



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

REPORT

MAKE-IT DAY 2021

THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

The Make-IT Alliance Grows

We warmly welcome Atos as our newest partner.

5 Thematic Workshops

Participants explored potential for collaboration on the topics of Make-IT in Africa & Asia, Digital Transformation in Tunisia, Digital Learning Platforms and Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control.

New Opportunities & The Way Forward

Make-IT Alliance seeks to gain momentum with its new partnership model and refined Code of Conduct.



inspire.connect.develop.

On 27 April 2021, about 200 participants from over 100 different organisations gathered virtually for the Make-IT Day 2021. Stakeholders from the private sector, associations, science and research, NGOs and more engaged in fruitful discussions to explore new opportunities for cooperation and to shape the future of the Make-IT Initiative. High-level speakers and guests from the EU Commission, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Make-IT Alliance contributed to the event in pursuit of Make-IT's shared vision: fostering local digital innovation in developing and emerging countries.

This report gives you an overview of the event highlights, including strategic announcements, ongoing projects and opportunities for collaboration. If you would like to stay up to date on activities of BMZ and Make-IT in the future, you are welcome to subscribe to the [Make-IT Alliance Newsletter](#) and [Digital Economy for Sustainable Development Newsletter](#).

Welcome Notes

The Make-IT Day 2021 was officially opened by Dr. Tania Rödiger-Vorwerk, Director for Private Sector, Trade, Employment and Digital Technologies at BMZ.

200
participants

100+
organisations

8.2 /10
rating

Dr. Rödiger-Vorwerk highlighted the importance of private sector engagement and local innovation in fostering economic growth as well as sustainable development in the BMZ's partner countries. She moreover announced the newest partner of the Make-IT Alliance: Atos, one of the world's leading companies in cloud, big data and cybersecurity.



"The support of local innovators and businesses is a topic for the future and we are glad to see that it is gaining additional momentum through our partners"

- *Dr. Tania Rödiger-Vorwerk*
Director for Private Sector, Trade, Employment and Digital Technologies, BMZ.

Clemens Kapler, Deputy Head of Digital Technologies in Development Cooperation and Make-IT Liaison at BMZ, and Philipp Kruschel, new Head of the Make-IT Secretariat, elaborated on the ongoing development of the Make-IT Alliance. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Make-IT Alliance continued to grow and to be impactful as demonstrated by last year's [#SustainableDevelopmentHack](#). In an overwhelming

response, more than 1000 proposals were submitted by digital innovators around the world to tackle challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The expansion of the Make-IT Initiative to Asia will unleash additional potential in the future, while the overall mission remains the same: leveraging digital solutions to solve local challenges together with partners of the Make-IT Alliance.



"Even now, in times of the current pandemic, the Alliance's willingness and energy to collaborate has not only persisted but has even grown"

- *Clemens Kapler*

Deputy Head of Digital Technologies in Development Cooperation and Make-IT Liaison, BMZ

Through its new partnership model and refined [Code of Conduct](#), Make-IT invites new partners to join and take an active part in the initiative. Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

The European Commission, represented by Ilias Iakovidis, Adviser for Digital Aspects of Green Transformation, and Dr. Bjorn-Soren Giggler, Senior Digital Innovation Officer, presented the novel [European Green Digital Coalition](#) and pointed out potential synergies with the Make-IT Initiative. The aim of the coalition is to harness digital technologies in the fight against climate change and to closely work with leading ICT companies and SMEs to enhance the sustainability of the ICT sector and to

become carbon neutral by 2030. The Coalition has been endorsed by 30 CEOs of leading ICT companies, including Atos, Deutsche Telecom, SAP, Nokia and Vodafone.

Additionally, two EU initiatives operate at the intersection between digital and green: The EU Recovery and Resilience Facility, in which the EU closely cooperates with the German Government to “build back better” subsequent to the economic shock induced by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the Invest EU Program. Within the Invest EU program, the EU is currently preparing the Digital Clean Tech Investment Programme, which will set up an investment fund to enhance equity investments in innovative digital clean tech start-ups and SMEs across Europe. To learn more and to join these EU initiatives, please reach out to Mr. Gigler (bjorn-soren.gigler@ec.europa.eu).

Furthermore, the EU Commission will host a high-level side-event at the upcoming [COP26 in Glasgow](#) in cooperation with BMZ, UNFCCC and UNEP. The event will be closely linked to the concept of Climate Action innovation hubs as being brought forward by the UNFCCC as well as European Commission (e.g. D4D Hub).

New Make-IT Alliance Partner



At this year's Make-IT Day, Atos, represented by Günter Koinegg, Group SVP - Head of Public Sector and Defense Central Europe, was introduced as new partner of the Make-IT Alliance.

Atos is a multinational tech enterprise with operations on all continents. Its vision – ensuring a sustainable, secure and decarbonized future

– aligns with the values and goals of the Make-IT Alliance.

As a first step, Atos, together with the GIZ Global Project Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and Sector Programme Digital Development, will host an ICT4Inclusion Challenge. Its goal is to improve the access to educational materials for people with disabilities by applying digital technologies. The geographic focus of the challenge is in Sub-Saharan Africa. Mr. Koinegg stressed that the engagement of Atos is motivated by the ongoing digital exclusion of 1.3 billion people with disabilities worldwide, out of which 80 percent live in developing and emerging countries.

During the ICT4Inclusion Challenge, students, entrepreneurs, innovators as well as disability activists are invited to submit their project proposals around the topic of “improved access to education”. The chosen teams have the opportunity to enrol in a training bootcamp to further develop their business ideas.

Make-IT Alliance members and partners that have expertise in the field of digital inclusion are invited to become part of the jury. If you are interested, please reach out to the Make-IT Secretariat via make-it@giz.de and share a few details on your experience in the field.

5 Workshops

Five breakout sessions offered participants an opportunity to engage with ongoing and upcoming projects of the Make-IT Initiative.

WORKSHOP 1: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN TUNISIA

In this [workshop](#), Henrik Wichmann and Moritz Hunger from the GIZ Digital Transformation

Center Tunisia together with a colleague from the Make-IT Alliance member GSMA, Tarek Chelaifa, gave an overview of the Tunisian digital innovation ecosystem, the activities of their organisations and the opportunities for private sector engagement. Mr. Wichmann opened the floor by presenting the initiatives united under the umbrella of the Tunisian Digital Transformation Center. The vibrant Tunisian tech environment was illustrated by recent private sector and government activities to improve the regulatory environment (e.g. Startup Act Tunisie) and financial support opportunities for start-ups at all stages of maturity (e.g. Anava Fund) as well as the creation of the “[the Dot](#)”, the newly established Hub for innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Tunisia.

Mr. Hunger laid out the modes in which private sector actors can engage with the GIZ supporting scheme in Tunisia. He invited all actors who are interested to cooperate to reach out to his team (tunisia@invest-for-jobs.com).

Subsequently, the [Tech216](#) project was sketched out as an example. The initiative promotes collaboration among international enterprises, Tunisian IT companies, and talents by accompanying joint business projects.

Afterwards, Tarek Chelaifa showcased GSMA's Ecosystem Accelerator which aims to link the start-up innovation ecosystem with mobile operators. In Tunisia, GSMA cooperates with GIZ on the Mobile Innovation Lab. The Mobile Innovation Lab aims at supporting local entrepreneurs to run sustainable businesses and at catalysing local mobile innovation through collaboration between mobile network operators, public and private sector actors, hubs, and investors. The current emphasis lays on supporting COVID-19 recovery. To get in touch

with GSMA and learn more about how local tech ecosystems can partner with the mobile industry please reach out to Tarek Chelaifa (tchelaifa@gsma.com).

WORKSHOP 2: MAKE-IT IN AFRICA

The Make-IT in Africa [workshop](#) was opened by the new Head of Make-IT in Africa, Matthias Rehfeld. Thus far, the regional programme supported around 500 tech start-ups in 26 different countries, mobilized 100 Mio. € in investments and conducted 100+ trainings for start-up founders and their teams. This was achieved thanks to joint efforts with private companies and local partners.

Two projects demonstrate the collaboration with Make-IT Alliance members: A joint capacity building project for tech entrepreneurs in agriculture, implemented by IBM and Up42, with a thematic focus on weather data and geospatial data, and the new Smart Cities Innovation Programme which is implemented by a wide partner network.

Stefanie Zinsmeyer took over to present the African-European Digital Innovation Bridge (AEDIB), which was launched in December of last year. AEDIB aims to bring the African and European digital innovation ecosystems closer together. For that purpose, a Pan-African network of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) will be established. Under the roof of the DIHs, joint ventures and learning as well as innovative policymaking will be supported. As a first step, three DIHs with different thematic foci will be launched. More member states are currently being approached to participate in AEDIB. The workshop, intended as a kick-off, will be followed up by additional workshops and dialogues. We kindly invite you to get in touch with

the Make-IT Africa team by email (make-it@giz.de).

WORKSHOP 3: MAKE-IT IN ASIA

This [workshop](#) session focused on how the future of Industry 4.0 and Green Tech can be co-designed in Vietnam. Tarek Hassan from the Digital Transformation Center Vietnam along with Huy Ngoc Dang, Manager of the Data Science Lab at Hertie School, and Thomas Guidat, Director Industry Relations and Technology Transfer Center at the Vietnamese-German University, gave insights into the Vietnamese digital ecosystem and showcased opportunities for collaboration with the Make-IT Alliance.

The Data4Good Kit, presented by Huy Ngoc Dang, is a tool for teaching data science and ideation skills to innovators and entrepreneurs. Aiming at the pre-incubation phase, it is a highly scalable gateway to incubation programs. The tool is currently being implemented through a cooperation between Hertie's Data Science Lab and atingi and can be supported by the Make-IT Alliance through mentorship and challenges. To learn more about the Data4Good Kit or if you would like to collaborate, please reach out to Mr. Huy Ngoc Dang (h.dang@hertie-school.org).

The Clean Tech Hub, presented by Thomas Guidat, is an incubator implemented by the Vietnamese-German University in Ho Chi Minh City. It will offer various programmes. Collaboration potential lies especially in hosting a thematic track, offering resources and mentorship in exchange for new ideas, ventures and building talent in Vietnam. If you would like to explore these opportunities, please reach out to Thomas Guidat (thomas.guidat@vgu.edu.vn).

WORKSHOP 4: LEARNING TO EARNING JOURNEY

This [workshop](#) was opened by Dr. Dominic Orr, responsible for atingi, the digital learning platform of German development cooperation. The platform is grounded on the assumption that, even though we are moving towards knowledge economies, there are too little learning opportunities. Existing information is rarely transformed into learnable knowledge. Thus, it cannot be passed on. Dr. Orr stressed that this gap is filled by the digital platforms [atingi](#) and [Yoma](#).

During the workshop, the participants jointly developed a digital poster on the "Learning to Earning Journey". This process was enriched by contributions from IBM, UNICEF, Orange, Siemens, Think Modular and others.

Results of the workshop indicate that the creation of sustainable learning to earning pathways needs strong and diverse partnerships that leverage each other's strengths and resources. This comprises partners providing technical solutions, community support, outreach, learning opportunities and much more.

It was agreed upon that online learning necessitates the right digital infrastructures, namely digital platforms which are ideally based on open standards and educational resources.

If you are interested, please reach out to the atingi team (atingi@giz.de) or Franziska Seiffarth (franziska.seiffarth@giz.de) for Yoma.

WORKSHOP 5: DIGITAL INNOVATION IN PANDEMIC CONTROL

In this [workshop](#), BMZ initiatives regarding global health and the novel [digilab](#) were presented.

The digilab – a new ideation and innovation lab of BMZ – aims at promoting the effective, fair and responsible use of digital innovations within German development cooperation. Digital Innovations will be strengthened through a threefold approach: Firstly, scouting, which means identifying forward-looking innovations. Secondly, promoting, which means funding the best innovations. And thirdly and most importantly, scaling, which is the process of making innovations broadly effective by applying them in different contexts.

From the flagship initiatives on “Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control”, the “digilab x WFP Covid-19 Innovation Accelerator” was presented in more detail. Potential for collaboration lies especially in funding and joint prototyping.

The presentation was followed by a discussion, which shed light on the perceived challenges around private sector engagement regarding global health. Lastly, participants were invited to bring forth their own business ideas and to participate and contribute to the BMZ’s global health projects.

If you would like to cooperate, please get in touch with the digilab team (digilab@giz.de).

Final Remarks

The Make-IT Day 2021 was closed by the summarizing remarks of Dr. Maria Flachsbarth, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal

Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development and patron of the Make-IT Alliance.

Dr. Flachsbarth expressed the need for positive initiatives such as Make-IT in times of the global pandemic. In the future, novel projects such as the African-European Digital Innovation Bridge (AEDIB) and the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub, which are supported by Make-IT Alliance members such as Orange and SAP, may play a decisive role.



The global digital innovation ecosystem will additionally be strengthened by BMZ’s Digital Transformation Centers. By the end of 2021, 18 of these centers will be established around the globe. Ms. Flachsbarth highlighted that all these initiatives can be linked to the Make-IT Alliance, the central partner network of BMZ.

Dr. Flachsbarth closed by thanking all participants for their contributions and by announcing that the Make-IT Day 2021 is only an indication of what is still to come.

Are you interested to partner up with the Make-IT Alliance? Please reach out to us:

Philipp Kruschel

Head of Make-IT Secretariat, GIZ

make-it@giz.de

Publisher

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation
and Development (BMZ)

Contact person

BMZ, Division Digital technologies in develop-
ment cooperation

Clemens Kapler

clemens.kapler@bmz.bund.de

Sector Programme Digital Development, GIZ

Philipp Kruschel

philipp.kruschel@giz.de

Photos

GIZ

Address

BMZ Bonn

Dahlmannstraße 4

53113 Bonn

Tel.: +49 (0)228 99535 – 0

BMZ Berlin im Europahaus

Stresemannstraße 94

10963 Berlin

Tel.: +49 (0)30 18 535 – 0

www.bmz.de

Date

June 2021