

Local Hubs Zine Pitch for <https://diymethods.net/> , Vesna Manojlovic BECHA@UnCiv.NL

Title: Diversity, Sustainability, Decentralisation: Local Hubs for Federated Research Collaboration

Topic: I want to promote “Local Hubs” as an alternative format for events: research conferences, hackers congresses, Internet Governance meetings etc. “Content” describes **why** Local Hubs are useful for research collaboration.

Format: something between “instructions manual”, a scrap-book & a blog-post.
I will add links, images & quotes from previous events, as well as “how to”!

DRAFT Content:

Problem statements:

** research culture involves significant air travel, a major contributor to global warming. At the moment, being a successful researcher necessitates publishing papers & presenting at conferences with some regularity.*

** conferences are growing, and larger events come with larger issues:*

- scaling-up in size = focusing on growth
- luxury venues (wasteful)
- dependance on commercial sponsorship
- exclusivity & “in-group” / coolness factor
- harder to spot & deal with misbehaving & abusive behaviours

*Proposed solutions: **Local Hubs!***

Smaller events are better for fostering both diversity and environmental sustainability:

Diversity

- wasting less time for travel & for organising
- people with care-needs can take part
- cheaper / affordable for poor people
- more justice - do not need to ask for visas

Sustainability

- less travel = less emissions
- against consumerism & un-neccesary expenses
- smaller venues, less heating, less ventilation costs...

Bonus: HEALTH benefits: covid prevention measures are easier in smaller groups!

Examples of “traditional” local hubs I took part in:

CCC (Congress everywhere) <https://events.ccc.de/2023/12/26/37c3-everywhere/>

IGF (remote hubs) 2023

RIPE87

Decentralisation: Towards Federated Events

Even “local hubs” still rely on the paradigm of “central & satellite events”. My preferred format would be fully decentralised / federated events!

Benefits & Healthy Attitudes:

- *small is beautiful ; meaningful connections; against burnout*
- *modest needs, mutual aid & solidarity*
- *not-for-profit , community support*
- *Creative , alternative formats of interaction*

=> no broadcast! no hierarchy!

=> all participants have something to contribute.. challenging to facilitate

Examples of Hubs I helped organise:

- *Queering Wikimedia*
- *Quantum Internet Hackathon*
- *Computing Within Limits: 2022, 2023*

Additional examples of promoting more sustainable academic events,

* [A NEARLY CARBON-NEUTRAL CONFERENCE MODEL](#)

* [FIELDNOTES ON FLYINGLESS CONFERENCING](#)

* <https://www.sigplan.org/Resources/Climate/>

* [EPFL Travel Directives](#)

Biography:

Vesna Manojlovic (she/her) is a hacker, mother, engineer, artist, feminist, Community Builder, activist, mediator, émigré from ex-Yugoslavia.

Vesna lives and works between Amsterdam & Lika (Croatia).

Web sites: <https://becha.unciv.nl/>

<http://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/User:Becha>

<https://labs.ripe.net/Members/becha>

Mastodon: @becha@v.st

Selected Bibliography:

* 2024: Bracing for the Internet of Armageddon and Squirrels [https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Vesna_IAB-](https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Vesna_IAB-BIAS-Workshop-)

[Basic_Internet_And_Squirrels.pdf](#)

* 2023: Tech is Ecocide: https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/AI_is_ecocide

* 2021: Every Society Has the Internet they Deserve [https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/ripe-](https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/ripe-community-resilience-every-society-has-the-internet-they-deserve/)

[community-resilience-every-society-has-](#)

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* 2018: Instructions on How to Organise a Hackathon <https://wiki.techinc.nl/>

[File:How_to_organise_a_hackathon-January2018.pdf](#)

* 2016: Post-Singularity of Mycelium : Speaker for Squirrels: <https://becha.home.xs4all.nl/>

[Speaker_for_Squirrels-GogBot-2016.pdf](#)

* Contributed to: RFC 9547 - IAB Workshop on Environmental Impact of Internet

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/rfc9547/>