

# IMAGINING, ORGANISING, SUPPORTING:

The Elements  
Of A Digital Justice  
Ecosystem In Europe



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Here we detail in full the elements forming the digital justice ecosystem, organised in three sections: **1) Imagining through collective, community-centred knowledge;** **2) Organising Solidarity;** and **3) Supporting and Sustaining Movements.**

The elements were imagined and developed as part of a two-year collective design process and consultations.

More information on this is available in the **Grounding Materials** section and in the Blueprint to the Decolonising the digital rights field in Europe process.

# Imagining through collective, community- centred knowledge

“If it is true that a revolution can fail even though it be based on perfectly conceived theories, nobody has yet made a successful revolution without a revolutionary theory”.

Amilcar Cabral,  
*The Weapon of Theory*,  
1966

Research is often viewed as an academic tool that doesn't go outside of exclusionary institutions. Reports from non-profit organisations often reproduce how knowledge is developed in academia. How and what we look at, what type of information we need, and how we gain information are not neutral but can reproduce and amplify systems of exclusion. This leads to key issues not being addressed and researched, harms being invisibilised and people affected being perceived as objects of research rather than agents of change. This means that the knowledge necessary for change is either not produced or doesn't circulate where it should.

But we know that for real change to happen, we need to:

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| 1. Investigate how colonial dynamics manifest through technological harms. | 2. Collectively imagine anti-colonial ways to resist and the just worlds we desire. |
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Without imagination, there is no liberation, and without theory, there is no radical change.

We envisage knowledge production in the ecosystem to happen in two stages: ① the compilation and amplification of existing work and ② Knowledge and Imagining spaces to fill the gaps in our understanding of tech harms and support

strategising towards the digital futures that serve us all.

①

### **Compilation and amplification of existing work:**

We want the knowledge that serves us and has already been produced to be more widely accessible. During the design process, we identified the following preliminary areas of research projects in which compilation and amplification of existing research could start:

### *Repository Of Anti-Colonial, Abolitionist, And/Or Transformative Movements In Tech*

Many movements, organisations and researchers are already organising and creating practices and research around digital technologies within anti-colonial, abolitionist and/or transformative frameworks.

The repository will aim to amplify their reach and support their archiving. This can help organisations working in policy-making to ground their work in ambitious demands. The repository will not only gather the different sources but also work towards the compensation of the researchers. It will start by mapping critical tech knowledge produced by collectives/researchers from the Global South.

*Mapping Of  
Transformative  
Mental Health  
Supports  
Available  
In Europe*

Colonial dynamics are, first and foremost, a health crisis impacting our physical and mental health. Specifically for people from marginalised communities, the workplace can often be a space that negatively impacts their mental health, disabling them from doing the work and/or staying in their roles, especially if their role concerns a form of oppression they are directly negatively impacted by. The research aims to map the resources available in Europe that organisations can use to support their employees in a trauma-informed way.

*Understanding  
The Colonial  
Roots Of  
Digital Rights  
Funding In  
Europe*

We identified that funding practices often reflect colonial dynamics, contributing to the concentration of power amongst mainstream, centralised organisations, avoiding resourcing grassroots, community-centred work and exacerbating imbalances of power aligned with colonial legacies linked to geography, race, gender, sexuality, class, ability, migration status and more. This would explore the colonial and extractivist

roots of funders operating in the European digital rights field and presents a series of recommendations on how such funders could provide reparations.

*Framework  
Of Indicators  
For Shifting  
Power*

We envision the framework to serve as a tool for self-assessment for funders, civil society, and others when implementing activities in this programme or other new initiatives, projects, and partnerships seeking to address and dismantle structural power imbalances. This framework for shifting power will be developed by activists, communities, and collectives working on racial, economic, social, environmental, and digital justice issues. It will be published to facilitate broader reflection on shifting power in other contexts.

*Transformative  
Partnerships  
Framework  
And Mapping  
Of Successful  
Transformative  
Partnerships*

Recognising that coalition building and relational work are technologies of change, this research will explore how to build meaningful coalitions on social, racial, economic, environmental, and digital justice. This will be a community-driven research and

evaluation into how partnerships are formed according to principles of meaningful solidarity. Mapping examples of successful transformative partnership practices as inspiration, the research will produce a community guideline that will serve as a tool and set of reflections for actors looking to build partnerships within and with other movements, particularly in circumstances where there is a power imbalance (for example in terms of access to resources) between the organisations involved.

②

### The Knowledge and Imagining spaces

The Knowledge and Imagining spaces will centre on the needs and methods of the communities it aims to serve while creating an interdisciplinary environment. We envision each space to kick-off with a retreat of several days in which groups - for example, Black feminist groups - would gather and have time to discuss how technologies impact them and what type of technologies would serve them as a community of experts. These spaces would allow for conversation between racial, transfeminist, social, economic, digital, and environmental justice organisations, with the support of technologists and academics that are relevant to their thematic of interest. At the end of the workshop, the participants would agree to deepen one theme that they want to

gain more knowledge of and set up a working group. These spaces could also centre on a specific theme that lies at the intersection of multiple injustices, such as digital technologies and climate justice and their links to extractivism and displacement.

In thinking of these spaces, we are inspired by the organising tradition of numerous movements and collectives that have fostered community-based knowledge. One digital activism example is the Transfeminist Digital Care Network in Brazil. Since 2021, the Transfeminist Digital Care Network has led the *Gincana Monstra*, a synchronous and asynchronous online process based on the idea of an infrastructure of affection and the creation of a solidarity network, in eight weeks of exchange and learning about digital and ancestral technologies, strategies and security, territoriality, transculturality, and intergenerational knowledge, always based on our own experiences, cosmoperceptions, and feelings. The *Gincana Monstra* is an all-online process to promote learning processes in Digital Care aimed at feminist activists with the intention of being multipliers of this knowledge in their collectives and communities. These convenings enabled a deeper exploration of feminist digital safety methodologies, infrastructures of care, and a stronger network of support for and by feminist facilitators and trainers of digital safety.