



WIKIMEDIA
CH

Annual Report

Prepared for the General Assembly
2010

Facts and Figures

As of April 1st, 2010, Wikimedia CH has 93 members, which is an increase of about 16% compared to one year before. Thereof, 8 are supportive members. Further, 6 members are legal entities.

Between May 28th, 2009 and June 9th, 2010, the Board of Wikimedia CH consists of:

Mourad Ben Abdallah, President

Bagawathram Maheswaran, Treasurer

Frédéric Schütz, Press speaker for French language

Ilario Valdelli, Press speaker for Italian language

Ludovic Péron

Gion Hosang, Press speaker for Romansh language

The new Board, elected by the General Assembly 2010 will formally take up its work on June 10th, 2010, 60 days after the General Assembly.

In the same time period, auditors of Wikimedia CH have been:

Jürg Studer

Stéphane Coillet-Matillon

Chief Information Officer of Wikimedia CH is Manuel Schneider. Press speaker for German language is Nando Stöcklin and Secretary is Patrick Kenel.

Activities

Wikimania 2009

Manuel Schneider participated at Wikimania 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on behalf of Wikimedia CH. He was giving a talk about the openZIM project and took part in a panel about Wikimedia Chapters.

The major topic of this Wikimania was the strategy process of the Wikimedia Foundation. The message was clear: Everyone, no matter if chapter's member or not, should participate on the strategy wiki to come up with new proposals or help to develop existing proposals.

Another topic was - as every year - the discussion about establishing new chapters. The emerging Brazilian chapter has presented itself at the Chapters Meeting as an alternative draft of Chapters association - they consider themselves as a free movement instead of a legal entity, so that they have a manifesto instead of bylaws etc. The fact that they are not a legal entity brings up a lot of problems as they can't sign a contract with the Wikimedia Foundation. This and other cultural differences have been discussed, informal but also at the Chapters panel. Wikimedia CH is an interesting example from a cultural perspective: Four different languages and mentalities and no big Wikimedia project to adopt. The emerging Indian chapter for instance has similar problems, many languages for instance plus a very large country. So they are thinking of having small regional chapters instead of one national - the US has put that across with the New York chapter.

Wikimania is an important conference, even if there are no sizeable results or benefits. The more important part is the networking, pushing chapters' politics forward and getting to know what is happening outside Europe and the official actions of the Wikimedia Foundation and other chapters.

Wikimania 2010 will take place in Gdansk in Poland. As the distance is shorter, it is very likely that more members of Wikimedia CH have the opportunity to participate there. Furthermore, Swiss conductor Felix

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Reolon is responsible for the musical program of this conference that will be staged in the Baltic Philharmony building.

Wikipedia Offline / openZIM

Based on the Open Source software for the Wikipedia DVD 2008/2009, a project team was formed to provide a standardized file format and free software for Wikipedia Offline. One of the ideas was to stop publishers from reinventing the wheel each time a new Offline Wikipedia tool or gadget is published. All offline content should be freely interchangeable with all offline reader applications.

The openZIM team was founded to implement these ideas. Wikimedia CH sponsored the team with 4'000 CHF to cover server costs and developer meetings. In June, the team asked for an extra budget of 1'000 CHF to publish a first version of their software with 900'000 articles of the German-language Wikipedia. This DVD made it on Germany's major IT news site, Heise Online. Since then several blog posts give evidence of the success and usability of the software, though it is not finished yet. Several adopters have been attracted, e.g. Kiwix, Moulin Wiki and Okawix. A South African school is using ZIM with Kiwix to provide Wikipedia content to students in a school far away from internet access. The Israeli OLPC project is working in cooperation with Wikimedia Israel on using ZIM on their PCs with the Hebrew Wikipedia; Wikimedia Israel has offered a budget to fund specific software improvements for right-to-left support.

An important cooperation was made with the Wikimedia Foundation. It is working on integrating ZIM into the regular dumping process, so updated ZIM files of all wikis will be available on the download servers. Tomasz Finc, the responsible developer and employee of the Wikimedia Foundation, is now part of the openZIM team and participates in openZIM developer meetings in Europe.

The work of the openZIM project will continue in the future. A higher budget for 2010, allowing a more professional project management, has been published and sponsored again by Wikimedia CH.

The openZIM project thanks Wikimedia CH for supporting its start so well.

Scanning Projects

Encyclopédie du monde actuel

Frédéric Schütz had contacts with people from the Yinternet foundation (<http://www.yinternet.org>) who are running a project to scan an encyclopaedia called "Encyclopédie du monde actuel", which was edited in Lausanne starting in 1964, eventually in the form of 30 books, by the French editor Le Livre de Poche.

Its author, Charles-Henri Favrod, wants to make sure that this work won't be lost, and is ready to release it under a free license. Wikimedia CH would be interested to help financially with the scanning and some hosting of this content with an historical interest and usable for Wikimedia projects. This is likely to be quite high-profile and to generate some very positive media coverage, especially in our "scanning-frenzy" times.

The digital publishing agreement is signed by Mr. Favrod on December 16, 2009. Several quotes have been looked at and one of them is particularly interesting as it is done through a member from Digitale Allmend which is a like-minded organization. The total budget would reach 9'000 CHF for 9'000 pages of documents.

Pictet Foundation

A couple of month ago, Stéphane Coillet-Matillon got in touch with the Pictet Foundation, which maintains all archives pertaining to this old Geneva family of private bankers. The general idea would be to transfer and host scanning of old documents on Wikimedia Commons. The Foundation Council will need a formal proposal, clearing a couple of legal issues. A legal opinion has been requested in order to meet their requirements.

Audio Recording Project

In January 2010, Wikimedia CH has been approached by conductor Felix Reolon from Winterthur and German Wikipedian Juliana da Costa José. The conductor was willing to record pieces of music, which are public domain, for Wikipedia. The Board agreed to support this project by bearing the expenses of the recordings, while the professional ensemble would play free of charge. The goal is to provide excellent recordings for educational purposes.

In March, the first test recordings took place featuring six suites for violoncello by Johann Sebastian Bach. A budget of 3'500 CHF has been provided. Wikimedia CH still has to decide whether to support this project over an extended period.

TAO Programme

Wikimedia CH has chosen early in 2009 to participate to the Third Age Online (TAO) collaboration project that is scheduled to start in the autumn 2010 with duration of 36 months.

Directed by Beat Estermann from the Bern University of Applied Sciences, its main goal is to facilitate and promote access of elderly and early retired people to online collaboration projects, including Wikimedia projects, with the support of the European Union's Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Joint Programme. Among the other community partners that agreed to take part are Seniorweb Switzerland, Seniorweb Netherlands and Wikimedia Deutschland; the Universities of Maastricht and Ulm are also part of the consortium. The project budget amounts to around 3 millions euro with one half being funded within the AAL program and the remaining financial means to be contributed or raised by the different project partners themselves.

In this context, Wolf Ludwig, member of Wikimedia CH, has been designated as contact between the TAO team and the Board. Further communications and documentation will be transmitted during the General Assembly. A formal vote will be needed in order to implement any internal measure necessary for the success of this initiative.

Fundraising

While the financial report of the Treasurer will provide a detailed account of the association's financial activity, it should just be briefly pointed out that Wikimedia CH has had a most positive year in terms of fundraising. Due to increased visibility of Wikimedia CH on Wikipedia and Wikimedia pages, we were able to donate more than 53'000 CHF to the Wikimedia Foundation, as support for the maintenance of the Wikimedia projects.

Contact with like-minded organisations

Meetings were held in 2009 with other organizations in Switzerland, particularly in the Romandie, which are active in the Free Software / Open Content movement. Mourad Ben Abdallah had the occasion to meet contributors during the OpenStreetDay organized in Vevey on May 30th, 2009 to discuss possible collaboration between OpenStreetMap and the Wikimedia projects at the Swiss level.

Ilario Valdelli had another meeting in April 2010 with the Fondazione Archivi Architetti Ticinesi of Archivio di Stato of Bellinzona. A collaboration to release the content of their archives under a free license seems possible.

Historical Dictionary of Switzerland

Several members, including some Board members, had a meeting with the French-speaking redaction of the Historical Dictionary of Switzerland on May 15th, 2009. A summary of the discussion has been published in a Wikinews article in French:

http://fr.wikinews.org/wiki/Entrevue_de_Wikimedia_CH_avec_la_rédaction_du_Dictionnaire_historique_de_la_Suisse.

Chapters Meeting 2011

After an internal discussion, the Board recommends that Wikimedia CH proposes Switzerland's candidature to host the Chapters Meeting in 2011. In order to be able to organize such an event, a working group will need to be created with all members interested to participate in one way or another. A communication will be sent to the members soon after the General Assembly.

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Concerning the eligible locations and due to organizational contingencies, Zurich, Geneva, and Basel are the most likely cities to host such meeting (international airport, accommodation and meeting facilities, etc.). Other locations could be discussed by the group once created.

Wikimedia CH Websites

Following the Board meeting held in Bern, the decision has been taken to move forward with the improvement of our association websites. Currently, Wikimedia CH owns two different websites:

- * <http://www.wikimedia.ch/>: the site of the association dedicated to members and based on the wiki technology;
- * <http://www.wikipedia.ch/>: the site currently dedicated to a search engine within the different Wikipedia versions related to national languages.

To achieve this process, the option of entrusting our websites redesign to an external company has been selected. To move forward in that direction, the first task is creating a request for proposal in the way Wikimedia France did for its own websites:

<http://blog.wikimedia.fr/wikimedia-france-lance-une-consultation-pour-la-refonte-des-ses-sites-560>. In order to draw on the expertise and resources of all our members, the Board has called to any member who would be interested to participate to this task, in coordination with the Board. As no interest has arisen following this communication, the project remains on hold.

Pending further moves, a page has been opened on the Wikimedia CH site to collect remarks, ideas and suggestions on the design as well as the contents that could be useful for the members and users:

[http://www.wikimedia.ch/Refonte du site](http://www.wikimedia.ch/Refonte_du_site). Contributions are opened in every language with appropriate translations being furnished upon request.

Communications

Swiss media

- April 7th, 2009 – Intervention of Ilario Valdelli on *Mille voci* (RSI Rete 1): <http://podcast.rsi.ch/ReteUno/Millevoci/07-04-2009-Millevoci-Wikipedia-Colotti.mp3> (Italian)
- May 16th, 2009 – Intervention of Ludovic Péron on *Pointbarre* (Couleur 3): <http://podcast.rsr.ch/media/pointbarre/20090516-wikipedia-interview-de-ludovic-membre-de-wikimedia-ch-l-integrale.mp3> (French)
- August 11th, 2009 – Intervention of Petar Marjanovic and Nando Stöcklin on *News GL* (Tele Südostschweiz)
- August 28th, 2009 – Intervention of Frédéric Schütz on *Le Grand 8* (Radio suisse romande):
http://real.xobix.ch/ramgen/rsr/rsr1/journal_du_matin_0715/2009/journal-du-matin-07-15-08-3520090828-065800-56k-001.rm?start=01:02:44.661&end=01:34:45.764 (French)
- September 2nd, 2009 – Intervention of Frédéric Schütz in « Wikipédia va vers plus d'ouverture » (Tribune de Genève):
<http://www.tdg.ch/actu/hi-tech/wikipedia-va-vers-ouverture-2009-09-02> (French)
- September 18th, 2009 – Intervention of Frédéric Schütz on *Médialogues* (Radio suisse romande):
<http://podcast.rsr.ch/media/la1ere/medialogues/20090918-wikipedia-reste-libre.mp3> (French)
- November 11th, 2009 – Intervention of Ilario Valdelli on *Geronimo web* (RSI Rete 2)
- January 22nd, 2010 – Intervention of Ilario Valdelli on *La Consulenza* (RSI Rete 1)

- January 28th, 2010 – Intervention of Ludovic Péron on *Pointbarre* (Couleur 3): <http://podcast.rsr.ch/media/pointbarre/20100130-pointbarre-30-01-2010-09-27.mp3> / <http://podcast.rsr.ch/media/pointbarre/20100130-pointbarre-30-01-2010-09-38.mp3> (French)
- February 18th, 2010 – Intervention of Frédéric Schütz in « Deux millions pour Wikipedia, le don de Google qui intrigue » (Le Temps): http://www.letemps.ch/Page/Uuid/89cbb5fa-1c0c-11df-ac4e-251af3000cf2/Deux_millions_pour_Wikipedia_le_don_de_Google_qui_intrigue (French)

Conferences / Seminars

- May 18th, 2009 – Intervention of Stéphane Coillet-Matillon at the World Summit on Information Society Forum in Geneva: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/meta/8/80/Wikimedia_CH_W_SIS09.pdf
- August 27th, 2009 – Seminar of Manuel Schneider at Wikimania 2009 about the openZIM project: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1a/200908271434-Manuel_Schneider-openZIM_serving_the_Wikipedia_Offline_Projects.ogg
- September 4th, 2009 – Seminar of Frédéric Schütz at the School of Arts and Communication in Lausanne
- September 21st, 2009 – Seminar of Nando Stöcklin at the Kantonsschule Baden on “Wikipedia: Ein Blick hinter die Kulissen”
- September 22-25th, 2009 – Seminar of Nando Stöcklin at the Kantonsschule Baden on “Wikipedia, Wikibu, Informationskompetenz”
- October 7th, 2009 – Seminar of Frédéric Schütz and Ludovic Péron at the Swiss Public Relations Society (French-speaking section) on "Wikipedia and Public Relations"

- October 16th, 2009 – Intervention of Ilario Valdelli at the “From Diderot to Wikipedia” conference in the University of Padua: <http://www.educazione.unipd.it/dadiderotawikipedia/> (Italian)
- November 27th, 2009 – Seminar of Frédéric Schütz and Ludovic Péron at the Polycom Lausanne

Press Review

General Press Review

- April 30th, 2009: « Am Stammtisch der Grottenmolche », *Die Zeit*: <http://www.zeit.de/2009/19/CH-Wikipedia>
- June 5th, 2009: « Es ist die Informationssucht », *Liechtensteiner Vaterland*: http://www.vaterland.li/page/epaper/pdf_download.cfm?seite=09_m_apc_01_2009-06-05
- June 26th, 2009: « LinuxTag: Aktualisierte Wikipedia-DVD », *iX*: <http://www.heise.de/ix/LinuxTag-Aktualisierte-Wikipedia-DVD--/news/meldung/141150>
- February 13th, 2010: « Ordnung und Unordnung des Wissens », *Die Neue Zürcher Zeitung*: http://www.nzz.ch/nachrichten/kultur/literatur_und_kunst/ordnung_und_unordnung_des_wissens_1.4941730.html

Press Releases

- June 23rd, 2009: *Wikipedia DVD für Linux verfügbar*
- September 2nd, 2009: *Commons : 5 millions de fichiers*

Statement by the President

One year after being elected as new President and Board member, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked with me, especially the other Board members, the auditors, our Chief Information Officer, our Press speaker for German language and our Secretary. Last but not least, I wish to thank members who have supported us financially, by volunteering their time or by submitting new projects.

In the perspective of the coming year, I also wish to share the challenges that I think need to be those of our association. While recognizing that more could have been made, particularly in terms of internal communication and visibility, an observation has gradually imposed upon me. If Wikimedia CH wants to grow and develop further, we will quickly address the limitations posed by an organization based solely on volunteering, particularly in terms of communication and project management. While this approach has produced great successes in the past, it seems clear for me today that if we want to take part in larger projects and meet challenges that lie ahead, a more professional structure should seriously be considered as Wikimedia Deutschland and Wikimedia France already did. The question of a clearer distinction between the strategic role, which is that of the Board, and the organizational tasks deserves to be discussed, as well as the opportunity to create a permanent office occupied by an employee. If, as we all want, Wikimedia CH has ambitions to continue its development, it seems to me more obvious every day that this is the direction we must go during the year to come. I am confident that the Board and members have the capabilities to meet this challenge.

Zurich, April 4th, 2010

Mourad Ben Abdallah
President