Document your projects!

Why document?

For you to keep track of your work

For others to reproduce – appropriate what you have produced

For others to contribute, give feedbacks and improve your documentation and your work.

Your documentation is destined to be useful for you & others!

What is the purpose of an open documentation?

Study how the device works

Modify/improve the device and share your changes

Make/use the device

Distribute the device and its design

Repair the device or its components

Manage the device end of life

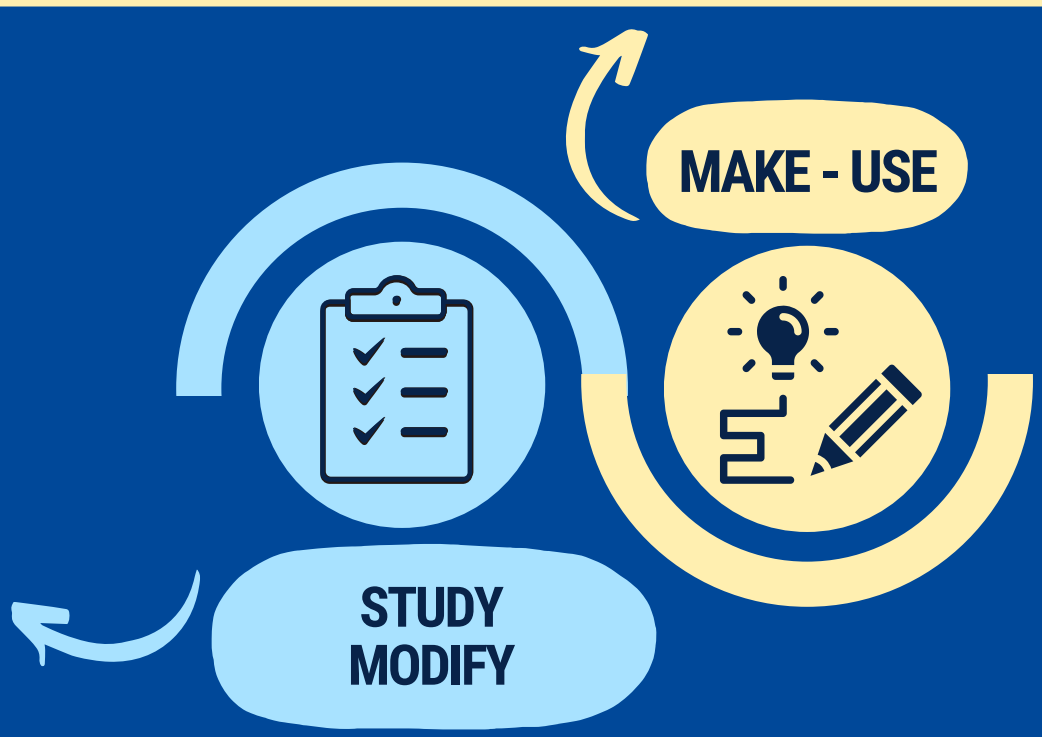
2 openings

- **Open legally** choosing and applying an open licence
- **Open in practice:** freely available under an open format that is legible and understandable

---

Ideally, documentation has to mention...

- Index of documentation
- BOM
- Architecture
- Assembly instructions
- Design files
- Modelling/production tools
- Testing instructions
- Health & safety notice
- Software (operation)
- Operation instructions
- Maintenance instructions
- Disposal instructions
- Context & users
- General description
- Licence
- Contact points
- Communication channels
- List of contributors
- Relation to other projects
- Required skills
- Data
- Educational resources
- Scientific publications
- Funding note
- Contribution guidelines
- Versioning history
- Development stage
- Standard compliance



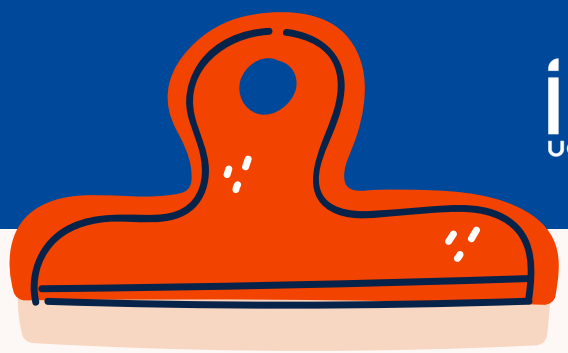
low tech + sustainability
LEARNING IN LOW-TECH TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

GRENOBLE INP UGA Ense3 E3Lab

How do you create open documentation for your projects?

low tech + sustainability

LEARNING IN LOW-TECH TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY



GRENOBLE INP UGA Ense3 F3Lab

1 Purpose and target audience

It's up to you to define them! Your documentation depends on:

- your purpose: to encourage distribution, re-use and contributions.
- your audience (developers and contributors, users, designers, educators, etc.).

2 The form of the document

it depends on stage 1, and can be varied:

- recipe, manual, technical report, experiment notebook, user guide, scientific article, newspaper article, story, interview, etc.

3 MINIMUM elements

- A general description of the project
- Detailed contact information (email, organisation), communication channels
- The name of the licence and a hyperlink to its full text
- An index presenting the architecture of the documentation
- Bill Of Materials (BOM) with part numbers and description.
- Design files, accessible with no proprietary software.
- Assembly instructions to go from the design files to a functionnal device.
- List of codes and firmwares that are necessary for the operation of the device.
- List of contributors and explicit instructions on how to contribute
- A list of the tools, machines or software required for production.

4 Highly recommended elements

- Context, users and specifications
- Required skills
- Links to other projects or documentation
- Overall architecture of the product, modules and interfaces
- The various manuals: for use, maintenance, testing and end-of-life management
- Health and safety notices for each stage in the life of the product
- A list of modelling tools
- Product-related costs and suppliers for parts
- Status of the project (in progress, finished, ...), versionning history
- Funding note
- Data, scientific publications and educationnal contents