



Strategic Roadmap of RFFLabs

2025 > 2028

Created in 2015, **RFFLabs** is a national association that brings together FabLabs, maker spaces, and communities of makers. Under the motto "Make, learn, share, and contribute to changing the world," **RFFLabs**' central goal is to build a network around distributed manufacturing, within the spirit of the maker culture.

Shared workshops, FabLabs, MakerSpaces, tool-sharing associations, Manufactures, digital mediation actors, low-tech spaces... Our network brings together those who promote learning by doing, the right to make mistakes, open documentation, openness to all audiences, and the democratization of technical knowledge.

RFFLabs is a space for meetings, co-creating projects, pooling resources and tools, creating and distributing resources. It provides support and advice to its members, represents them, and advocates for their interests.

For the period 2025 > 2028, RFFLabs has defined three guiding principles and four strategic axes, detailed in this roadmap.

Three Guiding Principles

A compass is a navigation instrument. By analogy, a compass is an abstract or concrete object that helps guide actions, and its value serves as a reference. To guide its actions over the next three years, RFFLabs has chosen three guiding principles that represent the directions the network is taking to build and reach a desirable future.

1. A Just Transition to Preserve the Habitability of the World

The consequences of climate change create a context of fluctuation and uncertainty. Limiting the environmental impact of human activities is an urgent need that must be addressed collectively. The stakes are crucial: it is about the very habitability of our planet. By supporting distributed manufacturing, repair, DIY (do it yourself) practices, the circular economy, and low-tech approaches, RFFLabs aims to contribute to transforming our modes of consumption and production.

Social and ecological issues go hand in hand. RFFLabs wants to continue encouraging its members to experiment with more horizontal and equitable governance models, to strengthen collaborations with local actors (particularly local authorities), to share resources, and to produce and maintain commons that will strengthen the resilience of communities and territories in an ecological transition context.

2. Fighting Exclusion and Caring for Our Communities and Territories

FabLabs, maker spaces, and maker communities are open spaces for learning, mediation, and exchanging knowledge. In these spaces, everyone is legitimate to experiment, create, and discover. As such, RFFLabs takes on its responsibility to combat sexism, racism, and ableism to ensure that maker spaces are and remain places where everyone can contribute together to build a desirable world. RFFLabs is committed to reducing social, gender, class, and age inequalities, striving to support maker spaces and communities in their accessibility to all.

As the head of the network, RFFLabs is deeply committed to taking care of the communities that constitute it. RFFLabs remains attentive to issues of safety in FabLabs and maker spaces, occupational risks (including psychosocial risks) faced by FabLab workers, the well-being of volunteers and users, and the fight against gender-based and sexual violence (GBV).

3. Breaking Boundaries in the Face of Isolation

RFFLabs connects local communities through collaborative networks for the exchange of skills and knowledge. It contributes to embedding these communities and spaces in global issues while respecting their local specificities. RFFLabs considers openness to the world to be a valuable asset and aims to strengthen its international development strategy. RFFLabs maintains long-term partnerships with international actors (such as VoW, ReFFAO), and since 2024, it has been a member of the board of the European network Vulca. RFFLabs' European and international outreach aims to encourage the

mobility of members, the exchange of practices, co-development with partner networks, intercultural exchange, and resource sharing.

Four Strategic Work Axes

1/ Create, Develop, Maintain, and Animate a Shared Information Capital (CIC):

Commons are shared resources, collectively managed and maintained by a community; this community establishes rules to preserve and sustain these resources while providing its members the opportunity and right to use them, and potentially extending this right to others if the community agrees. At RFFLabs, these commons are material, immaterial, informational, and/or operational. They have been at the core of RFFLabs' actions since its creation. The mission of facilitating access to this shared informational capital continues through two strategic objectives:

- Design, consolidate, transmit, and maintain resources, and define common rules for preserving and disseminating these resources.
- Facilitate the appropriation and development of this CIC through cultural awareness of commons issues.

2/ Support Members and Facilitate Cooperation:

Through, with, and for its members, RFFLabs co-creates a shared vision, representing it to public authorities and partner organizations in France and internationally, as well as within European maker networks. RFFLabs defends the interests of its members and works to strengthen the legitimacy of FabLabs, maker spaces, and maker communities with public authorities and local actors. Strengthening these cooperations also aims to enhance the economic stability of the network and its members. RFFLabs also pays particular attention to working conditions and welcoming environments in FabLabs and maker spaces to ensure that these places remain open and accessible to all. This strategic axis is broken down into three objectives:

- Serve as a representative and interface with public authorities (at national and European levels) and national partners (associative networks, social and solidarity economy, etc.).
- Formalize and disseminate common advocacy points, both on RFFLabs' areas of expertise and in partnership with ecosystem networks.
- Take care of maker spaces and those who inhabit them.

3/ Territorial Development and Network Animation (DTAR): From Local to International:

RFFLabs operates on multiple scales. From local FabLabs, communities, and maker spaces, it aims to support and strengthen territorial cooperation dynamics through the action of regional referents, promote mobility and European partnerships via active participation in the VULCA network, and continue international cooperation, notably through participation in FABX events and partnerships with ReFFAO. This continuum from local to international unfolds through three objectives:

- **Foster and structure cooperation dynamics at the regional level, in mainland and overseas France, to strengthen territorial resilience, social bonds, and innovation initiatives.**
- **Facilitate member mobility, extra-territorial exchanges, and co-development dynamics with partner networks.**
- **Create and animate physical and virtual spaces to promote mutual recognition, highlight initiatives, strengthen synergies and pooling, and raise public awareness of FabLabs' and maker spaces' actions.**

4/ Research and Expertise: Produce and Share Open Knowledge:

Through its Scientific Council, RFFLabs aims to strengthen its production of surveys and critical analyses to document the maker movement and report its social, economic, and political impacts. RFFLabs seeks to continue producing scientific knowledge and legitimizing the knowledge created in FabLabs and maker spaces. It aims to make this expertise from the network and its members come to life, collaborating with academic actors, promoting open knowledge, and supporting participatory science approaches.

- **Mobilize a scientific council to conduct surveys and analyses and disseminate results to members, partner networks (professional and academic), and public partners.**
- **Contribute to the production of open scientific and expert knowledge.**