AN AGENCY SPECIALISED IN DIGITAL SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Created during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the World Digital Solidarity Agency (DSA) is an NGO specialising in the opportunities offered by integrating Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in development policies. For efficiency purposes, it acts at a **local level**, drawing on the decentralisation cooperation agreements of local communities in conjunction with NGOs, companies, public institutions and financial backers.

NEW TYPES OF SOLIDARITY TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL GAP

According to UNCTAD’s 2007-2008 report, the integration of ICT constitutes a powerful lever in the development of the poorest regions and contributes to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The fight to bridge the digital gap also has a major **economic aspect** in the world market of ICTs, which according to the OECD represents nearly $3 trillion per year.

If cell phone technology has achieved remarkable success in **Africa** (nearly 30% of equipment today versus 100% in developing countries), access to the Internet remains very marginal (3% in Africa versus nearly 70% in developed countries) and IT equipment is still very low.

MONITORING, ADVISING, NETWORKING AND PROMOTING

To optimise the actions of the different parties involved in bridging the digital gap, the Agency has a multifaceted role as **advisor, liaison and catalyst**. Sharing and pooling is only rarely spontaneous, with each party acting within a specific context.

To improve the **sharing** and **pooling of practice**, the Agency assembles, catalyses and harmonises projects. It is involved through different actions:

- monitoring, capitalising on and distributing information
- sharing best practice
- pooling resources (equipment, software, expertise, content, etc.)
- organising sharing and co-ordination between those involved (NGOs, companies, universities, insti-tutions, communities, etc.)
- producing collective intelligence through the use of shared resources
- promoting this new form of digital solidarity

**Gérard Collomb, Senator, Mayor of Lyon and founder of the Agency, with Kofi Annan during the WSIS in Geneva.**
Through engineering and networking, the Agency participates in the emergence or development of structuring and reproducible projects. It is currently concentrating on questions relating to **sustainable development, education and entrepreneurship**:

### Centre for the processing of electronic waste

On the recommendations of a study carried out for Hewlett Packard in 5 countries in Africa, the Agency is participating in the establishment of a pilot centre for the sustainable recycling of electronic waste in Dakar. The Agency has been given a mandate by the Sénéclis cell to mobilise partners and backers for the development and reproduction of the project. [www.seneclic.com](http://www.seneclic.com)

### Sustainable and united reuse of computers

In 2007 Grand Lyon asked the Agency to contribute to the creation of the “United computers” project, a local initiative to put those with pools of IT equipment in touch with reconditioners (insertion and industrial companies) and people without digital access (schools, multimedia centres, social housing, decentralized cooperative towns).

The agency has also contributed to the national label Ordi 2.0 [www.ordi2-0.fr](http://www.ordi2-0.fr)

### Connecting African villages to their Diaspora

Since 2007, the Agency has been helping develop the Télémigrants project, which connects villages in Mali with those who left for France, connections and promotion, and in the establishment of a platform of essential services for rural populations. [www.telemedia.fr/medias/telemigrants.pdf](http://www.telemedia.fr/medias/telemigrants.pdf)

### Multimedia centre for micro-business

The Agency is participating in the definition and application of a project based on multimedia centres for women starting micro-businesses with the Association des Femmes Chefs d’Entreprises (Association of Women Company Heads) in Monaco (AFCEM) and the World Association of Women Company Heads. The Agency’s expertise and public and private partnerships provide support for the establishment of a first experimental centre in a suburb of Dakar, which will then be duplicated in other countries in Africa (Tunisia, Cameroon). [www.afce-monaco.org](http://www.afce-monaco.org)

### ICT to improve energy efficiency

Since 2008 the Agency has participated in a European think tank on ICT and energy efficiency, at the initiative of the association ACIDD. The Agency participates through the modelling of the sustainable and united re-use of IT equipment. [www.acidd.com](http://www.acidd.com)
The Agency plays a key role in optimising networks through co-operation and the pooling of resources, so those involved open up to each other and develop synergy. By organising meetings of experts, a world conference and social networks, the Agency has fully embraced its role as consultant and liaison.

**Organiser of the Lyon Conference on digital solidarity**

With nearly 500 experts and decision-makers in digital solidarity from 30 countries, as part of the French Presidency of the European Union, this conference mobilised the institutional sector at the highest level (10 ICT ministers, the Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union, senior representatives of the UN, the World Bank, the UNDP, the UNEP, mayors and managers of local digital authorities, key private sector representatives: Orange, Alcatel, Intel, Microsoft, Smart). This meeting outlined three large-scale priorities: digital education, IT recycling and e-health. The bases of a world forum on digital solidarity were established and a number of initiatives begun at this international meeting.

www.digitalsolidarity2008.org

**Leading a social network specialised in digital solidarity**

In order to have a cooperative resource available to all online for consulting, monitoring and networking, in September 2008 the Agency launched a social network exclusively for digital solidarity. Today, nearly 600 members from 40 countries meet each day and provide advice and information on digital solidarity that is read by 6000 visitors each month. A monthly newsletter is sent to 1500 network heads. Cooperative advice from the field is provided on the opportunities and risks of the digital divide, constituting a genuine strategic aid for the Agency’s activities.

www.web2solidarite.org

**Expert on decentralised digital co-operation**

Since 2006 the Agency has been managing the Action Extérieure des Collectivités Territoriales (DAECT - Action Outside Regional Communities) with a mandate to provide advice for and lead a network of projects on digital solidarity as part of decentralised co-operation. A number of innovative projects have been evaluated and supported, such as supplying 80 schools in the Dakar region with recycled IT equipment in partnership with Besançon, defining the regional digital plan for the region of St-Louis in Senegal with the co-operation of the Havre and opening a cultural multimedia centre in Marrakech in co-operation with Marseille. In particular this mandate led to the publishing of a methodology reference guide.

Gérard Collomb, Abdoulaye Wade, Bernard Kouchner, Jean-Jack Queyranne, Alain Madelin and Hubert Julien Laferrière (President of the Agency).
ASSOCIATED WITH AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT: DIGITAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA PARTNERS

Following the success of the Lyon Conference on digital solidarity and its recommendations, the Agency was selected by the Secretary of State for Co-operation and the Francophonie (French Commonwealth) to participate in the development and implementation of the project "Digital Education in Africa," the result of a Franco-British partnership as part of the Fast Track Initiative to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in education. This project proposes North/South co-operation for **long-term integration of ICT in African education systems** based on 3 aspects: **training** and capacity building, the creation of adapted **content** and the providing of digital interactive **equipment**. The project principally targets **primary school teachers** and **ongoing training educators**.

www.educationnumeriquepourtous.com

PARTNERS

They participate in the financing of our activities:

They also provide us with support:

Together let's build an inclusive and sustainable digital future