

UNLOCK Accelerator 2021 - Fact sheet

Tag line: We accelerate your ideas. Together we build the future of Free Knowledge.

What the accelerator is about: The UNLOCK Accelerator is committed to promoting solutions that make the world's knowledge more inclusive and accessible to all. To work towards this goal we believe in the power of open innovation and are looking for impact-driven ideas and concepts to support in our fully remote accelerator program. This year, the UNLOCK Accelerator is entering its second edition. It will be the first edition held in the English language and is open for applications beyond German-speaking countries.

What the accelerator offers: The UNLOCK Accelerator offers a structured online program that helps participating teams turn their idea into a functional product within three months with the help of needs-oriented coaching. The UNLOCK team accompanies the project teams during the implementation phase and not only connects them with each other, but also with experts and supporters from their national and international network. All project results developed during the program will be made publicly available under a free license.

On the application requirements: The program is open for teams of two to five members from across Europe with a concrete idea that addresses the thematic challenge. We are looking for people with a start-up mentality, but a social spirit, who want to make a lasting impact on our knowledge society. Application is open from April 1 to May 16, 2021 at wikimedia.de/unlock.

The thematic focus: The 2021 thematic focus of the UNLOCK Accelerator bears the title *(Re)building trust in the digital age*. In light of the overabundance of information that our world is experiencing online and off, both the access to knowledge and the informed use of sources, information and data by users are being increasingly challenged. We are calling for technical and non-technical solutions that counteract these trends and help strengthen our foundations of trust in information and technology.

The selection process: All submissions will be reviewed by a jury consisting of Wikimedia staff members, external Free Knowledge experts and coaches mentoring the program who will also shortlist ten of the submitted applications. From these, up to seven teams will be selected through online calls to participate in the UNLOCK Accelerator. The program starts at the beginning of July and closes in early October.

More information:

UNLOCK Accelerator Website: <https://www.wikimedia.de/unlock/>

UNLOCK Accelerator on Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNLOCK_Acc

Wikimedia Deutschland: <https://www.wikimedia.de/>

Wikimedia Deutschland: Wikimedia Deutschland e.V. was founded in 2004 and is a non-profit organization with currently around 80,000 members. We understand equal opportunities in access to knowledge and education as a human right and are working to ensure that projects such as the free online encyclopedia Wikipedia can continue to exist in the future. The support of Wikipedia editors has been an integral part of the work of Wikimedia Deutschland, but we do much more: We support volunteers in many other Wikimedia projects, develop free software and technology, advocate for open science, education, and culture, and strengthen political conditions that enable free access to knowledge.