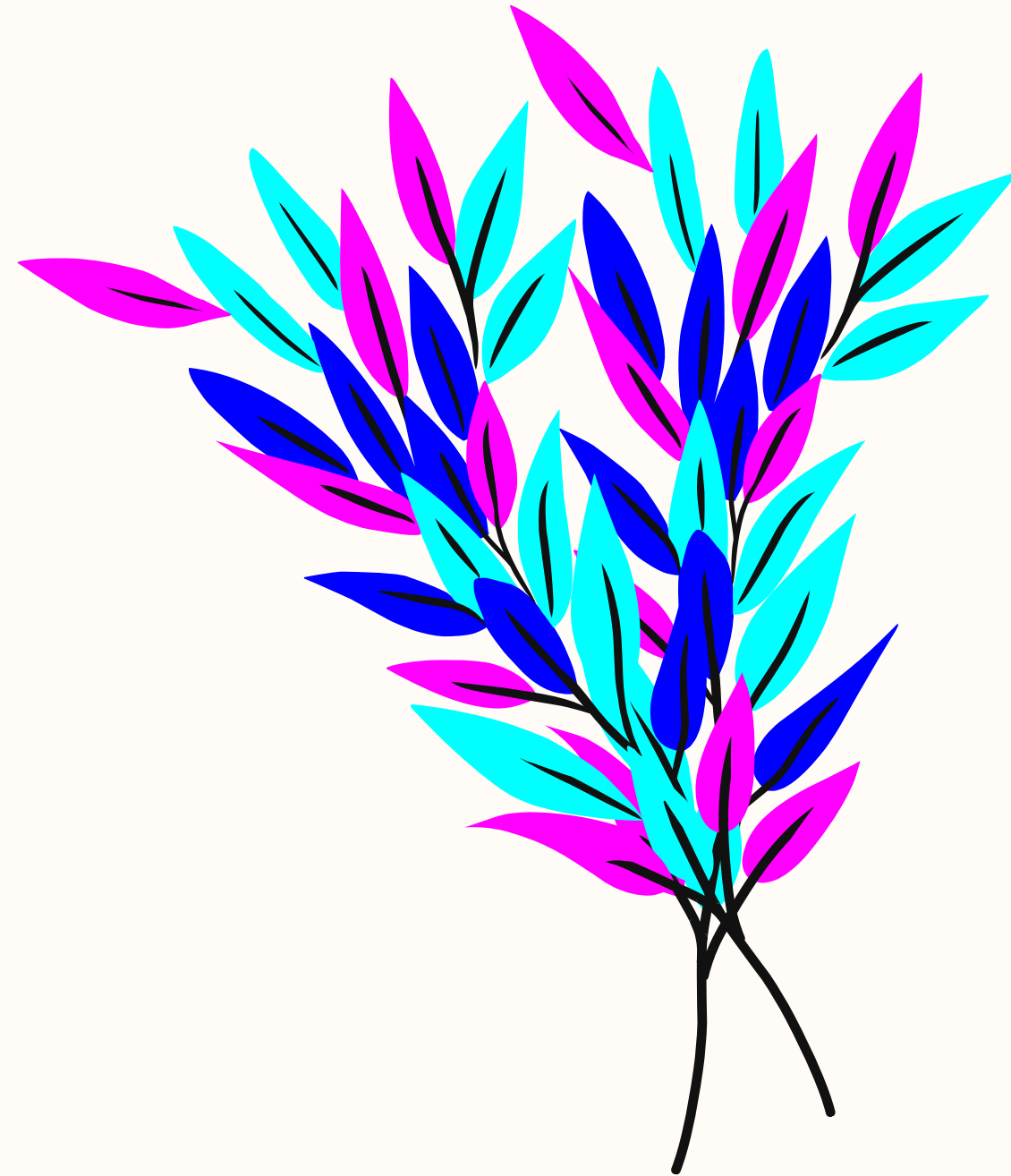




Grain Library

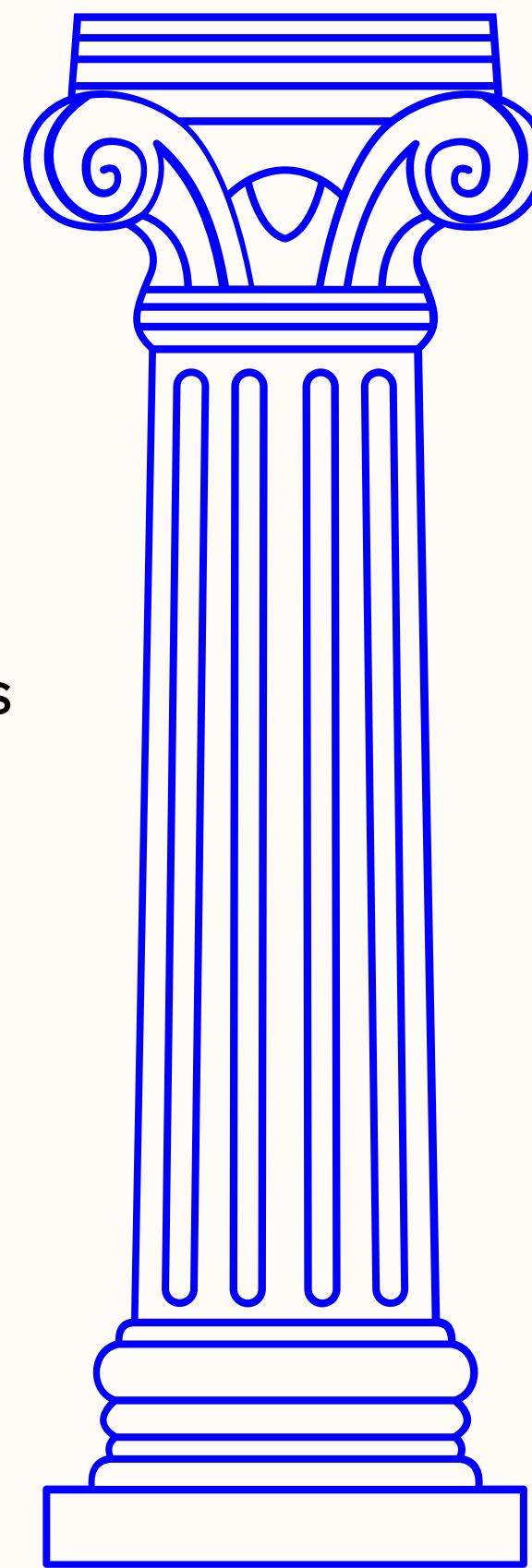
Interdisciplinary Cultural Mediation Model



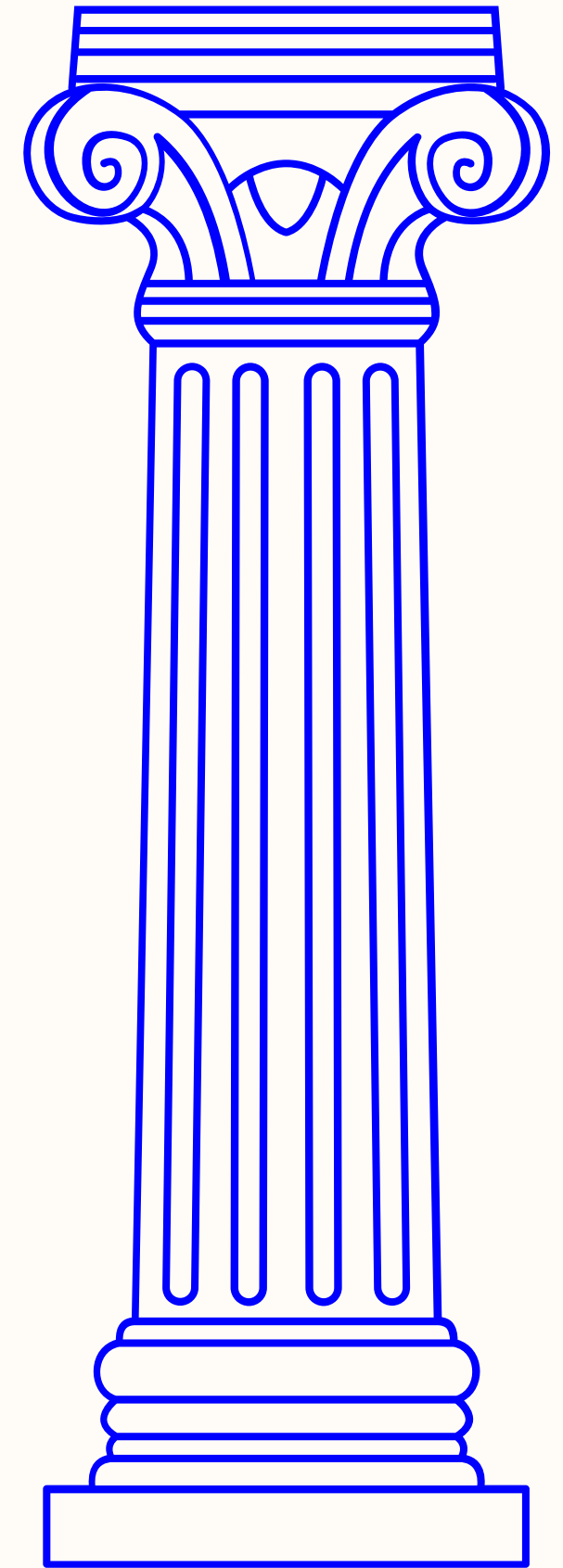


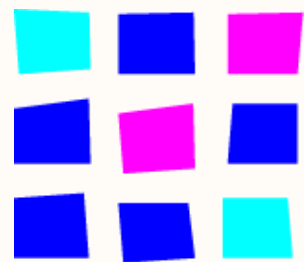
History of the cultural subject linked to a specific element of European heritage

This concept originated in the United States around 2010 under the name "seed banks" and was subsequently implemented in public libraries. It soon spread to the European continent thanks to the initiative of Sébastien Wittevert, founder of the online seed exchange platform "Graines de Troc." Indeed, as early as 2013, seed banks could be found in France, in the cities of Lille, Toulouse, and then Paris. Today, there are several hundred scattered throughout libraries across France, and the concept is also expanding to European countries.



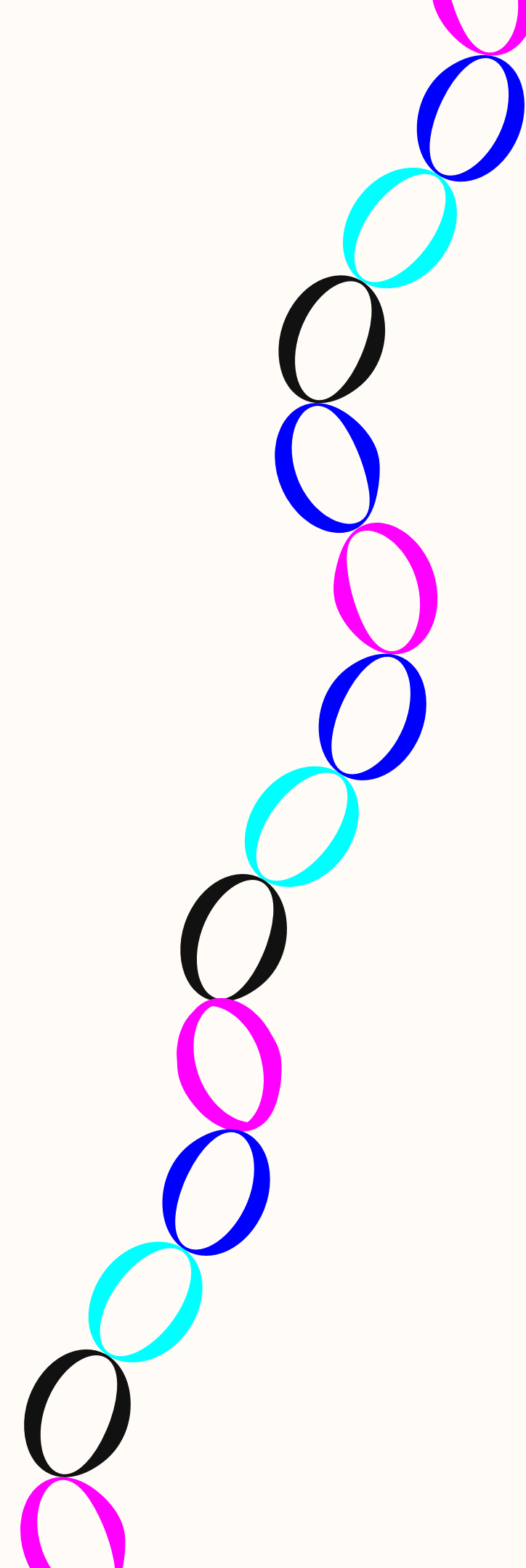
But it's not just about sharing free seeds; the scope is much broader, as it's part of a biodiversity conservation effort, given the alarming observation of the significant decline in biodiversity, estimated at around 75% according to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations). It is therefore a question of preserving this heritage for future generations.

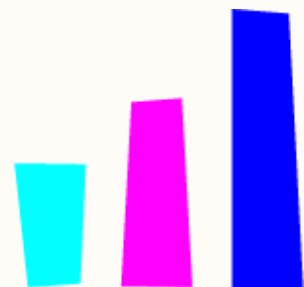




Link to active citizenship

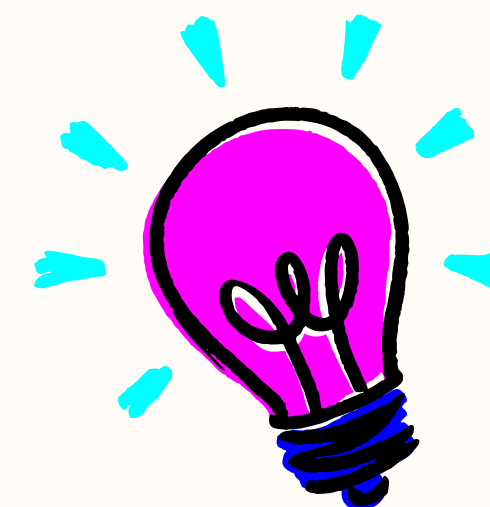
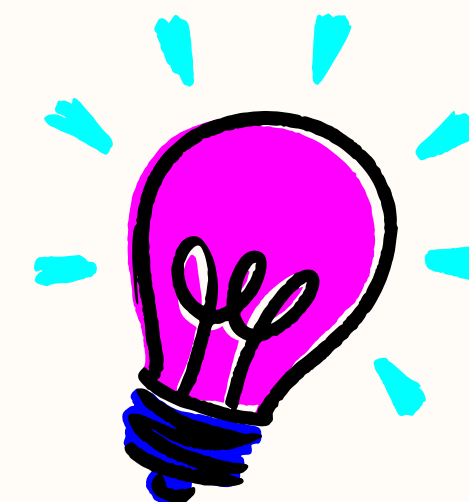
Engaging young people in the preservation of this heritage, that is biodiversity, means making them aware of the importance of the concept of common goods. Helping them understand that a community can be the guarantor and be responsible for resources, which must be preserved and enriched. Developing ecological and civic awareness in them.

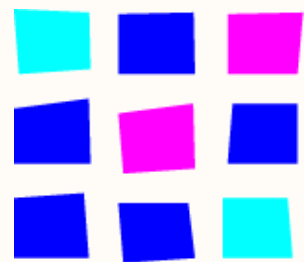




Innovative aspect of the activity

This activity is highly collaborative and requires a real team spirit to create the seed library and communicate around it. It's also a way to strengthen social ties with other local residents. Sharing know-how. Using recycled materials to create the seed library also raises awareness among young people about the importance of recycling, a significant issue in our age of excessive consumption.





Specific subjects developed

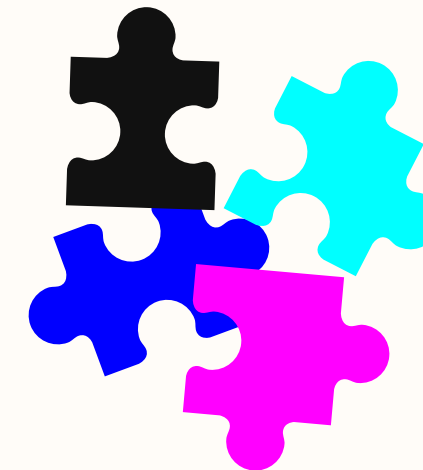
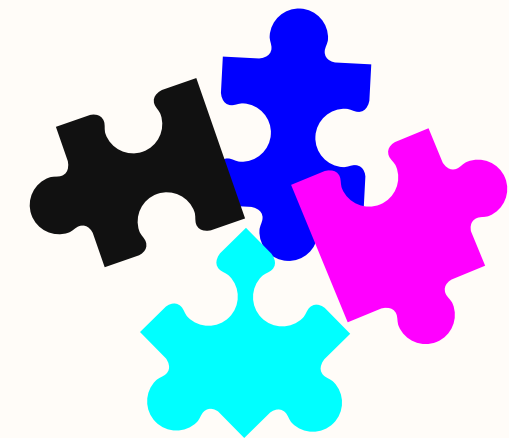
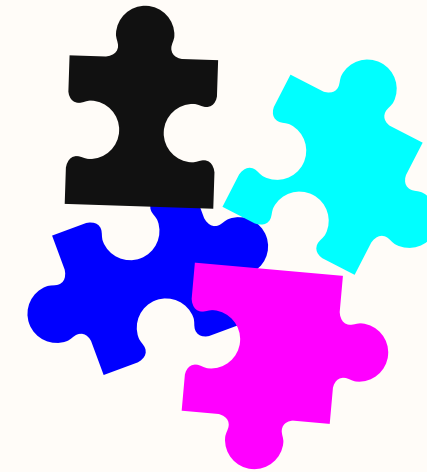
- Natural Sciences: Making seeds available involves the process of seed recovery. Explore the various species and categories of plants.
- Math: Calculations needed to build the seed library.
- Environmental Education: Addressing environmental issues and the need to preserve local biodiversity.
- Civic Education: Recognising the importance of respecting living things and sharing values. Promoting community life.

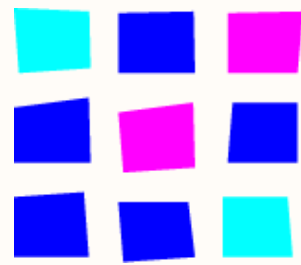




Accessibility

This activity is adapted for all people and doesn't require any technical skills. It can easily be replicated across a wider area within the village's common areas. Its financial cost is lower because the focus is on recycling and reuse.

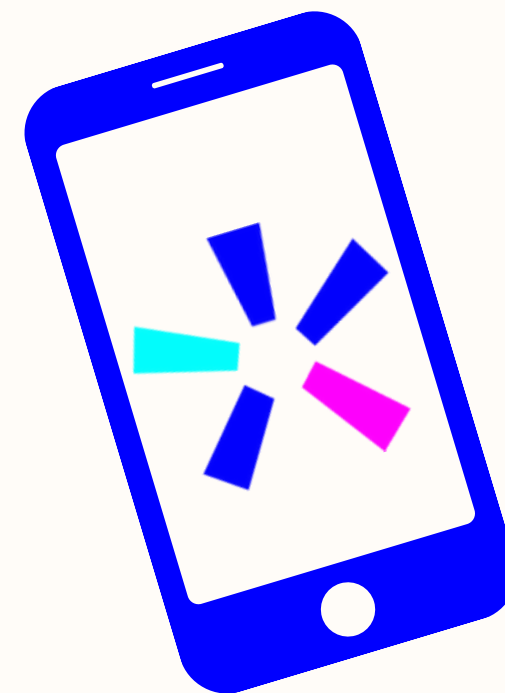
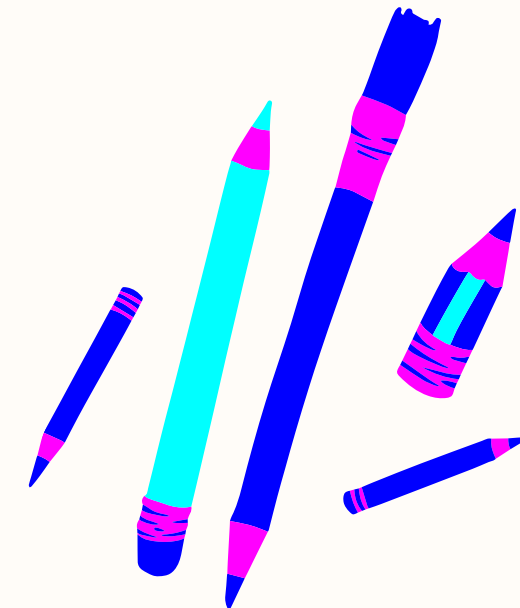
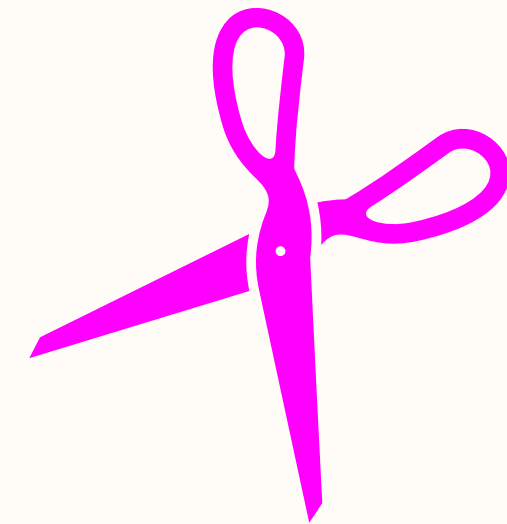


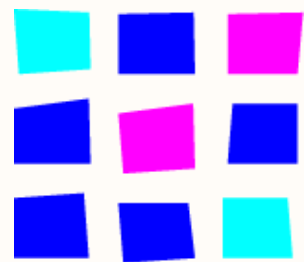


Materials required

The necessary equipment is quite varied and leaves free rein to everyone's imagination, but here is an example of equipment that can be used:

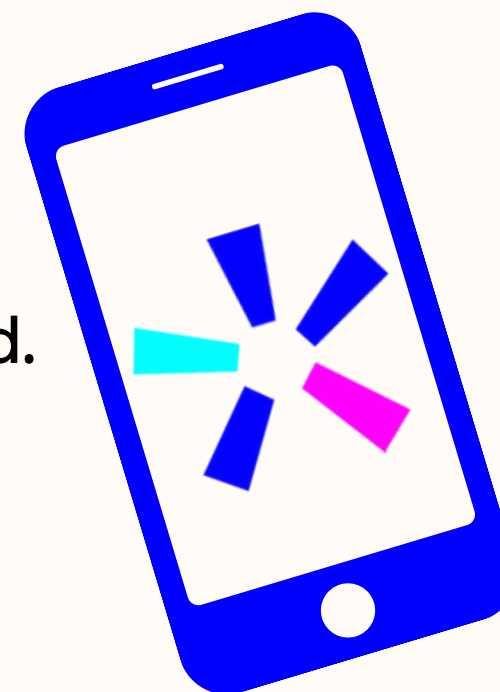
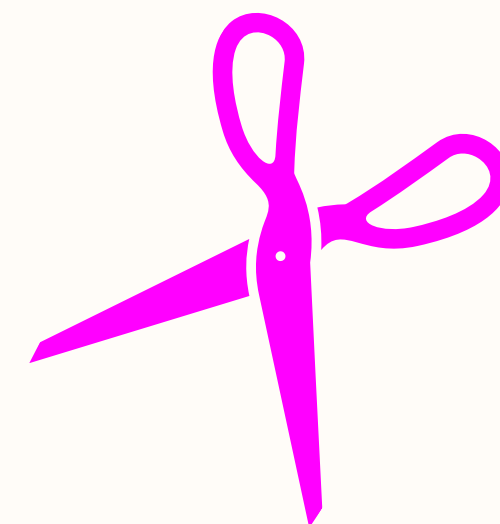
- Cardboard shoe boxes, which can be assembled by glueing them together.
- Or wooden wine bottle crates, which can be used to make a small piece of furniture. You'll need nails and a hammer for assembly.
- Or also, an old piece of furniture like a chest of drawers.
- Paint for decoration.
- Paper thick enough to fold into seed bags.





Materials required

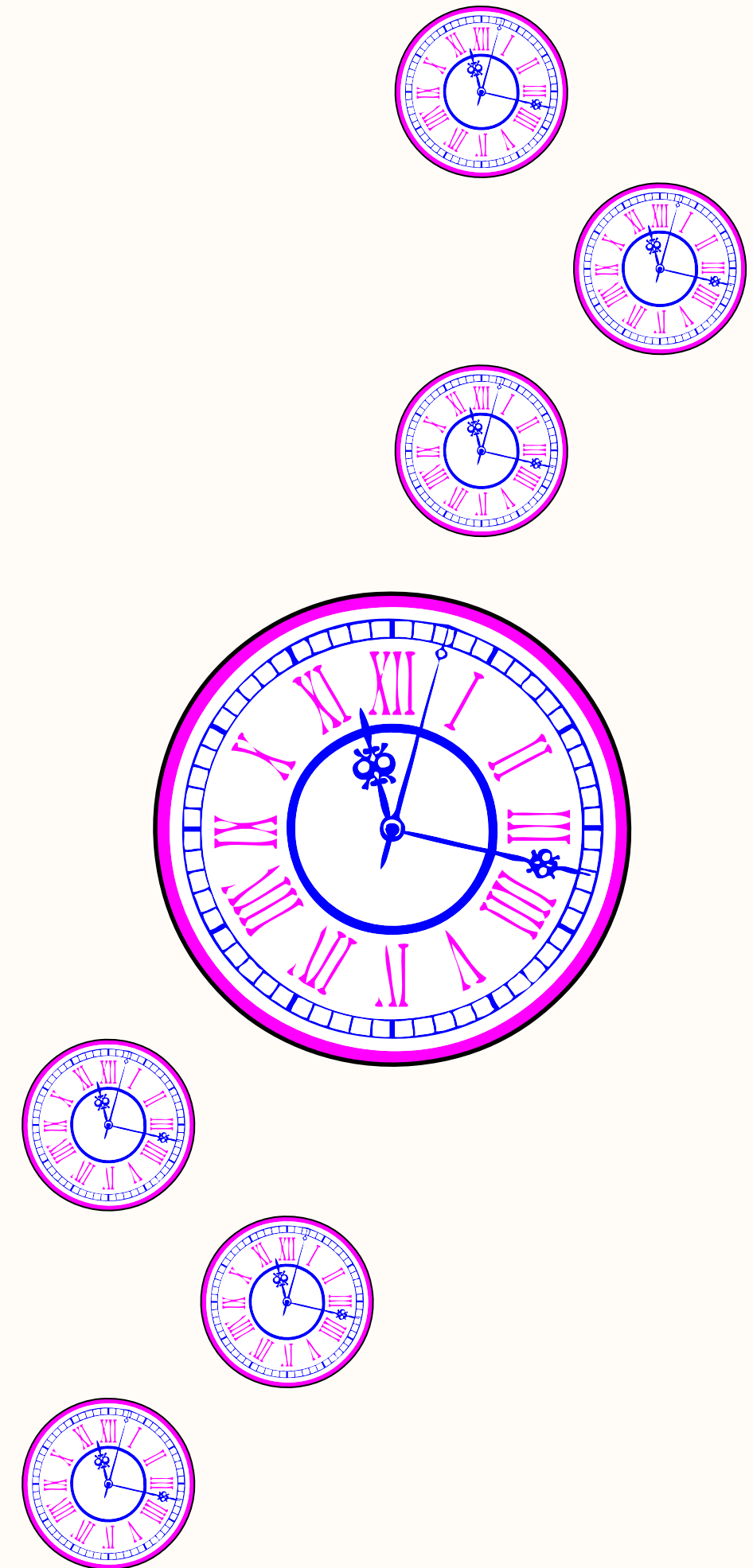
- Labels to write the type of plant, as well as helpful information such as the year the seeds were harvested, the sowing period, the type of exposure, watering, transplanting, etc.
- A map of the village for leafleting and communication about the project.
- The equipment or a place to print communication materials if possible.
- Not forgetting a place in which the seed library can be installed.

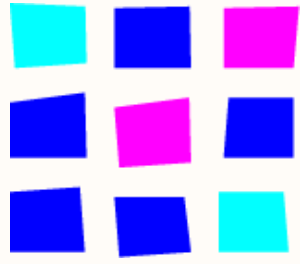




Duration of the activity

The required duration for this activity is set at 10 hours, knowing that it will continue over time. Each session will last 2 hours, making a total of 5 sessions.

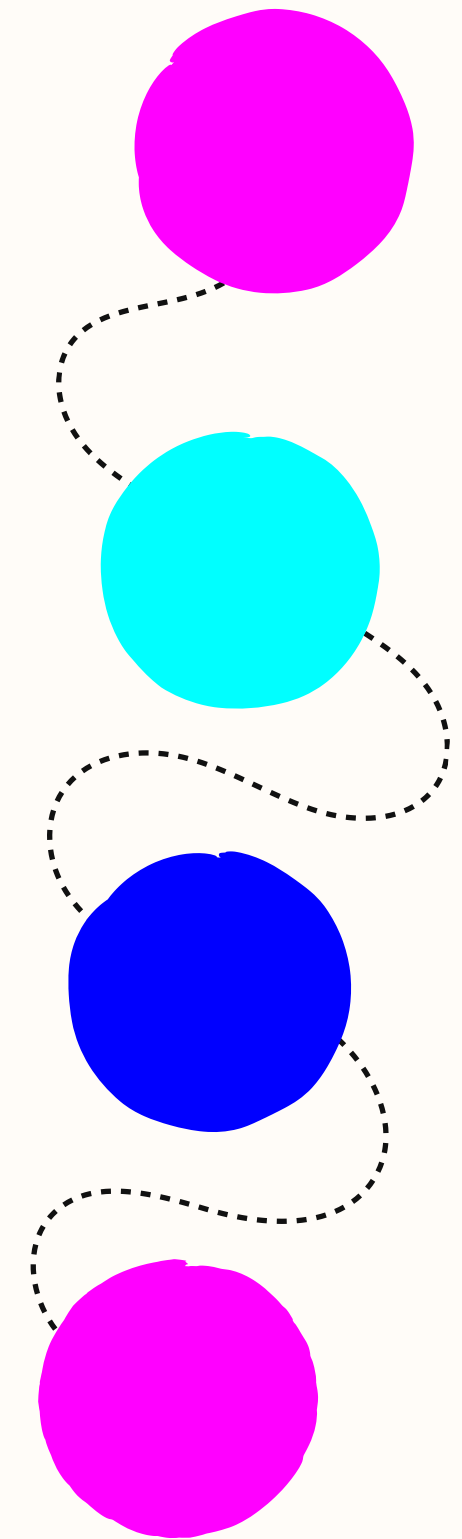




Description of the activity

1. First, you need to do some thinking to agree on the seed library model you'll create. It might be helpful to make a sketch. Imagine compartments organised by fruit and vegetable category, as well as by season. Also, consider how to communicate about the project within the village. Whenever possible, it's best to prioritise face-to-face contact with local residents, businesses, and the town hall so they can relay the information. It's helpful to create a list at this stage. But also take action via social media through existing local groups. Start by sharing the launch of this project, then schedule communication at each stage. (An initial post at the first meeting, then a post at each stage.)

(Duration of this first approach, 1 hour)



In the same session, once the choice of seed library model has been made, it is necessary to think about the necessary equipment and make a list. What can be recovered from one place, and what will necessarily have to be purchased?

(Duration 1 hour)

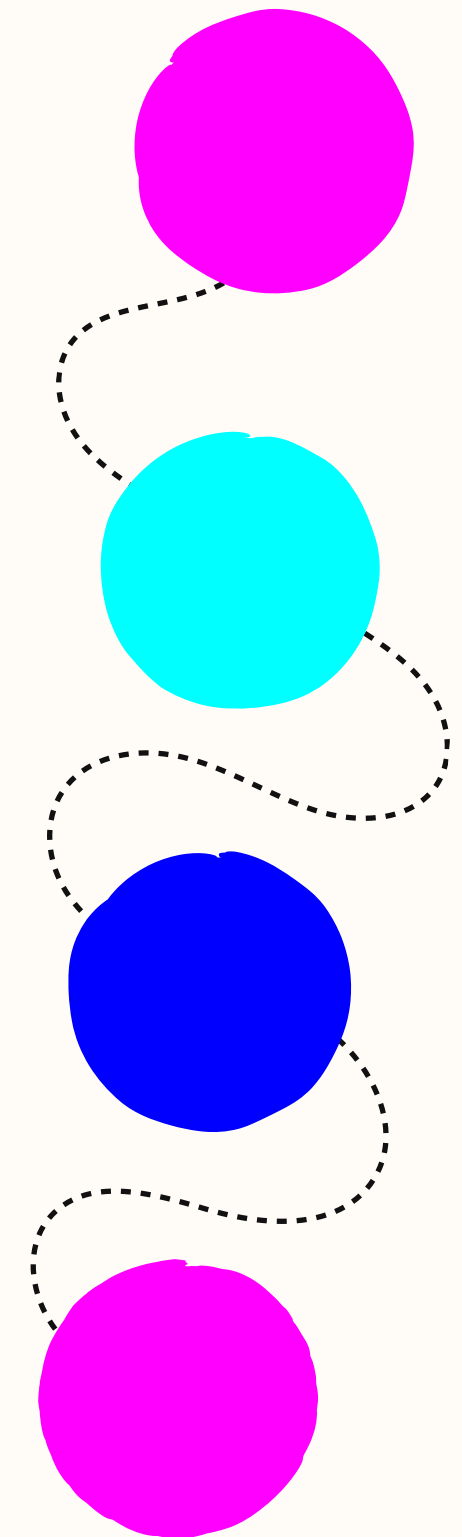
2. For the second session, the basic materials must be brought, and the construction phase can begin. The group can be divided into subgroups, and then the final assembly can be carried out together.



Figure 1 and 2 Grain library - Fermat Science

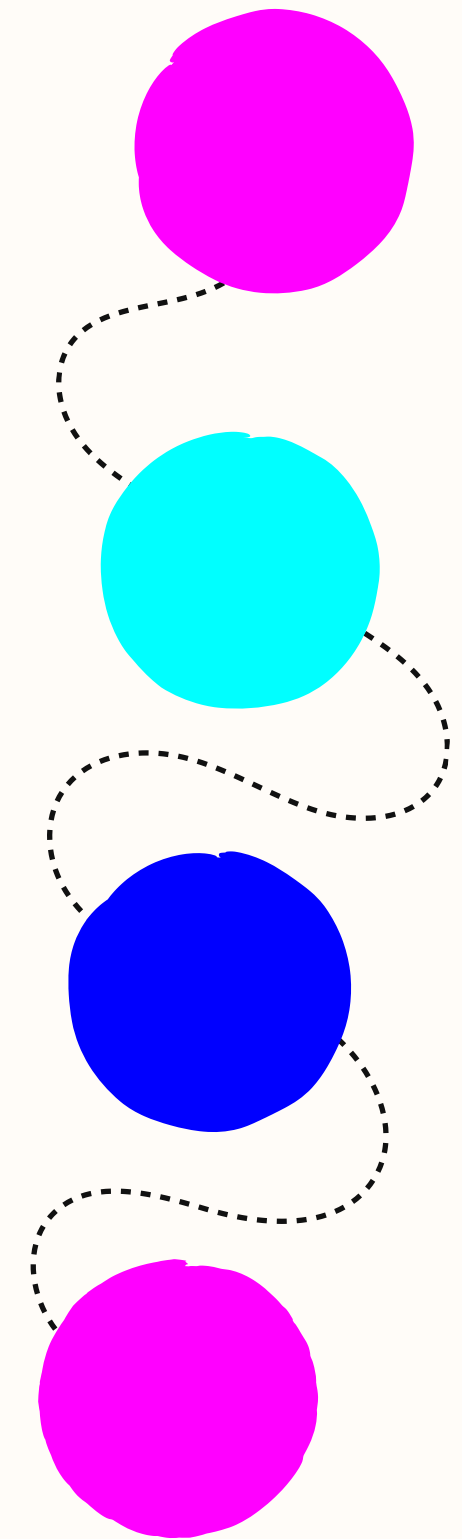


Figure 3 Origami seed bag - Fermat Science



3. The third session will be conducted in two stages, the first hour will be devoted to the finalisation or decoration phase of the seed cabinet created, as well as to the reflection on the rules of use of the seed library, and the second hour will be devoted to the creation of two communication supports:

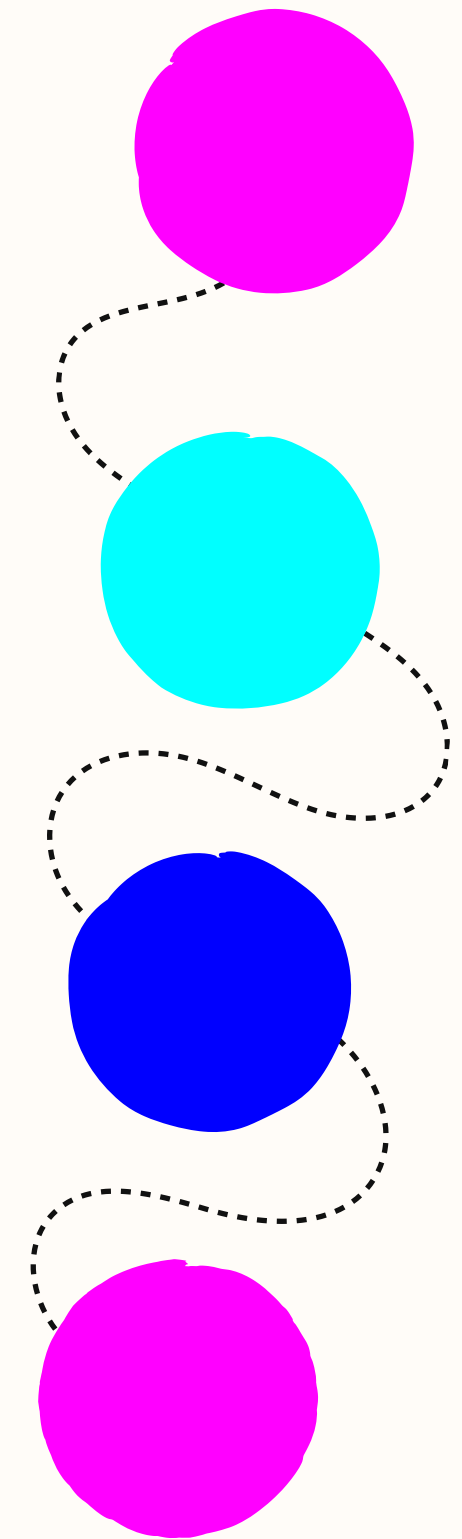
- The first will be made available next to the seed library to remind people of the operating rules.
- The second will be a flyer that will explain the project, what a seed library is. And where will it be made available in the municipality? (Add the opening hours of the location)... Also, add an inauguration date to discover the seed library and deposit the first seeds there (plan this for the 5th session).
- Plan to print flyers for the next session.



4.The fourth session will be entirely devoted to communicating about the project.

Form groups to cover the various sectors of the village, and distribute them collegially. One group per sector. Reach out to residents to explain the project by distributing the flyer and asking them if they have seeds to donate or if they can help by communicating with their friends and family.

5.Finally, during this final session, a permanent presence will be set up next to the seed library to welcome people for their first use, to provide them with information and to discuss with them this approach to preserving and locally distributing seeds.



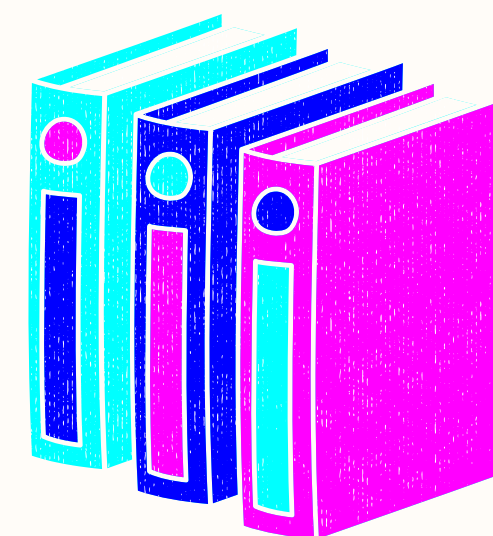
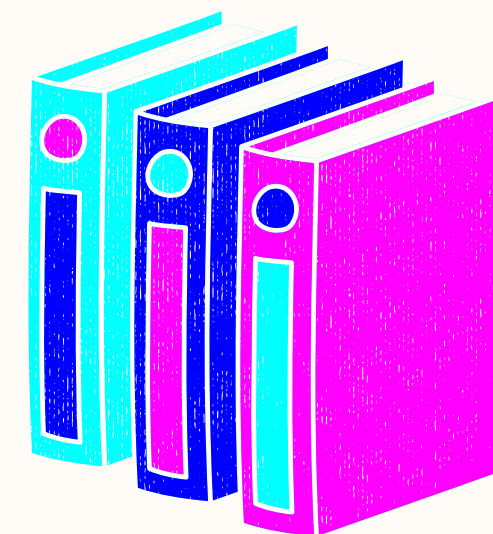


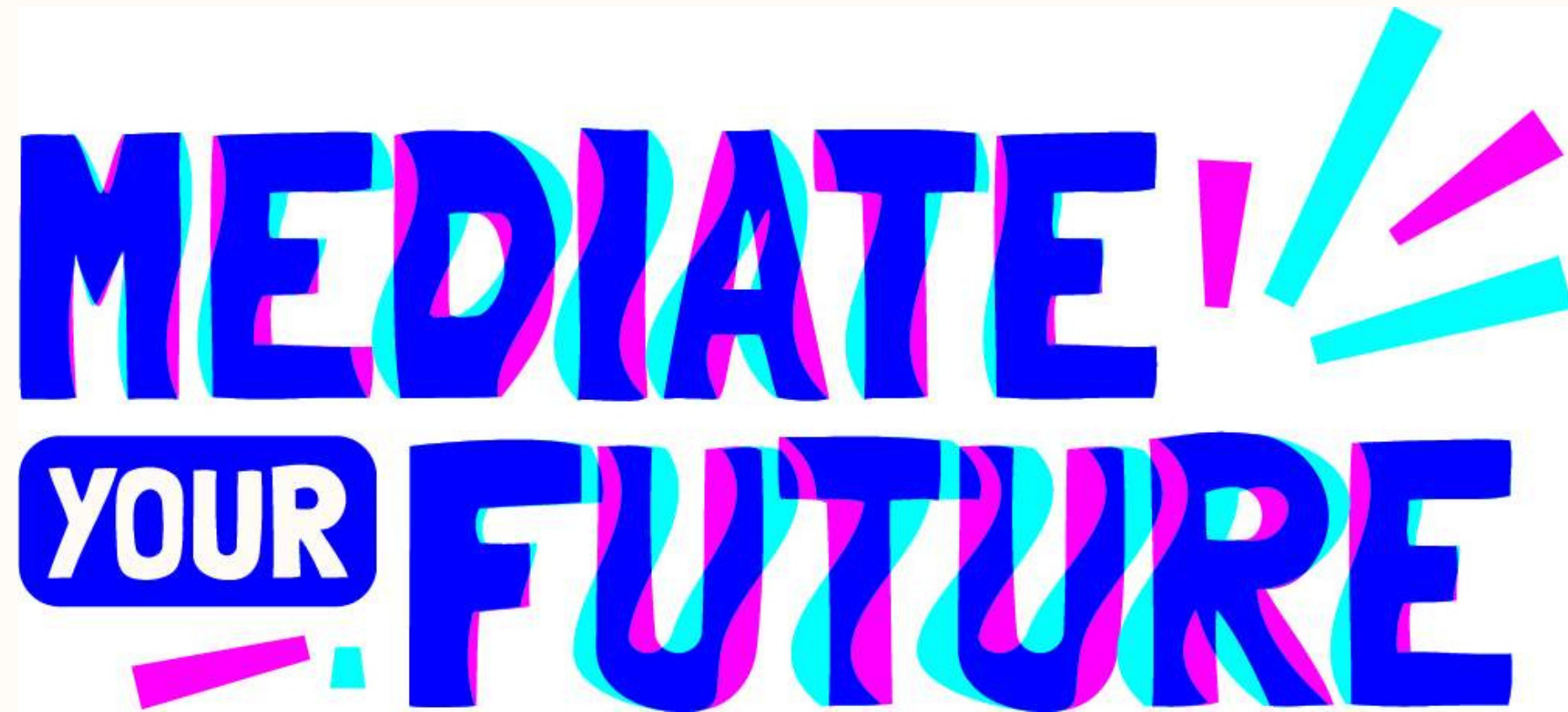
To go further & Resources

- It is also possible to consider organising a day of exchanging fruit and vegetable plants in the village and thus promote the seed library to make it known to as many people as possible.
- Remember to take photos, which will then help to highlight the participants' commitment to this workshop.

Resources:

- <https://www.grainesdetroc.fr/>
- <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/the-genetic-diversity-of-our-plants-and-forests-is-at-risk--new-fao-reports-warn/fr>





Check out more project resources at mediateyourfuture.eu



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