

News

## 5 TED Talks for social technological awareness!



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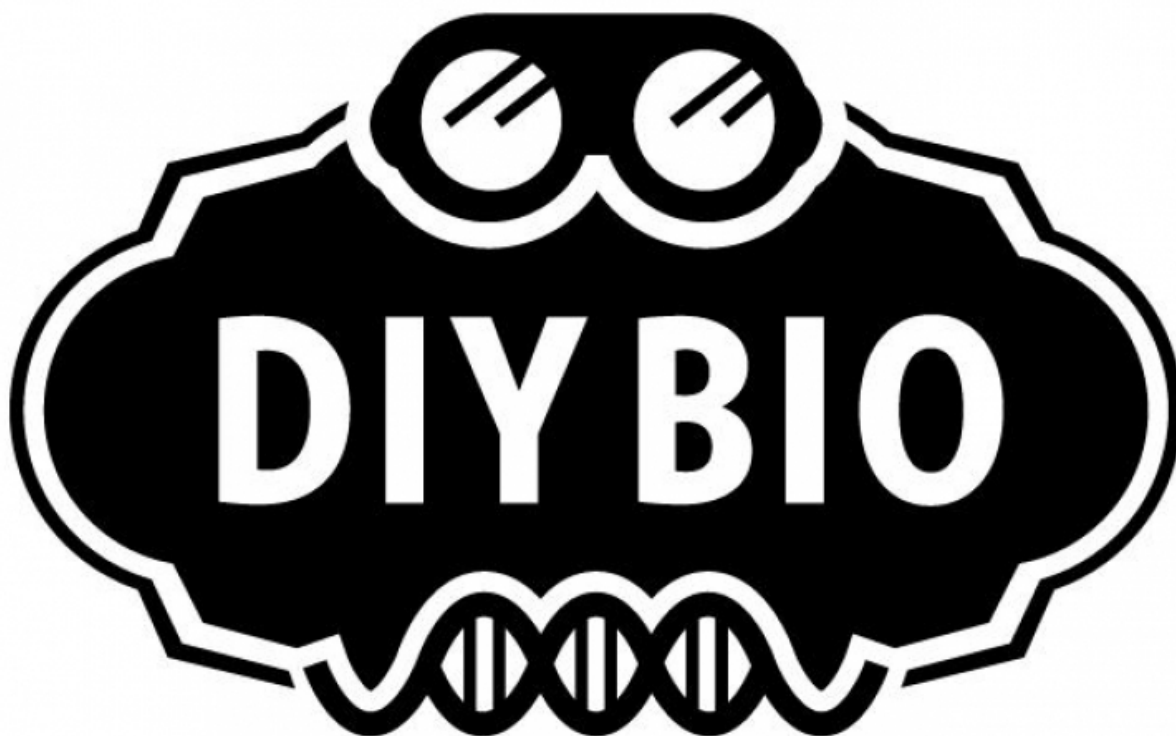


Pia Mancini and her friends want to update democracy - Photo: Democracy.



Chieko Asakawa developed a web browser reader - Photo: TED.

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Genspace is a set of different spaces for people to learn to “hack” using biotechnology to solve small problems.

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Kate Harmtan works on different projects, and one of them is to create clothing with wearable technology - Photo: Kate Hartman.

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Massimo Banzi is part of the team that developed Arduino in Italy - Photo: Arduino.

TED is a platform that hosts thousands of talks explaining many creative ideas. The present selection of talks explains brilliant ideas to build a better world through technology!

Very often, to raise awareness better, **you need a reference or inspiration**. This could come from books by authors that **give you motivation to solve a global problem**. Documentaries are another tool that help **generate awareness** among those watching them, for a specific problem. And conferences are also a channel that can **help disseminating ideas to help others**.

Today, we are so deeply immersed in the [Society of information](#), we have turned into beings that **consume information** and also **produce** it. We can create a blog to raise awareness on a problem, we can watch documentaries on a video channel or listen to a [TED](#) Talk. So, what exactly is [TED](#)?

[TED](#) is the acronym for «**Technology, Entertainment and Design**». The acronym is the name of a **Non-profit organization** in the United States of America that organizes different talk, the «*TED Talks*», or an annual talk, the «*TED Conference*». The overall objective of these talks and the conference is to **spread ideas to improve our society**. You will see many experts from different sectors giving these talks: science, art, design, politics, education, culture, business, globalization, technology, development and entertainment.

Besides organizing these talks and conferences, [TED](#) has [a digital platform](#) where you can watch and listen to many of these talks. What characterizes these talks is that they last less than 15 minutes, **are very entertaining** and the person giving the talk uses body language and verbal communication in a very serene way that is easy to follow.

Next we have a selection of **5 TED Talks** that could be interesting for you and that have to do with **social technology and free software**. All of them aim to raise awareness among viewers and encourage them to work towards a **fairer society**.

[How to upgrade democracy for the internet era – by Pia Mancini.](#)

**Pia Mancini** and her friends **want to update democracy**. Tired of a political representation elected in democracies that never listens to voters, they **developed a free software platform** so that citizens could **assess and stop government decisions**.

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[Biohacking – You can do it, too! - By Ellen Jorgensen](#)

Biologist Ellen Jorgensen started to take an interest in the movement [DIYbio](#), a manifesto that says that **biology must be accessible to all**. Following this movement, Ellen and her friends created the [Genspace](#) community. Genspace is a set of different spaces for people to **learn to “hack” using biotechnology** to solve small problems in their personal lives.

[The art of wearable communication – By Kate Hartman](#)

Kate Harmtan is an artist and teacher of computing. She works on different projects, and one of them is to **create clothing with wearable technology** to improve communication among people. Many of the wearables she's created can also be used to **overcome communicational difficulties** in some people, plants and even glaciers!

[How new technology helps blind people explore the world – By Chieko Asakawa.](#)

Chieko Asakawa had an accident in a pool when she was 14 and lost her sight. What worried her the most was **losing independence**. In the early days of the Internet, Chieko Asakawa **developed a web browser reader** so that she and other visually impaired people could browse the Internet. Besides this invention, she is currently **developing an open source system so she can regain autonomy**.

[How Arduino is open-sourcing imagination – By Massimo Banzi](#)

Massimo Banzi **is part of the team that developed Arduino** in Italy. In this talk, Banzi explains what [Arduino](#) is, why it is open software and many of the projects developed by the community and available to all. Some of the

projects are really interesting!

**Tags:** [TED](#)  
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