WIKIMEDIA HUNGARY
ACTIVITY REPORT
2019

Wikipedia Day event

On 15 January 2019, Wikimedia Hungary provided the rewards for a [pop quiz](#) organised on the occasion of Wikipedia Day in Gyula by Norbert Fürj.

Volunteer retention program

In accordance with its 2015 [strategy](#) and 2018 May General Assembly [resolution](#), Wikimedia Hungary considers strengthening the Hungarian-speaking volunteer community and helping community self-organization its most important task for the next few years. To pursue that goal, it has prepared a [complex program](#) and applied for a grant to the Wikimedia Foundation at the end of 2018. The chapter plans to focus on retaining (new and old) volunteers in 2019 and 2020; in the following years it will expand its activities to reaching and attracting new contributors, and building capacity for making those processes sustainable in the long term, both in the chapter and in the community. With the Foundation's support, the project started in April with the hiring of a community and project manager to coordinate and implement it.

Meetups and discussions of the chapter and editor community

During the course of the year, we organized meetings for the volunteer editor community and the chapter approximately every second month (February, May, June, July, September, November, December). Here the participants could get to know each other and have a friendly chat, and optionally present on some topic of interest, discuss current issues, examine community problems, and gather ideas and suggestions for mid- and long-term solutions. The awards and results of various community contests were also presented there.

Wikicamp

The chapter organized the 2019 instance of the popular Wikicamp, a multi-day meetup for volunteer editors with various excursions, educational and social events. This year the camp was at Kecskemét, from July 26 to 28; participants got to know each other, visited landmarks, museums and exhibitions of the city, went on trips, conversed, and learned from each other about Wikipedia editing. The accounts of the participants and organizers can be found on Hungarian Wikipedia's blog.

General assemblies

Wikimedia Hungary held its first general assembly of 2019 on May 4. Participants discussed and accepted the 2018 report and 2019 plan. George Kerese was elected as a new board member to replace Tamás Mészöly who resigned a month before. The minutes are available on the website of the chapter. 2019. május 4-én tartotta a Wikimédia Magyarország Egyesület rendes tavaszi közgyűlését.

The second general assembly of the year was held on November 23. Tamás Mészöly presented the work done in 2019, including the editor retention project, and participants discussed 2020 plans. The minutes are available on the website of the chapter.

Editathons, education and trainings

As in previous years, multiple editathons were organized for people familiarizing themselves with Wikipedia, and to fill content gaps. They included an LGBT editathon organized by Háttér Society and a Women in Science event by Kati Holland, "Nyugathon" (an editathon about the 20th century literary journal Nyugat) with the Petőfi Literary Museum and Mihály Minkó, an International Women's Day editathon with Ádám Harangozó, and the traditional Shakespeare editathon with the Hungarian Shakespeare Committee, the Petőfi Literary Museum and the Pázmány Péter Catholic University.

Besides the editathons, editors could participate in workshops, presentations and demonstrations to improve their skills. These included a communication training and various presentations at the Wikicamp and meetups.
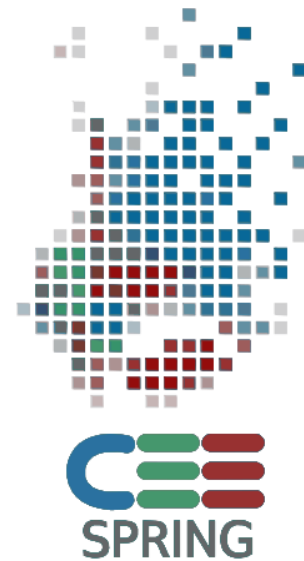

Article of the Year contest

As in the previous years, the Wikipedia community held an Article of the Year competition in 2019 to find the best articles written in 2018. 163 articles were nominated in 12 categories, and 61 Wikipedians (a record-high participation) gave 508 votes to find the 40 winners. The prizes were provided by Wikimedia Hungary.

CEE Spring

2019 saw the fifth instance of CEE Spring, the article writing competition of the Central and Eastern European region. Over its course of over two months, the contest aimed to share and exchange knowledge about the region between its linguistically and culturally diverse inhabitants. Participants had to write a Wikipedia article in their native language about another country in the region. In 27 languages, over 500 editors participated (138 of whom were first-time editors) and created over thirteen thousand articles, of which the Hungarian participants wrote 868. Wikimedia Hungary gave prizes to the best 14 as a recognition of their great work.

European countries article writing contest

This article writing contest, ran in the last quarter of the year, aimed at writing the missing essential articles about European countries. Participants could enter with articles that were started during the contest and rated high on Wikipedia's article quality scale. Organized by Palotabarát, the contest was won by Szilas with an article about French architecture.

Asian Month

Wikipedia Asian Month is an online editathon and article writing contest focused on the promotion of Asian content on various Wikipedia language editions. Traditionally held during November, the contest was prolonged by a week this year; in those five weeks, 782 wrote over ten thousand articles in 59 languages. 15 Hungarian editors participated, creating over a hundred articles between them. Based on the scores given by the jury, Wikimedia Hungary gave prizes to three of them.

Wikimedia Summit 2019

As in previous years, [Wikimedia Summit 2019](#) was hosted by Wikimedia Germany in Berlin. The event, called Wikimedia Conference before, had a new format and focus this year: to discuss movement strategy, alongside the exchange of experiences amongst leaders of Wikimedia organizations, discussion of international programs, formal and informal meetings and coordination. All recognized Wikimedia affiliates were able to nominate a participant, resulting in a diverse set of attendees from all over the world. Wikimedia Hungary and the Hungarian Wikipedia was represented by the vice chair of the board.

Wikimania 2019

[Wikimania](#), the annual international meeting and conference of the Wikimedia movement, was organized mid-August in Stockholm. [It was](#) an event open to the public, with almost 900 people from 83 countries attending and sharing their stories or learning from each other. The first two days were a pre-conference with trainings and cultural programs, thematic meetings and a hackathon. This was followed by the three day long main event, with 13-16 parallel tracks always offering something intriguing. Five Hungarian Wikipedia editors participated, and [some](#) of them have [written](#) a [report](#) of their experience.

Wikimedia CEE Meeting 2019

In 2019, Belgrade, Serbia hosted the Central and Eastern European region's shared conference event. Almost all Wikipedia communities sent representatives to the meeting, joined by some of the Wikimedia Foundation's executive staff; almost a hundred people altogether. The aim of the meeting is foster cooperation between communities in the region, and to provide space for the participants, who come from similar cultural, institutional, historical and economical backgrounds, to learn from each other and share their positive and negative experiences. The event was more productive than large international meetings like Wikimedia, due to the smaller headcount and the more homogenous background, interests and issues of the participants; and it provided an opportunity for discussions with staff and executives of the Wikimedia Foundation. On the pre-conference day those interested could participate on a training, mainly focused on motivating and retaining volunteers, and on conflict management. The Hungarian community and Wikimedia Hungary was represented by three people.

Volunteer Supporters Network

Volunteer Supporters Network is the network of Wikimedia staffers working on volunteer support, who help each other by exchanging ideas and experiences and sharing resources, and meeting once a year to discuss the most important events and experiences since the last meeting. In 2019 this event happened near Zürich, Switzerland, where the volunteer support staffers of nine countries spent two days discussing, exchanging experiences and training each other. On participant represented Wikimedia Hungary. The information and feedback received there was extremely useful for the chapter's own volunteer support program.

Technological improvements, developments

One way to help the editor community is by improving the user interface and technical tools needed for their work. Most of that is done by the Wikimedia Foundation and an international volunteer community. The chapter investigated what final or experimental products could be introduced on Hungarian Wikipedia to support volunteer work. In 2019 much of this work was focused on modernizing community discussion spaces (such as talk pages and community pages). First we requested and prepared enabling the Flow (aka Structured Discussion) extension, but mid-2019 the Wikimedia Foundation decided to stop its development. After that we participated in the Talk pages project, a consultation about the successor of Flow. At the same time we joined testing and development of the experimental but very inspiring Wikimedia Discuss Space project, a forum interface for community discussions, and helped introduce it to the Hungarian community; unfortunately, at the end of the year, before the full launch, the Wikimedia Foundation decided to shut the project down. Alongside all these, Hungarian Wikipedia is participating in the Wikimedia Foundation's experimental project for integrating new editors; and trained a new version of the machine learning model that's responsible for classifying edits to help the experienced editors and patrollers who verify them. There were also some other, smaller tool developments, for example to create editing statistics, award good work, or send out surveys.

Shaping the legal environment

The chapter finds it important to improve the legal environment around free content. To that end, we sent opinions and advice to decision makers and lawmakers, and helped the work of others doing that by sharing our experiences. In 2019 this activity focused on the lawmaking processes related to the European Union's new copyright directive: a copyright expert enrolled by the chapter participated in the consultation run by the Ministry of Justice about the integration of the directive into Hungarian law.

Research and research cooperations

A key element in supporting the editor community is understanding community dynamics and editors' wishes and needs. To this end, we did interviews and polls at and after editor meetings, and ran a set of larger scale online surveys in September targeting new, active and inactive users. The results will inform future activities of the chapter.

Besides the surveys, a statistical analysis was performed about the effect of certain Wikipedia software configuration settings on participation metrics, especially attraction and retention of new editors.

The chapter started to develop cooperation and information sharing with partners doing research on similar topics, such as the Wikimedia Foundation's Research team and Growth team, the Volunteer Support Network, the independent research group CivilServant, staff at Fandom (formerly known as Wikia), and community members of other Wikipedia language editions. As part of that, we participated in a discussion panel for editor retention, held a presentation and organized a meetup at Wikimania in Stockholm; and participated in the training and workshop held by CivilServant. At the Belgrade CEE Meeting, we also held a presentation, organized a roundtable discussion and a meetup about editor retention.

Relations with print and electronic media, general enquiries

The association received many press requests during the year in relation to Wikipedia and other projects, news and events of the movement. We've always tried to provide a quick and factual reply to ensure that only reliable information is published on these topics.

The association likewise received many questions and email enquiries about its campaign for the 1% of personal income tax contributions and the Wikimedia Foundation's fundraising campaign in Hungary; our volunteers sought to provide helpful and objective replies to those as well.

In addition to the above, the association tries to provide information on Wikimedia news or events proactively via Facebook posts or blog entries.