INTRODUCING

Cybervolunteers Network:
A free online platform of technological volunteering for little NGOs

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INDEX

THE PLATFORM

Open and share know-how of Cibervoluntarios Foundation and make it available to people and organizations (whatever their size, nature or cause) who want to MAKE A BETTER WORLD

Cybervolunteers Network:
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1.- SITUATION

Cibervoluntarios Foundation is encapsulating its expertise and Know How, built up over 12 years in volunteer work and ICT, on a platform. This platform wants to generate social innovation and citizen empowerment through ICT by promoting social entrepreneurship, citizenship participation and technological volunteering.

2.-CIBERVOLUNTARIOS FOUNDATION GOAL

Open and share know-how of Cibervoluntarios Foundation and make it available to people and organizations (whatever their size, nature or cause) who want to MAKE A BETTER WORLD.

Make our dream come true: we want to share our the work of many years in a worldwide reference useful tool for everyone. Not trying to reinvent the wheel again and again. We have the vision, methodology and procedures acquired by our experience during these 12 years of work and we want to share it with the world.

3.-INTRODUCTION OF THE PLATFORM

This platform brings together, in a practical and attractive way, two areas that are currently changing the world: **Technology and the social field**. It is based on experience and proven methodology for more than 12 years. Cibervoluntarios Foundation has identified a number of processes, wich are replicable, that achieve:

1. Promoting social entrepreneurship and technological volunteerism.

2. Enhancing the social use of technology: technology as a way to alleviate social gaps, generating social innovation and citizen empowerment

3. Innovation of the Third Sector through a free online tool of technological volunteering for NGOs.

4. Accreditation and certification acquiring skills through volunteering

4.-GENERAL GOAL

Create a cybervolunteering platform, made for any organization who can benefit from our methodology and experience, over 12 years, and develop an area of technologial volunteering in its organization in intuitively, efficient way for free

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5.- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATFORM

5.1 Promoting social entrepreneurship and technological volunteerism.

Since 2003, the United Nations recognizes the importance of technological volunteering as indispensable in the development and implementation of the Information Society and knowledge sharing. Cibervoluntarios added and found that it is no longer a purely digital divide matter but also and most important help alleviate other social gaps through the use and knowledge of all types of tools, applications, services and technological content helping them to improve their life quality.

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A free online platform
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5.2.- Enhancing the social use of technology: technology as a way to alleviate social gaps, generating social innovation and citizen empowerment

Cibervoluntarios Foundation has spent 12 years treaining "technological social entrepreneurs", local leaders who seek, detect and analyze social needs within their environment and alleviate this social needs through the use of technology. The CyberVolunteers have generated own projects marked by social innovation, the use of new tools to solve old problems in a different way, convinced that new technologies should not generate more gaps, but delete existing ones. That is why their way to contribute is always seeking innovative and creative solutions for detecting and directing the needs and demands in our scope, because they are close to the situations of our immediate environment (people, citizens) and therefore are aware, are close to providing solutions. Creating projects marked by innovation and creativity. **In short, the cybervolunteers develop, through their efforts, a vital connection between the local and the global information society.**

Enhancing the social use of technology: technology as a way to alleviate social gaps, generating social innovation and citizen empowerment

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5.3.- Innovation of the Third Sector through a free online tool of technological volunteering for NGOs.

If The Third Sector were a country could be the eighth world economic power (according to studies by the University of Hopkins, 1998), but in these 15 years has lost momentum and proximity to users, in large part, by their late incorporation in the use of technological tools. Something has detached from society in continuous technological change. The technology platform we have developed, allows, among other things:

- Opening the Third Sector, making it so close, flexible and dynamic as each organization related wants.
- Encourage any entity, however smallit is, may have cybervolunteers to support its work.
- Encourage the creation of networks, communities and therefore synergies between volunteers, NGOs and their causes

5.4.- Accreditation and certification of skills acquired through volunteering

Both new technologies and volunteering and, especially, the combination of both, are a key element in the personal, professional and social development through non-formal learning. Its combination influences the development of transversal skills and abilities, soft skills, which are often called, such as entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial skills, initiative, proactive attitude, teamwork, tolerance, autonomy, self-esteem, motivation, enthusiasm, commitment , leadership, analysis / synthesis, critical thinking, conflict resolution, creativity ... in addition to acquiring other skills, and more specific, depending on the volunteer activity that develops (ICT skills, training, legal, administrative ...), and the group develops care (elderly, women, disabled ...)

Accreditation and certification of skills acquired through volunteering

platform
IMPACT

Cybervolunteers Network:
A free online platform
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6.- IMPACT

Impact: To make impact on 50 organizations worldwide, mobilizing 500 new volunteers. The platform will be available in English and Spanish. We want to be a reference U.S. and Latin America.

Measuring the impact: Both the platform and the use of technological tools facilitate the measurement of the impact by several parameters, such as:
    1.- Number of enrollees and their age, gender, interests, place of residence…
    2.- Number of social innovation projects created / carried out
    3.- Number and type of the skills acquired.
    4.- Number and profile of the people served through the initiatives / activities.
    5.- Number of participants on each initiative / activity.
    6.- And many more…

7.- PROPOSED ACTION CALENDAR

January-April 2014: Platform Deployment. The Cibervoluntarios Foundation itself will be the first organization using the system. During a period of approximately four months the staff of the Foundation will provide feedback and will interact on the system in order to improve it.

May-August 2014: Deployment (launch) private beta. This phase will last for about four months, in which the processes of feedback and interaction will continue for NGOs and news cibervolunteers

September-december 2014: public beta, ok for 50 organizations and 500 cybervolunteers.

8.- WHY DO WE NEED YOU TO FUND THIS PROJECT?

With this platform we want to support little NGOs to make easier for them to build a team of cybervolunteers to support their local communities. Developing social innovation through technological volunteering.

9.- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CIBERVOLUNTARIOS FOUNDATION

Cibervoluntarios Foundation is an atypical non-profit organization made up of social entrepreneurs whose vision is to use new technologies as a means for social innovation and citizen empowerment, alleviating this way social gaps i.e. we work to increase the rights, opportunities and capabilities of each person within their environment, through the social use of technological tools and applications within their reach. To achieve this goal, the Foundation counts the cybervolunteers. Curious, proactive persons willing to learn, with a passion for sharing and enthusiasm about ICTs, who offer part of their time and knowledge to teach other

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A free online platform
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people the possibilities of the use of technology tools and applications to improve their lives in a simple and useful way. They do it through both online and onsite courses, lectures, workshops, events… etc.

They direct their action to groups of people that may be excluded from information society based on gender, age, professional and social environment, lack of time, knowledge, skills, motivation and/or material or economic resources... and they manage to adapt the use of technological applications to alleviate these social gaps at working, participation or health levels, among others. **A challenge, 12 years of work that last year received from the hands of the Prince and Princess of Asturias a recognition for "the creation of new forms of participation and social innovation in support of groups at risk of exclusion", and the recognition of Google.org, for being one of the entities that are changing the world,** the first and currently the only organization recognized with such merit in Spain. During the last four years the Foundation has been focused in spreading across Europe, and in Latin America, where there is already an office in Ecuador. More info in this summary about Cybervolunteer Foundation: http://bit.ly/13TgiyM

Google Gives Back

Thanks to our contribution to integration and empowerment through technology, we have been awarded with a grant from Google within their program "Google Gives Back", which provides grants to support causes that they consider particularly important in different fields, being technology one of them. We are very proud of being the only Spanish Foundation awarded with one of these grants in 2011.
Further info http://www.google.com/intl/es/landing/givesback/2011/

2011 State Award to Social Volunteering

Honorable mention "in recognition of his great volunteer work, generating new forms of participation and innovation in support of people excluded from society", thanks to our pioneering commitment since 12 years ago for the social use of ICTs through the technological volunteering. The award has been handed over by their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess of Asturias.

II Award for Citizen Affairs

Awarded for the development of the Socio-Digital Center Program of the Foundation. An award granted by the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade of the Spanish Government in 2007 and delivered by the former Minister, Mr. Joan Clos.

* further info

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