BRIDGING
THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE

Inputs from EQUALS to the Open Consultation
from ITU's CWG-Internet

January 2018

An initiative of EQUALS,
the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age
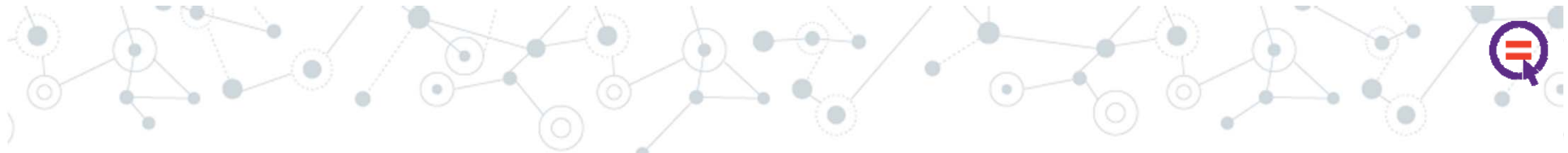
Overview

1. Background
2. Introducing EQUALS' Action Map
3. Overall mapping findings
4. Snapshot of initiatives on Access, Digital Literacy and Leadership
5. Key gaps and challenges identified
6. Further information

1.

Background

The Open Consultation from ITU's CWG-Internet

Following the instructions of Council Resolution 1344 (Mod. 2015), the 2017 Session of ITU Council decided on 25 May 2017, upon request of the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet), to hold an open consultation (online and physical) on the following topic:

Bridging the Digital Gender Divide:
how to make the internet and technology more accessible for women.

Questions covered by this input

◎ **Question 1.** What approaches and examples of good practices are available to increase Internet access and digital literacy of women and girls, including in decision-making processes on Internet public policy?

◎ **Question 5.** What are the gaps in addressing these challenges? How can they be addressed and what is the role of governments?

2.

Introducing EQUALS' Action Map

About the EQUALS Action Map

The **United Nations University Institute on Computing and Society (UNU-CS)**, **ITU**, **the Internet Governance Forum** and the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development** have been working since May 2016 on a joint research project to **identify initiatives working worldwide towards bridging the gender digital divide**.

The goal of this research is to elaborate a comprehensive map of relevant stakeholders to learn from their experiences, challenges and needs. We want to know who is doing what and when, what results are being achieved, what the lessons learned are and how we can help scale up projects and efforts.

The result of this exercise are being shared through an online platform with all the data gathered from each organization, their projects, focus and objectives. **The Gender Digital Inclusion Map seeks to contribute to the global community by collecting and curating critical data to enhance evidence-based interventions that can be sustainable, impactful and scalable.**

https://www.equals.org/actionmap

Quick Facts & Figures – The Database

496 Initiatives in the database from 97 countries

200+ Survey responses from 80+ countries

20 In-depth interviews documenting best practices

Visualization Tool

A user-friendly platform that maps all initiatives working on gender digital inclusion

6 UN languages covered

Training

More than 45% of initiatives focus on training women in ICTs

Civil society

Is the stakeholder with the largest number of projects in the database

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Methodology followed

1. Desktop Research Database

500 initiatives aimed at addressing the gender digital divide. Data captures type of project, type of stakeholder and geographical location, among other variables. This mapping was conducted in the 6 official UN languages, through the joint effort of ITU, UNU-CS, IGF and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

2. Survey to validate data

The team designed and published a 1st survey in 2016 to validate the data from our initial desktop research and expand our database with relevant initiatives. The response rate was over 40%, with **200 responses**

3. In-depth Interviews

20 interviews with activists and experts from different sectors and geographical locations were conducted in 2016. Interviews allowed us to document best practices and gather a deeper understanding of the challenges and obstacles these projects face.

4. Interactive Map

Development of user-friendly **online platform**. It displays the information contained in the database. This visualization tool act as a repository of projects and is reguarly updated frequently and improved.

5. Reports and Public Dataset

Next future steps include a series of publications that will report on main findings. Additionally, and in the context of EQUALS, ITU will make sure to share all relevant data with stakeholders and the community at large.

The Interactive Map

- Embeddable interactive tool developed with CARTO. 2 visualizations:
  - Projects by HQ of implementing agency
  - Projects by location

- All data available via Google Sheets, tailored visualizations can be developed focused on specific sub-sets of the data (e.g. by region, type of project, country, etc.)

- Data is updated real time with new submissions via the web form

- Regular quality control of data implemented by ITU as part of contribution to EQUALS

3.
Overall findings

Overall findings - Pillars

When we group project categories into the **GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP pillars**, findings indicate that most initiatives are working to empower women in terms of **ICT skills**
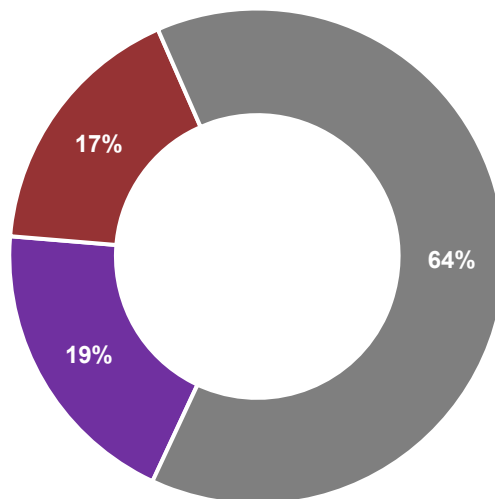
The Global Partnership Pillars

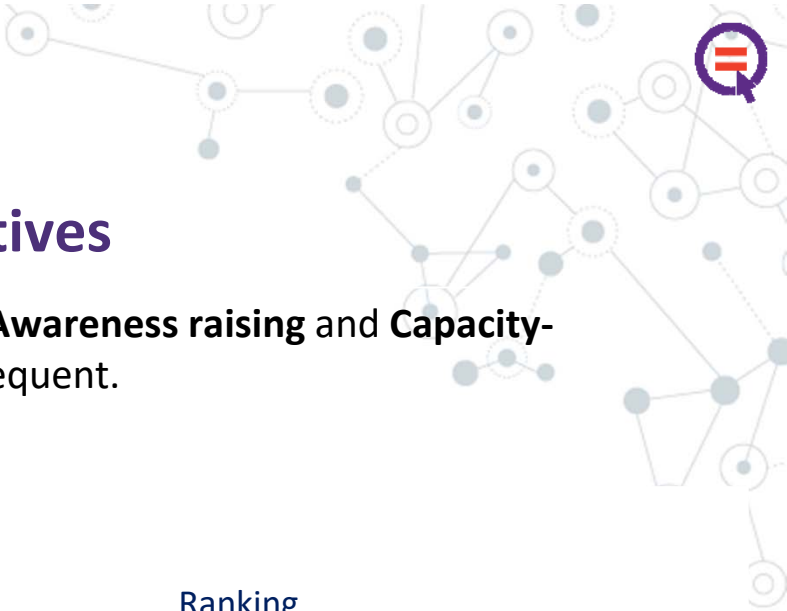**Leadership** - Empower women as ICT leaders, creators, and entrepreneurs

Access - Achieve equal access to digital technologies

Skills - Empower women and girls with skills to become ICT creators
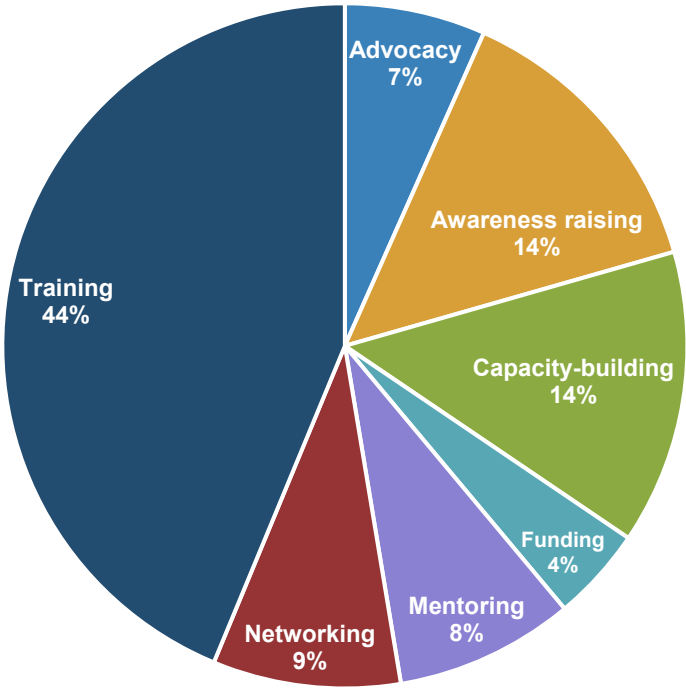
17%

64%

19%

■ Access ■ Leadership ■ Skills

Source: EQUALS. Sample of 496 initiatives mapped
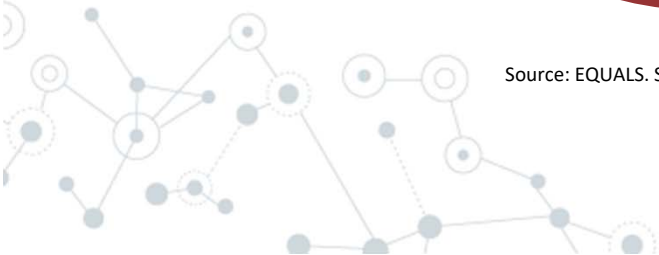
Overall Findings - Typology of Initiatives

Most initiatives aim at **training women in ICT skills**. **Awareness raising** and **Capacity-building** projects are also frequent.
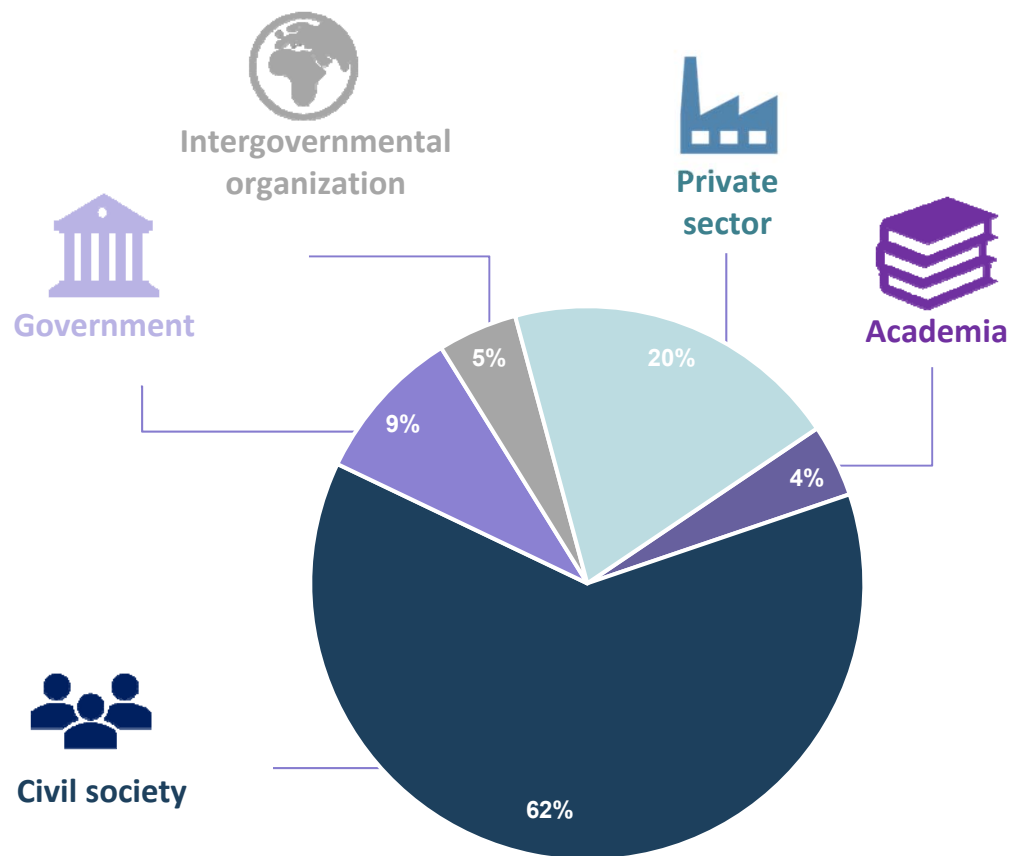

Ranking

1. Training : 44%
2. Awareness raising : 14%
3. Capacity-building : 14%
4. Networking : 9%
5. Mentoring :8%
6. Advocacy : 7%
7. Funding :4%

Source: EQUALS. Sample of 496 initiatives mapped
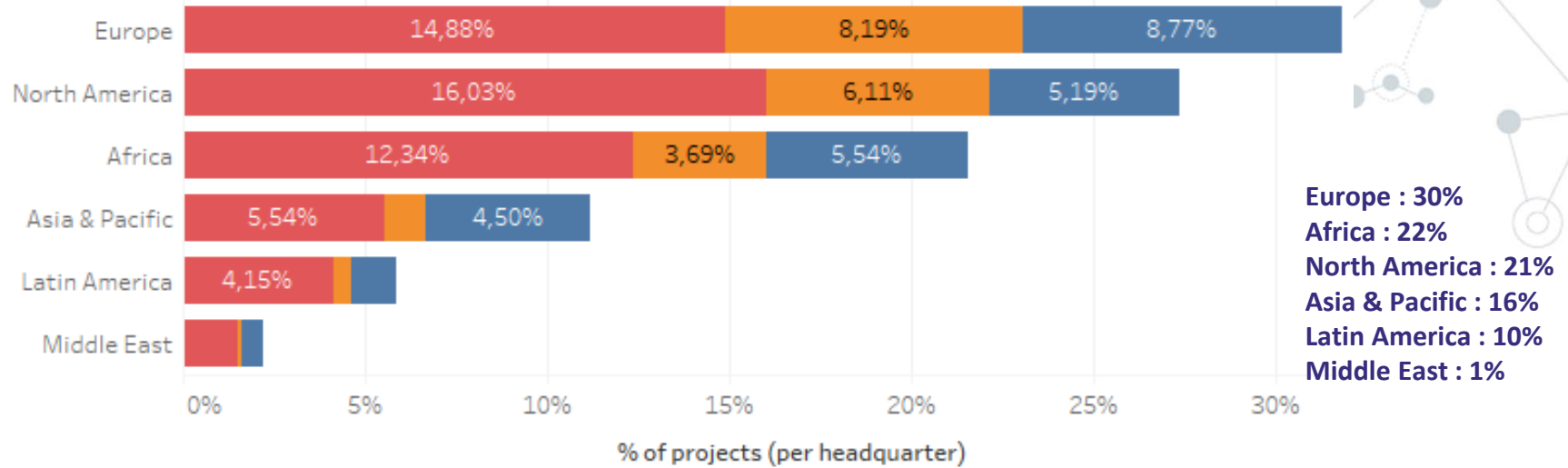
Findings – Implementing stakeholder

1. **Civil society organization : 62%**
2. **Private sector : 20%**
3. **Government : 9%**
4. **Intergovernmental organization : 5%**
5. **Academia : 5%**

Civil society is the stakeholder for which more projects were found, accounting for 62% of all initiatives. The private sector follows with 20% of the total.
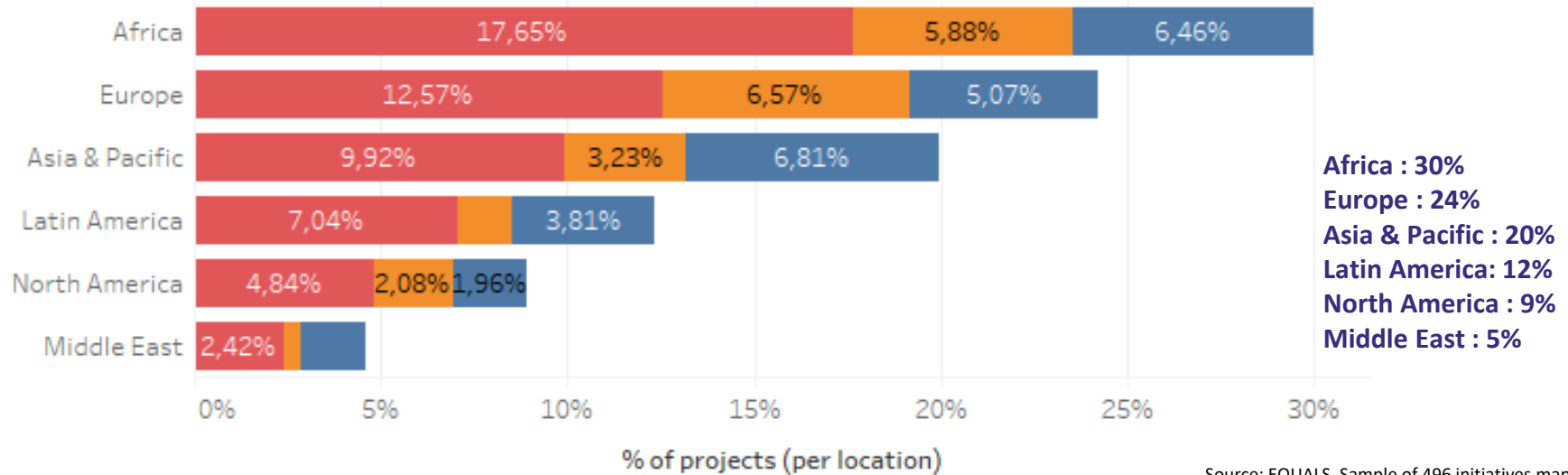
Source: EQUALS. Sample of 496 initiatives mapped

Findings - Initiatives by Region

Entries in database per HQ of the organizations

Europe : 30%
Africa : 22%
North America : 21%
Asia & Pacific : 16%
Latin America : 10%
Middle East : 1%

Entries in database per project location

Africa : 30%
Europe : 24%
Asia & Pacific : 20%
Latin America: 12%
North America : 9%
Middle East : 5%

Source: EQUALS. Sample of 496 initiatives mapped

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Findings – Geographical presence

The majority of the projects mapped are implemented within a country (national scale)
Strong presence of projects at the global level

Regional 9%
Global 20%
Local 9%
National 62%
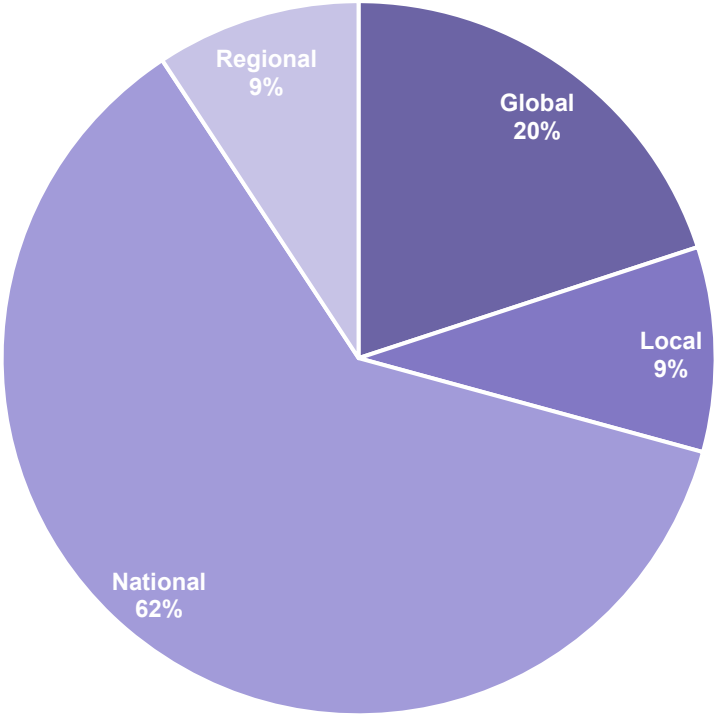
Source: EQUALS. Sample of 496 initiatives mapped

Findings - Regional Outlook of projects mapped

In **North America**, "Training" and "Capacity-building" projects account for **44,1%** of the total. **Civil society** is the most active sector with **64,9%** of initiatives. It is also the region were the **private sector** is more active (24.7%).

In **Europe**, **41.7%** of initiatives are located in **Spain, UK, The Netherlands, Belgium and France**. The region seems to be the **most diversified in terms of type of project** with "**Training**" (34,8%), "**Awareness raising**" (19,1%) and "**Networking**" (19.1%) as the leading categories.

The Middle East is the region that focus the most on access, with 37.5% of its projects.

In **Latin America**, "**Training**" is the most widespread type of projects (32.7%) but "**Awareness raising**" (18.7%) is also frequent.

In **Africa**, "**Training**" is by far the preferred intervention, accounting for 42,3% of the total. **Civil Society** is responsible of over **70,3%** of this region's projects.

Asia & the Pacific shows remarkably **high engagement by civil society organisations**, with 57.8% of all initiatives coming from this sector. **17%** of the projects are located in **India**

Source: EQUALS. Sample of 496 initiatives mapped

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Question 1:

What approaches and examples of good practices are available to increase **Internet access and digital literacy** of women and girls, including in decision-making processes on Internet public policy?
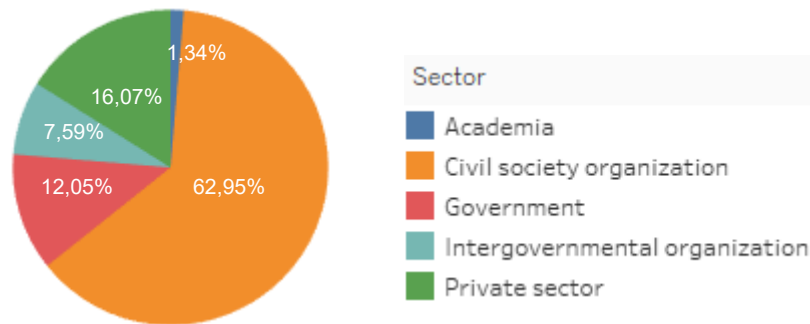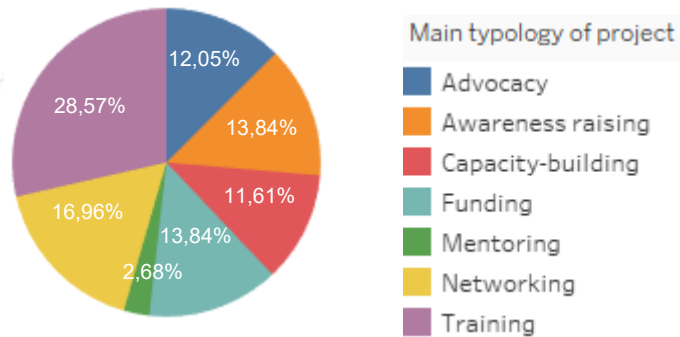
4.1

Access

Access

Main typology of project
- Advocacy
- Awareness raising
- Capacity-building
- Funding
- Mentoring
- Networking
- Training

12,05% · 13,84% · 11,61% · 13,84% · 2,68% · 16,96% · 28,57%

Sector
- Academia
- Civil society organization
- Government
- Intergovernmental organization
- Private sector

1,34% · 16,07% · 7,59% · 12,05% · 62,95%

- Civil society organizations are leading the effort in providing access through training

- Out of 96 projects in the Access pillar, **only 3** came from Academia.

- Despite the value of mentorship, it **remains one of the smallest groups** of projects mapped.

Access

Leading countries based on the location

1. USA – 13 initiatives
2. India – 10 initiatives
3. Mexico – 7 initiatives
4. South Africa – 7 initiatives
5. Spain – 7 initiatives

Leading countries based on the headquarters

1. USA – 45 initiatives
2. South Africa – 33 initiatives
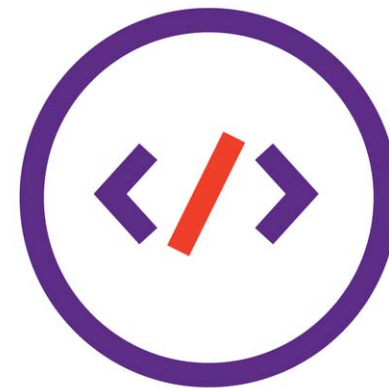3. UK – 25 initiatives

Leading Languages

Language	Value
Western UN languages	90
Non Western UN languages	5
Other	1
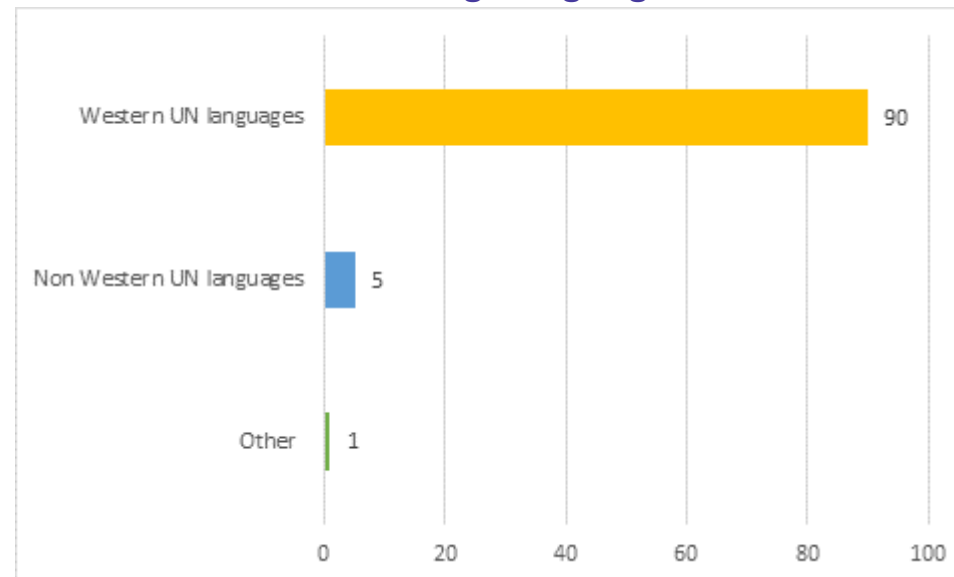
4.2
Digital Literacy

Skills

Main typology of project
- Advocacy — 2,54%
- Awareness raising — 12,29%
- Capacity-building — 11,86%
- Funding — 5,30%
- Mentoring — 8,47%
- Networking — 9,32%
- Training — 50,21%

Sector
- Academia — 5,30%
- Civil society organization — 71,19%
- Government — 5,08%
- Intergovernmental organization — 4,66%
- Private sector — 13,77%

- Civil Society organizations are **leading the effort** in advancing digital literacy through training projects

- IGOs, Governments and Academia remain jointly **underrepresented**
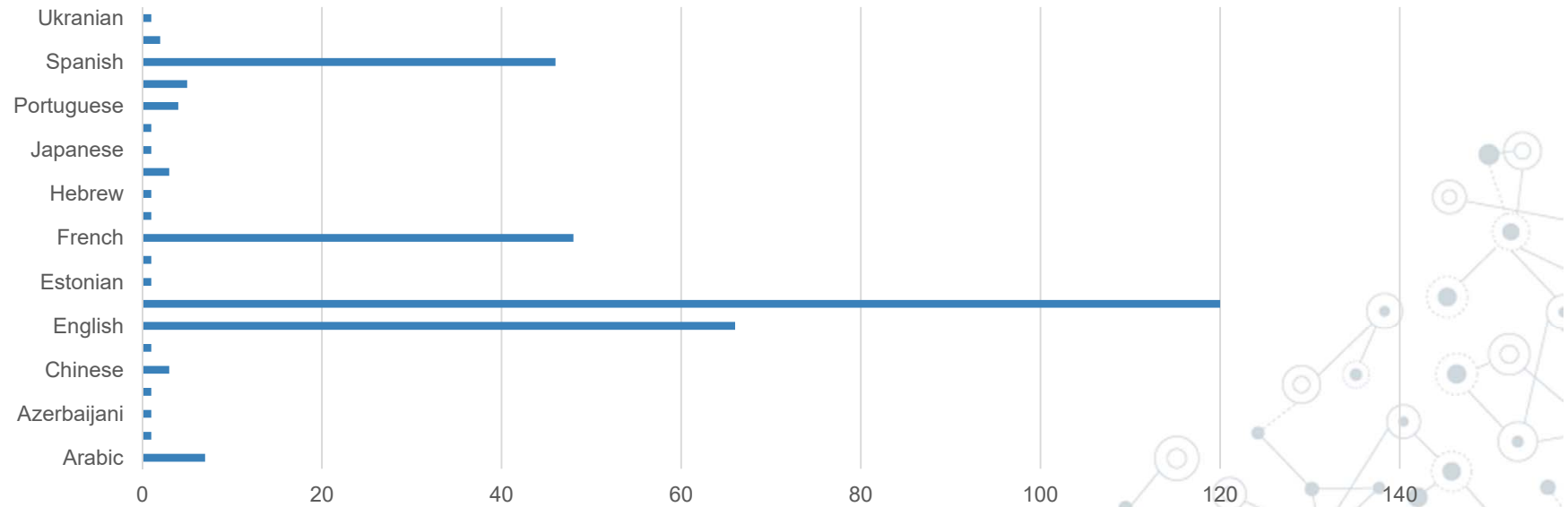
Skills

Leading countries based on the location

1. USA – 31 initiatives
2. Spain – 21 initiatives
3. Kenya – 17 initiatives
4. Nigeria – 17 initiatives
5. India – 14 initiatives

Leading countries based on the headquarters

1. USA – 124 initiatives
2. Kenya – 26 initiatives
3. France, Nigeria – 22 initiatives

Leading Languages

Language	Value
Ukranian	~2
Spanish	~46
Portuguese	~5
Japanese	~3
Hebrew	~1
French	~47
Estonian	~1
English	~120, ~66
Chinese	~3
Azerbaijani	~1
Arabic	~7

Source: EQUALS. Sample of 496 initiatives mapped

4.3

Leadership

Leadership
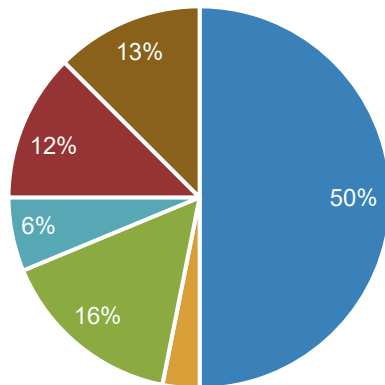
Pie chart 1 (project typology):
- Leadership 50%
- Advocacy
- Awareness raising 16%
- Capacity-building 6%
- Funding
- Mentoring 12%
- Networking
- Training 13%

Pie chart 2 (stakeholders):
- Government 11%
- Civil society organization 34%
- Intergovernmental organization 11%
- Private sector 33%
- Academia 11%
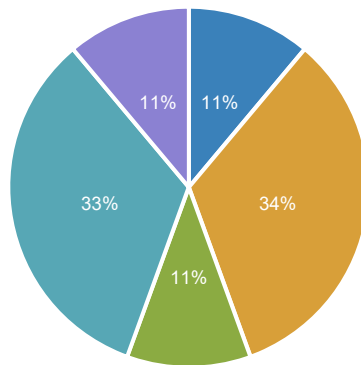
- The Leadership pillar has the **most equal stakeholder engagement** and **even distribution of project typology**

- The percentage of mentorship projects **remains low.**

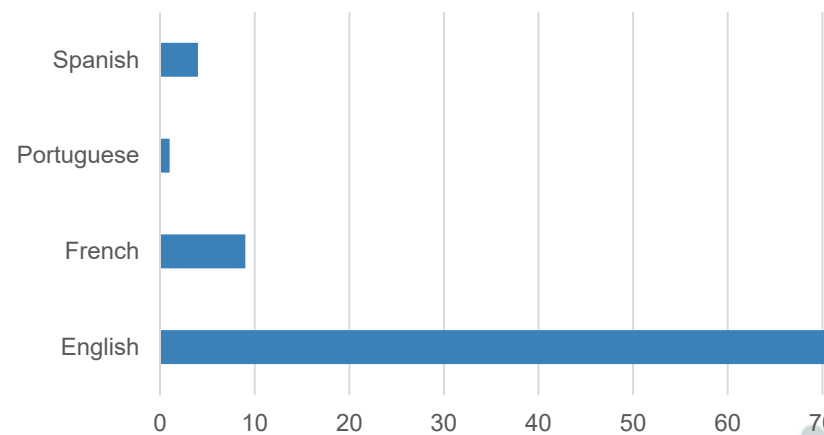- Severely **uneven language distribution.**

Leadership

**Leading countries
based on the headquarters**

1. Europe – 30 initiatives
2. North America -   24 initiatives
3. Africa – 16 initiatives

Leading Languages

Language	Value
Spanish	4
Portuguese	1
French	9
English	71

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Question 2:
What are the **gaps** in addressing these **challenges**? How can they be addressed and what is the role of governments?

Challenges and Opportunities

The interviews focused on gathering rich qualitative data on the initiatives, the objectives, the main challenges and obstacles, and best practices in terms of effectiveness, sustainability and scalability.

Challenges

- Lack of **funding** and overall support from donors and international actors

- Difficult to engage and **retain** all the relevant stakeholders

- **Cultural** barriers hinder women's self-perceptions

- Many projects have no **long-term** approach

- Often no "**gender approach**" in project design

- Lack of **data** and gender-specific statistics

Challenges and Opportunities

The interviews focused on gathering rich qualitative data on the initiatives, the objectives, the main challenges and obstacles, and best practices in terms of effectiveness, sustainability and scalability.

Opportunities/ Best practices

Projects should focus not only on access to technology but also on access to **education**, the **labour** market, and **social** participation

Women greatly value the opportunity to **learn** technical skills when given the chance

Projects need to include an **awareness-raising** component to bring down cultural barriers

Involving all actors in a given **environment** (teachers, family, local governments, businessmen)

Female **networks** at work and schools can go a long way towards empowering girls and women and to help them see themselves as future creators of technology

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Combining findings from the database, the survey and the interviews

1 More than **a third of initiatives focus on training** women in ICT. **Mentoring, funding and advocacy projects are underrepresented** despite their importance to address the issue as a whole.

2 **Civil society organisations are leading the efforts** towards bridging the gender digital divide. We should aim at s**trengthening the engagement of private sector and, specially, of governments and academia**.

3 **Organizations** working on this issues **are mostly based in the developed world**, however **their projects are almost entirely implemented in developing countries**.

4 **Scarcity of monetary resources, absence of global frameworks of action, and lack of data** on gender digital inclusion are reported as the **main obstacles** to scale up and enhance projects.

5 Projects should have a **comprehensive approach, targeting girls and women but also addressing their social context as a whole.**

6.

Further Information

Become a EQUALS partner

How to join EQUALS

1. Exchange of formal invitation letters
2. Join one of the Action Coalitions to make progress and implement concrete activities
3. 2017-2018 --> Call for voluntary financial contributions
4. 2018-2020 --> Call for strategic partners to contribute to projects and programmatic activities with time, human resources and financial contributions

What we expect from our EQUALS Partners

- Share data on your organization's progress towards digital gender equality;
- Donate to scale up activities;
- Support research or contribute data from completed or on-going research;
- Volunteer staff resources

Become a Mapping Partner

1 **What we expect from our Mapping Partners**

- **To inject,** whenever possible, data into the GDI map's database in the form of relevant new initiatives
- **To update and improve,** where necessary, data on initiatives already in the datbase that are relevant to the Data Partner
- **To promote,** whenever possible, the GDI map both online and offline
- **To embed** or otherwise host the GDI on their website

2 **What our Mapping Partners can expect from us**

- **To have full access** to the database feeding into the GDI map
- **To be fully included** in the decision-making process regarding the GDI map
- **To be on fully equal footing** with all other organizations involved in the GDI map

Our goal:

1000+

Initiatives mapped by 2Q2018

EQUALS
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Thank you!

To find out more about the
Gender Digital Inclusion
Map contact us at
gender@itu.int or visit
equals.org

Mapping conducted by

ITU · UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY Computing and Society · IGF Internet Governance Forum · Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development