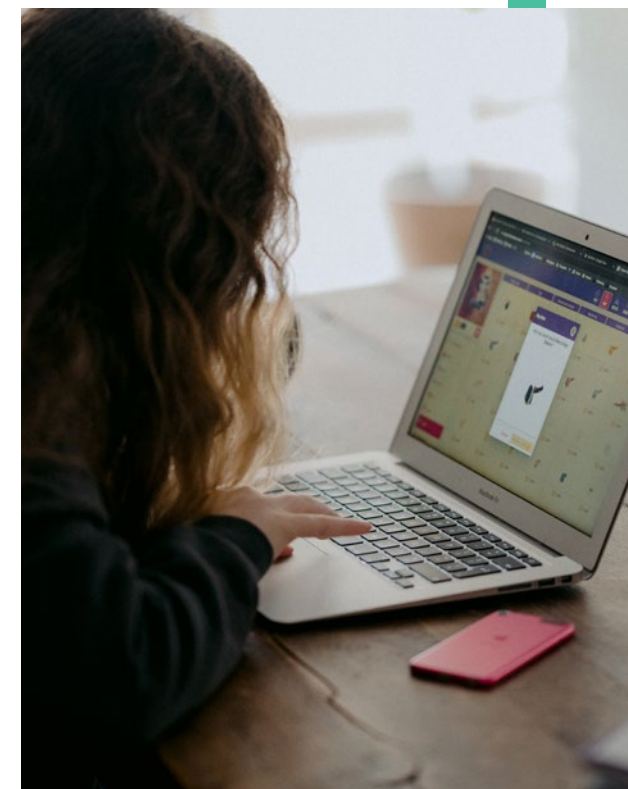
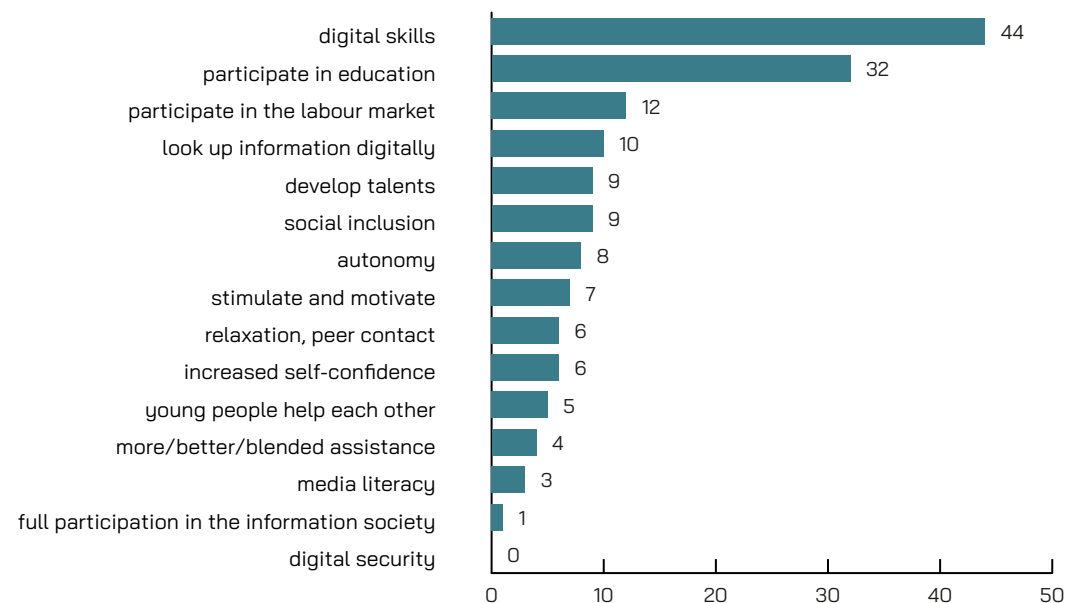
The supported social organisations themselves also experience benefits from our donation. We help social organisations grow in supply and reach with our laptops. They can professionalise their operations and image and thus appeal to more young people, as well as enter into local partnerships more easily. They also gain a better understanding of the digital needs of their audience.



"N/A" means that a particular effect did not occur according to the organization



The Outcome Harvesting method was deployed to ask organisations to describe a significant change they were able to observe in (part of) the target group or a specific young person in terms of digital inclusion over the past year. All these changes were categorised and can be compared with the intended changes as made explicit in the Theory of Change.



Below we are happy to share some great stories:

SOCIAL INCLUSION & PEER CONTACT

"The internet is a modern means of communication for young people. Those who came to our offices wanted to stay in our buildings for as long as possible. They finally had access to a computer and felt they had reached a level comparable to their 'buddies'. These young people often felt inferior because they did not have access to the digital world. The laptops made them feel like members of the society."

ENHANCED SELF-CONFIDENCE & AUTONOMY

"Our youngsters have integrated the computer into their way of life. One of them, aged 10, had been given a class assignment asking to give a presentation on a sports activity. The choice was left to them to show a table or make a PowerPoint presentation. She chose to do it with PowerPoint, even though she did not yet know how to use this software."

STIMULATE AND MOTIVATE

"Our training offer had a stimulating and activating effect. Many young people became aware that they could really take some control of their own lives. Some sought appropriate help and support, others looked for work, chose a new study or tackled family problems. Getting those young people motivated to tackle things is a big step in regaining social connection."

1,975 laptops distributed

We managed to refurbish 3,045 of the 4,479 laptops we received and distributed them to young people in Belgium, in cooperation with the King Baudouin Foundation (KBS). Social organisations in Belgium can apply for free laptops and financial support three times a year by simply filing an application with the King Baudouin Foundation. In this way, we supported **74 projects** in 2022 with **1,545 laptops**. In addition, we also distributed **430 laptops** to specific projects.

MFC Sint-Gregorius

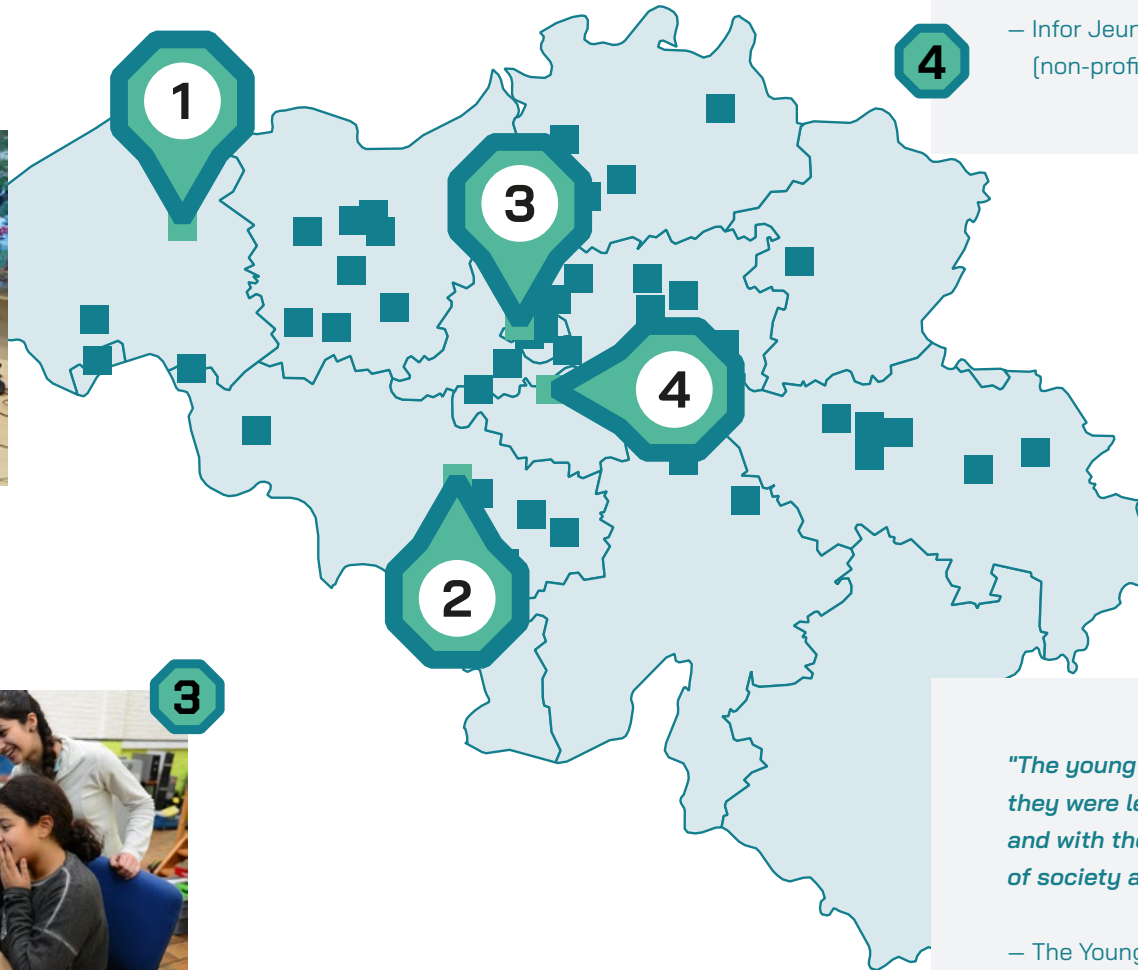


1

Maks vzw



3



4

— Infor Jeunes Waterloo asbl
[non-profit association]

2

"The young people clearly felt valued by what they were learning, both within their families and with their friends at school. They felt part of society and no longer as outcasts."

— The Young Computer School

Project in the spotlight

Link in de Kabel

Link in de Kabel is a Leuven-based organisation that has been making children and young people digitally proficient and resilient for more than 20 years. They boast a very broad range of offerings, from piloting drones to making robots with Lego blocks, etc. Digital for Youth has already donated 70 laptops to this organisation.



ClassContact

ClassContact ensures that sick children can be educated remotely. It goes without saying that children who cannot get to class because they are ill cannot be home-schooled if they do not have their own laptop.

"Thanks to this computer, I can connect to my class and follow the lessons. It also enabled me to see and hear my classmates through video calls as I was not allowed to meet them face to face. I even earned my CEB (primary education diploma) this way!"

— Léon



Young people have the floor

"As there are many of us sharing one computer at home, I have not managed to finish all my tasks."

Danira, 4th secondary school



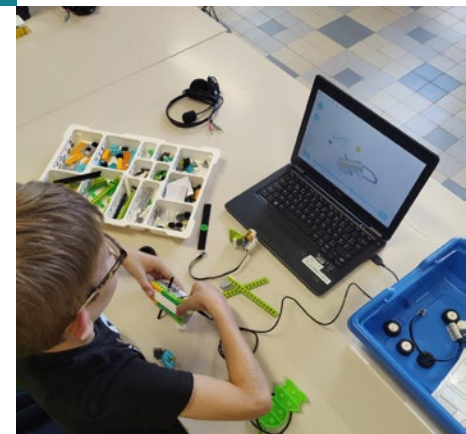
*"It's smashing.
I've learned to write my own CV. Now I can start applying for a student job."*

Mo, 16 years



"A laptop is very important for me. Without a laptop, I can't look for work online, check my e-mails, surf the net or do code."
Jef, 20 years

"Doing lessons online was very difficult. Having my own laptop made a huge difference. Link in de Kabel and the school taught me to work more smoothly. Now I'm doing well with it."
Elysée, 14 years



#StandWithUkraine

The war in Ukraine touches us very deeply! On behalf of Digital for Youth, we would like to do our bit for the Ukrainian community in Belgium.

We are doing this to:

- Enable communication with loved ones
- Promote the digital integration of young refugees in Belgium
- Promote integration in the short term
- Enable access to education and language crash courses



Some initiatives

Emergency village in Antwerp

We donated laptops in particular to the emergency village for refugees in Antwerp to support kids that do not speak our language (onthaal OKAN) and have managed to help as many as 72 children.

A small school has been set up in the emergency village since October for the 72 mainly Ukrainian, but also Syrian, children. Together with a small school in town, they provide OKAN education. The aim is to teach them Dutch as soon as possible so they can move on to mainstream education.

Run entirely by volunteers, the school now boasts a nicely equipped computer room where the children can use the internet to develop their digital skills. DIGIDAK, the organisation that set up the computer room, provided accounts and licences at NedBox and Bingel, a website for practising Dutch in a playful way, and an online platform for primary education respectively.

Mina Telghuis in Kontich

The Mina Telghuis in Kontich was officially inaugurated on Tuesday, 28 June as a collective shelter for Ukrainian refugees. The former monastery building had originally been bought by the municipality as an extension of the adjacent Altena Park, but the war in Ukraine decided otherwise.

Slated to be demolished, the Mina Telghuis was repurposed thanks to the efforts of various municipal departments and many volunteers: it now houses 5 Ukrainian families, who fled the violence in their country. We have donated 10 laptops to give these young people better educational opportunities. The computers will be used in Mina Telghuis as well as in the local primary school De Schans.

Antwerp International School

The Ukrainian Minister for Education revived the online learning platform at the start of the war. This platform had actually been created during the COVID lockdown so that children could follow lessons online. This reactivation means that children can continue to enjoy quality education anywhere in the world, if the



population has to flee. A stroke of genius! With this in mind, Oksana Senyczak, a volunteer with Ukrainian roots, was contacted by the Ukrainian embassy. She has good contacts with the Ukrainian community in Antwerp in point of fact, and thus plays a pivotal role in an interesting joint venture between the Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen [Flanders Refugee Council] and the Antwerp International School (AIS). Oksana reaches a huge number of school-age children through various channels. AIS director Andreas Koini did not fail to respond, but made several classrooms available at once.

"It is incredible what we have achieved in such a short time. We didn't know each other, but we rolled up our sleeves, and are working fantastically well together."

— Veronique De Clerck from
Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen came to
us to ask for laptops

The laptops were delivered as a matter of urgency so as to reduce the learning gap. There was one small problem, however: they use a different keyboard layout in Ukraine. We therefore had stickers made that transform any keyboard into the Cyrillic script. Sylvie brought these stickers to Antwerp personally. It proved an ideal moment to get to know the children as well as the team that makes this wonderful thing possible.



Apply now

Are you a social organisation? Do you provide computer courses or otherwise promote digital skills among children or young people? Then you may be eligible to apply for free laptops for your organisation.

Conditions

Check whether your organisation meets the conditions below. Do you tick all the boxes? Great! That means you can apply for laptops.

- Your organisation supports children or young people aged 6 to 25 in Belgium so as to enhance their digital skills.
- You want to use the requested laptops for the development of children and young people, not for the administrative management of your organisation.
- You are not a public welfare agency, public administrative authority or school.

Go ahead and apply for laptops

Kindly always apply by submitting a file to the King Baudouin Foundation. They group and process all applications on a quarterly basis. A panel of experts examines all the files every four months and decides who gets what.



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 income statement shows a loss of 231.662 euro, as part of the operating income was received in 2023 instead of 2022.

The balance sheet at the end of 2022 shows a healthy financial situation:

- Own funds: 337.264 euro
- Liquid funds: 592.664 euro

We will continue to put these funds to good use in 2023 to answer the daily request for laptops.

Financial Statements 2022

Operating income	411.073
Turnover	35.393
Contributions, gifts, legacies and grants	373.520
Other operating income	2.160
Operating charges	641.538
Raw materials, consumables	291.851
Purchases	291.851
Service and other goods	162.229
Remuneration, social security costs and pensions	185.576
Depreciation	1.159
Other operation charges	723
Operating profit	-230.465
Financial income	0
Financial charges	1.197
Profit for the period	-231.662



Colofon

R.E.: Philip Du Bois, Philipssite 5/13, 3001 Leuven

Editor: Sylvie Kedzierski, Romi Schlatzke, Hans De Backer

Images: ©DNS Belgium, ©DigitalForYouth.be, ©Unsplash

Design: design Studio Han

Thank you for your support!

Also make a gift or laptop donation



BE10 0000 0000 0404 using
the reference **"960360: Fonds
DigitalForYouth"**

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

Hans De Backer

General Manager
0473 70 81 02

Sylvie Kedzierski

Strategic Partnerships Director
0476 56 67 66

Romi Schlatzke

Project Coordinator
0471 38 22 85

Our founding members

dnsbelgium

**CLOSE
THE
GAP**
BRUSSELS
ECONOMIC
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

Our partners who help us daily



DigitalForYouth.be vzw
Philipssite 5/13
3001 Heverlee

info@digitalforyouth.be
www.digitalforyouth.be

Follow @digitalforyouth.be on
in LinkedIn en **f** Facebook

Digital 
for Youth