TENDING TO THE DIGITAL JUSTICE ECOSYSTEM

Decolonising The Existing Digital Rights Field In Europe

This section explains how the decolonising programme builds on an existing ecosystem of digital rights work in Europe but seeks to radically transform it. The programme aims at this through a range of activities, infrastructures, roles and initiatives. This transformation will take place at two interconnected levels:

1) <u>Transforming the structure of the field</u>, including organisations, the dynamics between groups, how funding flows and how and where work takes place, which will lead to;

2) <u>Shifting how ideas, agendas, visions, narratives are generated and sustained</u> via the ecosystem's new spaces, roles, and tools to meaningfully produce justice-oriented agendas, outputs, and outcomes.

The programme proposes to create the necessary infrastructures to strengthen and uplift an ecosystem of activists working towards digital justice from different angles. Many people are already organising on tech issues from a justice and anti-colonial perspective, and there are many activists and/or researchers working against racist digital policing and digital borders, violent digital welfare systems, and tech-enhanced health injustices and labour exploitation. Unions, collectives and forums have flourished in different areas. The programme does not start from scratch but seeks to offer connection points, equitable resourcing and spaces for knowledge production, imagining and organising to ensure

that existing and new efforts can thrive. The different elements of the programme are connected and are intended to feed into and nourish each other.
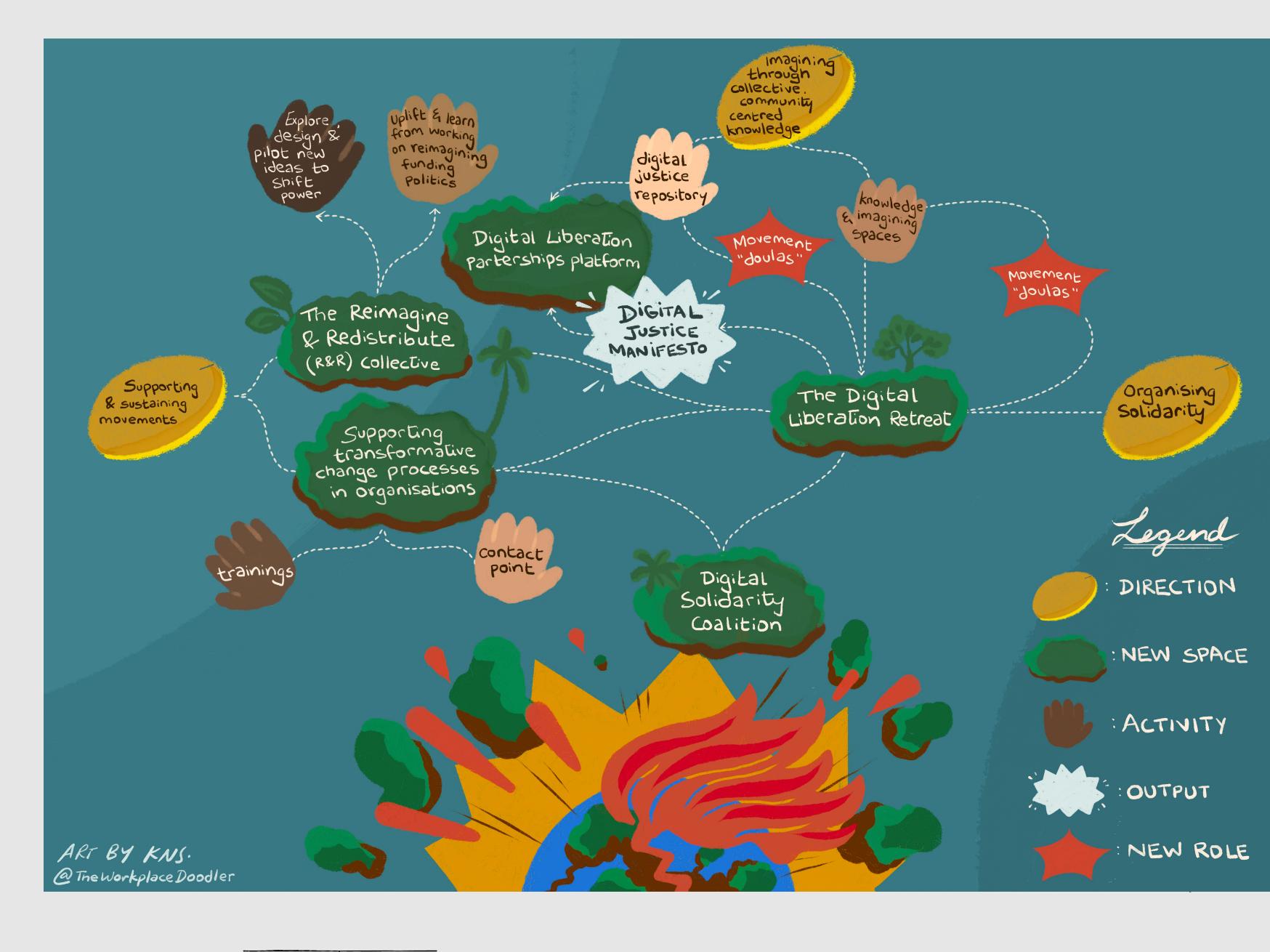
The Digital Justice Ecosystem

We strive for a digital justice ecosystem that centres on racial, social, transfeminist, economic, and environmental justice activism. This ecosystem will have three key orientations: imagining, organising and supporting. Imagining digital futures, beyond reacting in urgency to the harm we are facing. Organising to make the vision happen by facilitating spaces for organisations to meet, coalitions to be built and movements to strengthen. Supporting organisations and movements to ensure that change is worthwhile and sustainable, first of all for the people making it happen.

We see **Knowledge and Imagining spaces** where organisations and collectives can challenge harmful technologies and systems and create and share knowledge that serves their resistance and liberatory work. Those spaces will be designed to activate the imagination towards what type of tech realities we want and desire – beyond resisting – spaces where we could explore the question "what if all our tech were life-affirming?".

The different organisations involved in the **Knowledge and Imagining spaces** will join the annual **Digital Liberation Retreat**. We see this retreat as a moment during which people can slow down and reflect on past work, take the time to resource and discuss the challenges they face – on a programmatic level (the type of harms resulting from tech and tech power), an organisational level (salary structure, forms of leadership, transformative management, mental health support, sustainable partnerships etc.) and a movement building level (how the field is resourced and sustained). The retreat will be the place where the imagining, organising, and supporting aspects of the ecosystem come together. From the retreat, new research ideas will flourish, and specific transformative organisational and funding needs will emerge. This picture will be mapped and documented, acting as a basis for new op-

portunities for partnerships and collective organising, whether for advocacy, campaigning, grass-roots organising and/or litigation. This will form the Digital Justice Manifesto.

The new learnings, knowledge, ideas for coalitions, and needs formulated during the retreat will then be shared on the Digital Liberation Partnerships platform to be accessible to a broader set of people, set the start for new Knowledge and Imagining spaces, and inform the support provided for transformative change processes in organisations.

We see the Reimagine & Redistribute collective as a space for critical reflection and propositions around how to equitably resource and sustain the work of the ecosystem. Funders, communities, and organisations will come together to rei-

Explore design & pilot new ideas to shift power

Uplift & learn from working on reimagining funding politics

Imagining through collective, community centred knowledge

digital justice repository

knowledge & imagining spaces

Digital Liberation Partnerships platform

Movement "doulas"

DIGITAL JUSTICE MANIFESTO

The Reimagine & Redistribute (R&R) collective

Movement "doulas"

Supporting & sustaining movements

Supporting transformative change processes in organisations

The Digital Liberation Retreat

Organising Solidarity

trainings

contact point

Digital Solidarity Coalition

ART BY KNS.
@The Workplace Doodler

Legend

DIRECTION

NEW SPACE

ACTIVITY

OUTPUT

NEW ROLE

magine funding politics and practices. Ideally, funders will be supported to build and make commitments to redistribute capital and shift power. This work will connect to and uplift existing efforts to decolonise funding, and its outputs will feed into the conversations taking place at the **Digital Liberation Retreat** and hopefully across the ecosystem in terms of how funding flows and work is resourced.

Across the ecosystem, we see **Movement Doulas** helping to bring life to the objectives of this programme in a number of ways, including conducting outreach to organisations that could be interested in joining the struggle against colonial tech violence both in Europe and beyond and facilitating connections to existing work. We see the **Digital Solidarity Coalition** as a source of skills, expertise, and resources from technologists and the digital rights field, which could be helpful to wider racial and social justice movements in Europe and across the world.

We see the **Digital Liberation Retreat** and **Digital Liberation Partnerships** platform as key spaces for sharing learnings, updates on activities, and key resources that will irrigate and nourish the entire ecosystem.

The elements of this programme will not be realised all at once, and we expect to start with elements related to the **Knowledge and Imagining spaces** and the **Digital Liberation Retreat**. It is essential that the programme is owned by the communities it aims to serve; therefore, grants will support organisations that would want to take part in any of the steps it foresees. It is also essential that the programme is not so rigid as to hinder existing work in this space, but instead should open up possibilities, so we imagine that the ecosystem will expand, evolve and change as it finds its own rhythm.