



Some lessons learned

DiDIY and work in organizations

DiDIY means (also) applying a “maker” attitude in existing, formalized organizations. Digital technologies can be used also to enable creativity in workers and not only to improve productivity in the machines.

DiDIY and education and research

While investigating the link between DiDIY and education, the different paces clearly emerged between technology evolution and the current formal educational structure, whereby the former unveils new teaching opportunities almost daily while the latter lags behind, slowly absorbing novelty. Innovating education is not possible without innovating teaching schemes: awareness and participation of teachers is mandatory to share best practices and starting a virtuous cycle.

DiDIY and creative society

DiDIY brings many benefits to individuals, culture, and society. This includes fostering creativity, empowering individuals to be inventive problem solvers and enhancing well-being. When people understand and have control over the technologies around them, they can be better citizens.

DiDIY and collaborative economy

DiDIY brings collaborative production of knowledge, networks, and artefacts to digital fabrication. Its basis in open development and sharing of knowledge derives from the Free Software Movement and the collaborative culture of “Do It With Others”. Sustainability and business models align voluntary contribution to open design and permission to replicate with collaborative, peer production and a diversity of revenue strategies. This kind of open, commons-based business models have the potential to democratise the economy, foster sustainability through a repair and open source circular economy and an increased technological sovereignty.

DiDIY as a socio-technical complex

DiDIY is a phenomenon that arises from a complex interaction between social norms and institutions, the available technologies, and people’s beliefs and attitudes. All three are essential to it and effect each other. Their synergy come from their dynamic and complex combination.

DiDIY and co-design

People and organisations in different fields often want to use digital technology as a tool to develop ideas without understanding the strategic opportunities and impact that technology could bring to create innovative solutions in different fields. DiDIY has strong sharing and collaborative dimensions itself, therefore it seems adequate to consider co-design as a mindset, a process and a research approach.

DiDIY, ethics, and regulation

Insofar as it allows hobbyists to build, away from control, relatively complex artefacts that would otherwise require know-how and/or equipment they might not possess, DiDIY has elicited concerns about the challenges it might present in relation to rights (esp. intellectual property rights and consumer rights) and physical risk (esp. product safety and liability, and legally limited artefacts like weapons).

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