

Make-IT Alliance Code of Conduct



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I. Core Values of the Make-IT Alliance

Commissioned by Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Make-IT Initiative promotes tech entrepreneurship and digital innovations for sustainable and inclusive development worldwide.

The Make-IT Alliance is a select co-innovation network of primarily European (tech-) companies, international start-ups, associations, science and research, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other partners who cooperate with BMZ to achieve the goals defined in the BMZ digital strategy.

The members of the Make-IT Alliance contribute to the promotion of digital innovation and the strengthening of tech entrepreneurship by implementing specific, measurable and sustainable projects along the guidelines of the Principles for Digital Development:

1. Design with the User
2. Understand the Existing Ecosystem
3. Design for Scale
4. Build for Sustainability
5. Be Data Driven
6. Use Open Standards, Open Data, Open Source, and Open Innovation
7. Reuse and Improve
8. Address Privacy & Security
9. Be Collaborative

In addition to Digital Principle number 6, a lock-in effect of commercial products and services should be avoided among the beneficiaries. All activities of the Alliance are based on the fundamental values of transparency, fairness, openness, neutrality, inclusiveness and equal treatment.

The Make-IT Alliance combines public and private support measures for tech entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems and thus contributes to “Promoting Local Innovation”, one of the five pillars of the BMZ digital strategy “Digitalisation for Development”.

II. Participation in the Make-IT Alliance

Actors from the private sector, NGOs, associations, science and research and other organisations are eligible for partnership in the Make-IT Alliance. An active participation is highly encouraged. However, partners of the Alliance are not obliged to participate in activities through financial or any other contributions.

The Make-IT Alliance is open to all interested parties who have passed an initial business partner screening. Entities who fall under the following criteria based on the “IFC Project Exclusion List” are excluded from membership:

- Production or business activities that use forced labour or child labour in accordance with the ILO core labour standards.
- Production, use or trade of or with pharmaceuticals, pesticides / herbicides, chemicals, ozone-depleting substances and other dangerous substances falling under international exit or prohibition regulations.
- Trade in animals or animal products that are subject to the provisions of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).
- Commercial deforestation of primary wet forests.
- Production of wood or wood products from unsustainably managed forests (companies with less than 50% FSC-certified production are excluded, FSC “Forest Stewardship Council”).
- Production and trade in weapons and important components for the production of weapons (anti-personnel mines, biological and chemical weapons, cluster bombs, radioactive ammunition, nuclear weapons).
- Controversial forms of gambling: operating casinos, manufacturing devices or other equipment for casinos or betting offices or companies that generate sales through online betting. (So-called “short odds” are seen as a “controversial form of gambling”.)
- Any business activity that involves pornography.
- Production or distribution of racist, anti-democratic and / or neo-Nazi media.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a partner in the implementation of projects and provides the secretariat of the Make-IT Alliance.

The BMZ offers political support for connected projects and supports financial implementation where applicable.

III. Data Protection Guidelines

The Make-IT Alliance agrees that data protection is a guiding principle. As such, the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (EU-GDPR) will serve as common regulatory framework for the alliance and its members. The EU-GDPR will be supplemented at national level through the Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG).

The Make-IT Secretariat treats members' sensitive data confidentially at all times and in particular does not pass on confidential information to third parties.

Data collected as part of projects or surveys are submitted directly to the office. Data is only made available to third parties on an aggregated level.

IV. Anti-Corruption and Integrity Guidelines

The Make-IT Alliance and its participants carry out all activities in accordance with German and international anti-corruption legislation. In particular, the participants of the alliance adhere to the following principles:

1. Respect for and compliance with applicable anti-corruption legislation
2. Prohibition of demanding, accepting, offering, granting or inducing direct or indirect bribes.
3. Implementation and maintenance of an effective compliance management system that systematically creates the prerequisites for avoiding violations or making them much more difficult, recognizing and correcting violations that have occurred and promoting corporate governance with integrity.

V. Official Representation of the Make-IT Alliance

Members of the Make-IT Alliance do not officially represent or speak on behalf of it without consulting the Make-IT Alliance Secretariat. All public statements must be made in accordance with the stated core values of the Alliance and adhere to the guidelines set out in this document.