To :

Nicolas Pettiaux (president)
Educode asbl/vzm (educode.be)
Avenue du Pérou 29
1000 Brussels, Belgium

Frédéric Taes (president)
Internet Society Chapter Belgium asbl/vzw (ISOC.be)
Notelaarstraat 285 Rue du Noyer
1000 Brussels, Belgium

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Dunkerque, 24 May 2020,

Dear Nicolas Pettiaux,

I write as the coordinator of Rencontres Mondiales du Logiciel Libre, who was in charge of the Sience/Education track from year 2005 to year 2017, to express my support to Educode (educode.be) and, in particular, your project in association with Internet Society Chapter Belgium (ISOC.be) asbl/vzw to apply for a grant to COVID19 Emergency Reponse Grant Program from Internet Society Foundation.

Your project aims to develop and support services promoting and enabling distance learning for students by:

- Helping teachers to move from traditional classrooms to online education through Internet, with a « train the trainer » approach and coaching teachers through Internet;
- Developing real-time trainings and adapt them in reusable interactive training formats;
- Offering a global approach to teachers and schools to get everything needed: computer, Internet connection, Internet tools and online resources as training, coaching and support;
- Starting with local implementation in Belgium, being a multicultural and multilingual country, and rollout globally with partners over the world.

I strongly support this grant application and the focus on online education and reducing digital fracture.

As the coordinator in charge of the educational and scientific track of the annual event Rencontres Mondiales du Logiciel Libre, I met many of the people who developped the Free Software educational solutions you want to develop further, and and I know how they are using them in their respective institutions.

I dear to **compare those Free-Software-based solutions to flowers which grow in the deserts**: they never starve, they can grow in very difficult environments. **Here is the metaphor:** I saw many projets very shiny as long as they are enjoying external grants, who vanish quite suddenly when the grant stops. On the contrary, the response of Free-Software-based to financial efforts are immediate, as long as the development is made by clever people, to keep building long-lasting, state-of-the-art software. When external grants are stopped, such projects can keep on going at the same size, or grow further, depending on a "critical mass" of their community of users.

Through this letter, I recognize and support many members of educode, who were able to organise the "Rencontres Mondiales du Logiciel Libre" in Brussels, in year 2013 (see https://2013.rmll.info). The budget of this event who gathered about 1.500 people during six days can be compared with a large-scale project, when some "invisible" contributions are added to the accountancy: buildings of the University were hired for free, and managed by a team of volunteers. To give an order of magnitude, as an average visitor attended four conferences per day, if every such event is valued to $ 7, the budget is near $ 250.000

Educode asbl/vzw associated with ISOC.be asbl/vzw will take responsibility to lead this COVID19 Education project to help teachers the transition from traditional learning prior COVID19 to Internet distance education. We look forward to support this initiative.

Sincerely,
Georges Khaznadar,
Coordinator of the Science/Education track in RMLL, 2005-2017,
Debian developer (https://qa.debian.org/developer.php?login=georgesk@debian.org)
Teacher of computer science, physics and chemistry in lycée Jean Bart, Dunkerque, France