Empowering citizens for changing AI innovation: a practical approach and toolkit

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AI VLAANDEREN
BOUWEN AAN JE DIGITALE TOEKOMST

SCivil

The amai!-team

- **Scivil**: The Flemish center for citizen science
  - Participatory approach

- **Knowledge centre Data & Society**
  - Domain knowledge: societal aspects of AI

Funded by the **Flemish Government** (Economy, Science and Innovation), as part of AI Flanders programme

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Main goals

Insight: How is AI part of our lives?
- Science communication

Ideas: What do you want AI to be used for (and in what ways)?
- Citizen science

Impact! We give consortia a chance to make citizens' ideas come true
- Funding call
- Projects with a citizen science approach

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Target audiences

Civil society organisations

Researchers

Societal implementers

Policy makers

AI-professionals

People who are not primarily interested in AI, but who are deeply concerned with current societal challenges

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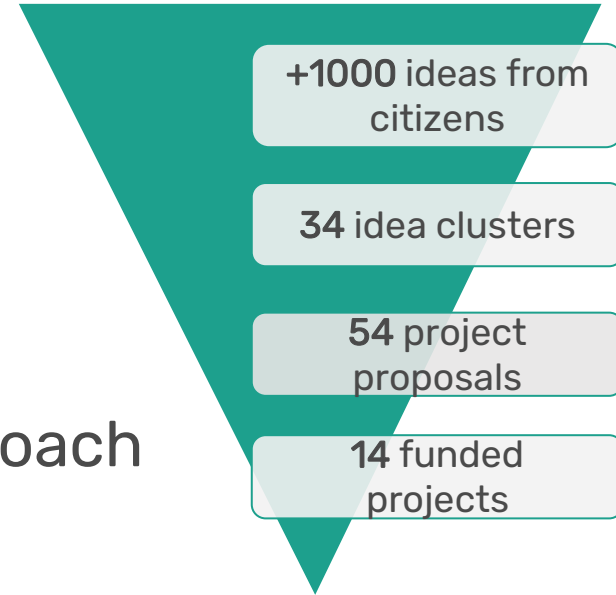
4 phases

- 1. Collecting research questions
- 2. Co-creating solutions
- 3. Open call for projects
- 4. Developing solutions with CS approach

➜ Citizens involved in every phase

+1000 ideas from citizens

34 idea clusters

54 project proposals

14 funded projects

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1. Collecting research questions

- Citizens share their ideas for AI-applications

Jullie bijdragen

Recent | Populair

Voorstel van dieet voor diabetes patient

Onderhuidse glucose chip uitbreiden met monitoren van aan te raden voeding in functie van bloedwaarden. Eventueel die voeding al voorstellen voor boodschappenlijst.

Els V.

♥ 1   ⤴ 0   💬 0

Log in om te stemmen | lees meer

Kan AI er voor zorgen dat je als automobilist via alleen maar groene lichten je bestemming bereikt?

Alle verkeerslichten en auto's zouden geconnecteerd moeten zijn. Verkeerslichten houden rekening met het verkeer dat hun richting uitkomt

Tim L.

♥ 0   ⤴ 0   💬 0

Log in om te stemmen | lees meer

Een automatische secretaresse die mijn mailbox kan beheren

mss kan het systeem woorden herkennen en beantwoorde mails zo sorteren in de mappenstructuur

Tine W.

♥ 0   ⤴ 0   💬 0

Log in om te stemmen | lees meer
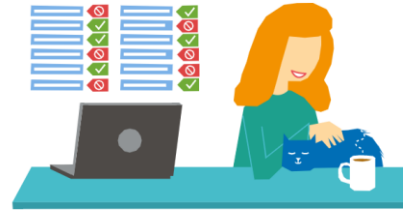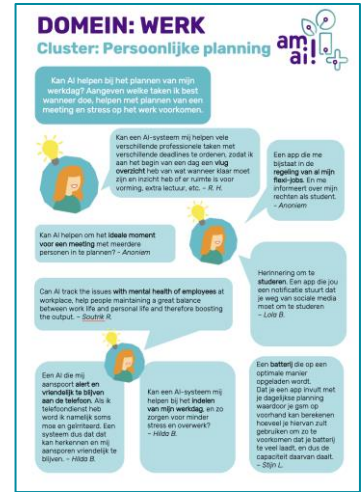
Mobility

Climate

Health

Work

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1. Collecting research questions

- Online platform
  - Information on AI through stories
  - Quiz: How AI is your visit to the supermarket?

- Broad communication to general public
  - Social media
  - Public broadcaster: radio and online
  - National newspaper

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2. Co-creating solutions

- Clustering of ideas

- Co-creation sessions
  - Bringing together citizens, experts in societal challenges and AI-experts
  - Defining scope of issues and requirements for AI-solutions

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3. Open call for projects

- Funding call open for consortia consisting of:
  - Non-profits and civil movements
  - Local governments
  - Knowledge institutions
  - IT-companies

- Selection of projects
  - Jury of experts
  - Citizen's vote
    - Jury of citizens
    - Online vote

- 3-5 projects funded/year

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4. Developing solutions with CS approach

- Citizens involved in development
  - E.g. focus groups, collecting data, annotating data...

- Regular intervision with support on CS and human centred AI

- Communication on process through website and monthly newsletter

A tool to make doctor's reports more comprehensible

Translation of sign language through video

Mapping bee populations and specific vegetation

A chatbot to practice Dutch for students with a foreign mother language

A tool to plan routes for visually impaired people

Activities

- 2021: brainstorm sessions and co-creation sessions
  - Mainly online (covid)

- From 2022: more focus on offline events
  - Information sessions
  - Workshops
  - Idea booth at events
  - Train-the-trainer
  - ...

- The amai! card game
  - From 8+
  - At home or in classroom

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Interactive wall

- Quiz: "AI of ni" ("AI or not")?
- At big events
  - E.g. science festivals and fairs
- Roadshow
  - With public broadcaster

How to engage people?

2021
- Online (covid-19)
- **Accessible information and fun formats to spark curiosity**
- How?
  - Link to daily lives of the citizens
  - Nice visuals, accessible stories

2022
- In real life ☺
- **Go where the people are**
- **Guide citizens towards sharing their idea for AI**
- How?
  - Dialogue & guided conversation
  - Workshops and lectures
  - Interactive wall at festivals

2023
- In schools
- **Link to educational goals**
- How?
  - Educational material
  - Teach the teacher workshops
  - Free AI card game for schools and libraries
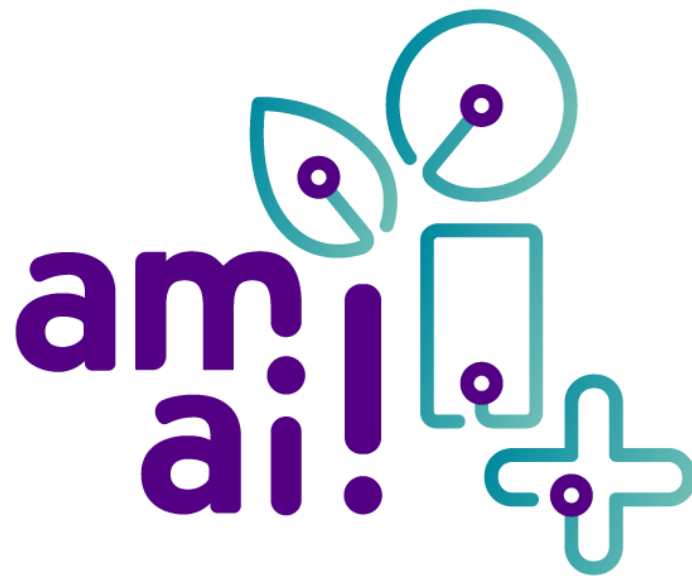
2024
- Low-literate groups
- **Anyone in the streets**
- How?
  - Work together with organisations working with target group
  - Roadshow with public broadcaster
  - Theatre show in the streets

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Toolkit

- www.amai-toolkit.vlaanderen
  - In English & Dutch
- Methodology of amai! project
- Inspiration for similar projects in other regions, or on other themes than AI

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