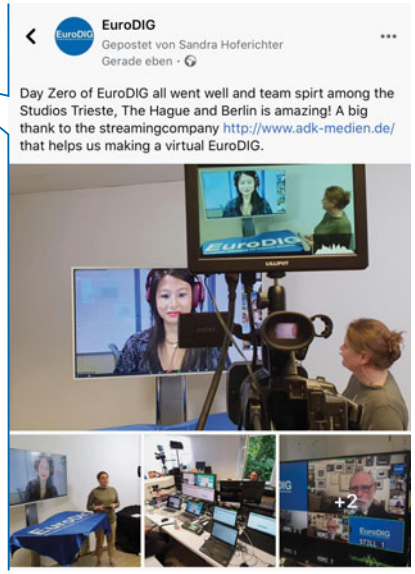
EuroDIG

European Dialogue on Internet Governance

Messages 2020
Virtual meeting, 10–12 June

Towards a sustainable governance of the Internet



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About EuroDIG

Launched in 2008, EuroDIG, the European Dialogue on Internet Governance, is a unique annual event that brings together Internet stakeholders from throughout Europe (and beyond), and from across the spectrum of government, industry, civil society, academia and the technical community. Stakeholders and participants work over the course of each year to develop, in a bottom-up fashion, a dynamic agenda that explores the pressing issues surrounding how we develop, use, regulate and govern the Internet. EuroDIG participants come away with broader, more informed perspectives on these issues and new partners in responding to the challenges of the information society.

EuroDIG 2020 – Executive summary

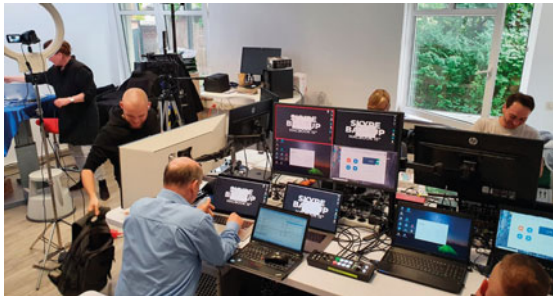
*Sandra Hoferichter, Secretary General, EuroDIG**

EuroDIG 2020 was planned to take place as a three-day meeting from 10-12 June, in Trieste, Italy, at the International Centre of Theoretical Physics (ICTP). EuroDIG was to be a satellite event in the overall programme of the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF), and the overarching theme, 'Towards a sustainable governance of the Internet', was aligned with ESOF's focus areas.

Because of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic we could not meet in Trieste in person and EuroDIG 2020 was held as a fully virtual meeting.

After discussing various options, it was decided to stick to a two-day programme structure, plus a Day Zero, in order to accommodate all of the topics that had been identified as being of relevance this year and to respect the community work that had already gone into session preparation. The challenge was to keep people engaged and focused for 2-3 days rather than risk losing them over a longer period.

We hoped that sessions would have similar participant numbers to a physical meeting. In this respect it's notable that in recent years a trend developed where many participants only attended specific parts of the programme focused on their



field of interest, while not participating for the entire duration of the conference. The effort to outline special interest tracks in the programme supported this trend, and reflected an effort to engage with new communities outside the traditional "Internet Governance bubble".

Structurally, the EuroDIG 2020 programme followed the same format as the annual EuroDIG events have followed for the past five years. Sessions were held in the same manner as in a physical meeting, with key participants providing input and as much open discussion as possible, allowing all participants to contribute.

* With text references to the Messages produced by the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP)

It was clear that EuroDIG 2020 would need to be entertaining, interactive and create a kind of community feeling in the virtual space. Out of this, the idea to create studios across Europe was born.

We established a "TV headquarters"-style studio in Leipzig where the EuroDIG Secretariat is located, while colleagues in Trieste, The Hague and Berlin established smaller studios and we connected with them. The feedback from participants showed that we achieved our aim, with a majority of attendees joining for multiple sessions, or even the entire conference, and that the studio approach and the moderation between the studios was much appreciated.

Thanks to the enthusiastic engagement of the next generation, YOUthDIG took place in spite of the pandemic. It was held virtually as a number of webinars held across May and June. Young people across Europe formulated messages on how they would like to see the digital environment developing, with focus on data protection, children's safety, Internet access, inclusion and blockchain. You can read their findings on page 38.

Another notable development this year was our cooperation with the scientific community, which has not been well represented at EuroDIG in the past. Accordingly, topics of particular relevance to the scientific community helped shape the EuroDIG 2020 programme.

On issues of **access, connectivity, and community networks**, participants found agreement that collaborating on the elaboration of 5G standards is key to ensuring interoperable data / IoT solutions and promoting the security of the 5G ecosystem. When talking about community networks it became clear that technical aspects go hand in hand with a strong network of community support: both the technology and the sense of community are crucial elements in ensuring the success of community networks.

The **European digital economy** was discussed this year in the shadow of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and raised the question of whether this would usher in a fundamental digital paradigm shift, for instance with regard to the contradiction between data protection and health tracing technologies. This discussion must be continued, taking account of the knowledge we gain over the duration of the pandemic.

The panel on **digital sovereignty** was also influenced by the pandemic's impact and related investments in telecommunication infrastructure; however, telecommunication regulatory frameworks were identified as being the key focus areas in particular for the European Union. More action from large companies is needed to spur innovative responses to the pandemic's challenges, requiring

stronger links to regional SMEs and start-ups, as well as the work of universities and research centres.

While the EU is at the frontline when it comes to enabling the digital sovereignty of individuals – thanks to the legal, ethical, and basic values that were in place before the digital era – it is crucial that the EU takes more action than before if it is to retain its leading role in relation to digital sovereignty.

On matters related to the **Domain Name System, its security and standards**, the discussion was continued to build on the results from last year. It was reiterated that public policy input into standardisation processes must be based on the multistakeholder principle, ensuring equal participation across stakeholder groups, be it through a new body or through existing standardisation organisations.

How such a new or improved body that would guarantee effective cooperation of all stakeholders might look was the subject of the follow-up process to the **UN High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation**. The process started last year when the panel submitted its report, "The Age of Digital Interdependence", just before EuroDIG. This year saw the equally timely presentation of the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.

The EuroDIG community not only accompanied but also contributed to this process with stakeholder consultations, public discussions on the outcome of the report, and ideas on the improvement of digital cooperation. You can read more about the European view on these issues on page 43.

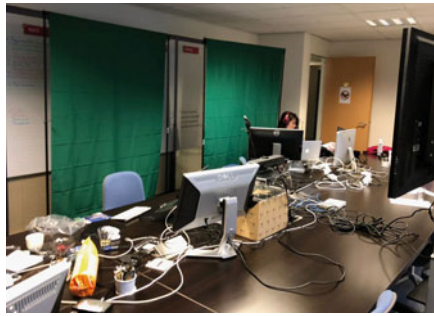
New to the EuroDIG agenda was a discussion on **environmental sustainability and digital transformation**. To reduce the environmental impact of the digital world, it is necessary to adopt measures to optimise energy and material efficiency (circularity) of the digital sector. For example, increasing the use of renewables, innovating for low energy consumption, keeping devices longer in use, facilitating re-use, improving reparability and recyclability, and adopting sustainable business models.

There were many proposals on how to incorporate ecological standards into regulation, but also into the design and production of goods. The role and responsibility of the end user was also noted as key to a sustainable digital future for Europe. Digitalisation and environmental sustainability must be looked at together and not as two separate areas.

This topic in particular will have to be discussed further. And since we have built strong ties to our host ICTP and our other partners in Italy, we are looking forward to visiting Trieste in 2021 and continuing the European Internet governance dialogue with the scientific community.

Big thank to our Studio Teams in:

The Hague



Berlin

Trieste

EuroDIG 2020 – Programme

- Access & literacy
- Development of IG ecosystem
- Human rights
- Innovation and economic issues
- Media & content
- Security and crime
- Technical & operational issues
- Cross cutting / other issues

YOUthDIG

Time	*Webinars*
May-June	YOUthDIG – Youth Dialogue on Internet Governance

Day 0 | 10 June 2020

Time	*Pre-Events*		
09:30 - 12:30			PRE 12: High Level Group on Internet Governance (multistakeholder open session)
13:45 - 14:00	Pre opening		
14:00 - 16:00	PRE 5: European NRI ASSEMBLY • Digital cooperation architecture and approaches for the future • Best practice on possible NRIs legal entities • IGFs as think-tanks for legislative action?	PRE 10: COVID-19 pandemic – lessons learned for children's safety	Side Event at ICTP ICTP Colloquium by Prof. Paolo Carloni on "Computational molecular medicine: from neurobiology to Covid-19"
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break – Music relaxation		
16:30 - 18:00	PRE 3: Quantum technologies – from basic research to market	PRE 11: Youth Coalition on Internet Governance – Creating synergies and the way forward	
18:00 - 18:30	Coffee break – Music relaxation		
18.30 - 20:00	PRE 2: East-West relationships in the Internet age	PRE 7: IoT and Core Internet values Dynamic Coalition – Internet successes and failures to support a world living under COVID19 lockdown	

Day 1 | 11 June 2020

Time	*Sessions*		
9:30 - 10:00	Welcome • Atish Dabholkar, The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) • Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, UNESCO (Video) • Stefano Fantoni, EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) • Stefano Ruffo, Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (SISSA) • Roberto Di Lenarda, University of Trieste (Video) • Vint Cerf, Chief Evangelist, Google (Video) • Paola Pisano, Minister for Technological Innovation and Digitalisation, Italy (Video) Moderation: Sandra Hoferichter, Secretary General, EuroDIG		
10:00 - 11:00	PL 3: European Digital Economy and COVID-19 pandemic – current state of affairs, risks, and opportunities		
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break – Music relaxation		
11:30 - 13:00	WS 3: The Impact of DNS Encryption on the Internet Ecosystem and its Users	WS 2: Enhancing users' confidence in cyberspace – risks and solutions	WS 4: Innovative uses of blockchain for public empowerment
13:00 - 14:30	BigStage • M.I. E-Health – Managing integrated community & sovereign health data for emerging technologies – Are we ready? • Tackling terrorist and violent extremist content with the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) • Gender in the immersive digital future – a new matriarchy? • The German Youth Protection Act – Amendment of 2020	Lunch break – Networking area	Lunch break – Music relaxation
14:30 - 16:00	WS 5: Should public policy priorities and requirements be included when designing Internet standards?	WS 7: Criminal justice in cyberspace – what's next?	WS 6: Social media – opportunities, rights and responsibilities
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break – Music relaxation		
16:30 - 17:00	Keynote: • planned with Roberto Viola, Director General, DG CONNECT, European Commission, held by Pearse O'Donohue, Director for Future Networks in DG CONNECT (including Q&A)		
17:00 - 18:00	PL 2: Digital sovereignty – from users' empowerment to technological leadership Studio The Hague		

Day 2 | 12 June 2020

Time	*Sessions*		
9:30 - 10:00	Keynote: • Noel Curran, Director General, European Broadcasting Union • Alessandra Todde, Undersecretary, Ministry of Economic Development, Italy Moderation: Sandra Hoferichter, Secretary General, EuroDIG		
10:00 - 11:00	PL 1: 5G – the opportunities and obstacles		
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break – Music relaxation		
11:30 - 13:00	WS 9: Privacy in Europe – GDPR vs. information freedom?	WS 11: Challenges and uptake of modern Internet standards (including, but not limited to IPv6, DNSSEC, HTTPS, RPKI)	WS 12 and WS 16 (merged): Community networks and smart solutions in remote areas – a bottom-up approach to digital citizenship
13:00 - 14:30	BigStage • Online political advertising and disinformation – gathering evidence, shaping regulation • Internet & democracy – the case of Covid Infodemics • The CLAIRE AI & COVID-19 initiative – Approach, experiences and recommendations	Lunch break – Networking area	Lunch break – Music relaxation
14:30 - 16:00	WS 14: Fighting COVID19 with AI – How to build and deploy solutions we trust? (follow up from last years plenary)	WS 15: Universal Acceptance – a technical or a cultural issue?	WS 10: How to turn challenges into opportunities for education transformation?
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break – Music relaxation		
16:30 - 17:00	Keynote: • Presenting Youth Messages		
17:00 - 18:00	PL 4: Greening Internet governance – Environmental sustainability and digital transformation		
18:00 - 18:30	Wrap Up • Under-Secretary General Fabrizio Hochschild, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General • Launch of the Secretary-General's Roadmap for digital cooperation • Summary of Messages by Geneva Internet Platform (GIP)		

Thank you to the Geneva Internet platform ...

"Messages 2020" compiles the conclusions of plenary sessions and workshops and was drafted by reporters from the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP) in coordination with the Org Team of each session.

Additional reports, transcripts, video records and further reading recommendations for each session can be found on the EuroDIG Wiki:

⇗ https://eurodigwiki.org/wiki/EuroDIG_2020

Welcome messages and keynotes

Atish Dabholkar The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Director

I would like to add that one of the important aspects, for the rest of the world and for us, is connectivity because, you know, half the world is not connected. This has been brought out even more starkly now during the COVID emergencies … if you want to break this knowledge divide, addressing connectivity is going to be most important.

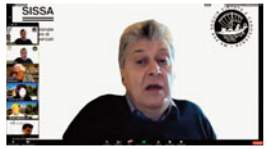
Shamila Nair-Bedouelle UNESCO, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences

When we talk about knowledge-based societies today we mean that they're based and driven by science and technology. Yet globalization, it is creating a new form of discrimination. We have noticed that persons across the world do not have access to this Internet services and this global knowledge. … How can we ensure that this Internet and this access to the digital Information Society is open to the world? The access to Internet, it is critical to democratize the process and open the world.

Stefano Fantoni EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF), ESOF2020 Champion

ESOF is the place that scientific community meets to reflect on its practice and place in society … I really hope very much that the main results that would be achieved during this beautiful conference may be transferred to our participants in September.

Stefano Ruffo Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (SISSA), Director



I'm very happy that there is an opportunity to involve the academic environment into a discussion about Internet governance … we have a long tradition in the spirit of open science and open communication, open data.

Roberto Di Lenarda University of Trieste, Rector

We cannot afford to find the Internet as a double-edged sword, a great opportunity for all but at the same time, a possible difficult tool to handle considering our social, geopolitical realities. We firmly believe that universities had been a great user of the Internet in terms of sharing knowledge with either place forcing a dialogue on the governance of the Internet between different cultures and fields to reflect on the social impact of the powerful tool and try to predict the time and future revolution and consequences.

Vint Cerf Google, Chief Evangelist

… half of the world's population has access, if we continue to work as hard as we have, maybe harder, the rest of the world will be online maybe even before the end of this decade. That means governance for Internet is more important than ever. We need to have a stable Internet, one that's affordable, safe, secure, preserves privacy, performs functions that we need, in a reliable way, and is affordable in particular.

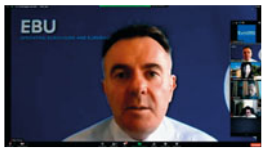
Paola Pisano Minister for Technological Innovation and Digitalisation, Italy

The crisis shows that Internet is an essential resource for our society and economies for trade, health, education. No country could have survived the lockdown without it. The need to ensure access for all and the protection for Human Rights, it has become even more urgent. European institutions such as EuroDIG must continue to evolve to include new communities and pave the way for a governance model that has the multistakeholder of the Internet. We have to seize the power of the Internet while defending basic rights.

Pearse O'Donohue, DG CONNECT, Director for Future Networks

We are, as you are, a strong supporter of a bottom-up multistakeholder approach to Internet governance, we don't accept it blindly, nor do we refuse to accept criticism for the way in which it operates. We must constantly be looking at the model to ensure that it is fit for purpose … You have to look at the wide new implications of new technology, and we have to accept also that given that, digital is everywhere, given that every element of society now depends on the Internet, more and more players, some with different secretarial interests, some with different regulatory powers will all want to get involved more deeply in the governance of the Internet and we have to be ready for that and adapt to that and make sure that our model is credible and capable of dealing with all of these new challenges …

Noel Curran European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Director General



… there is unique European values. ... How do we preserve those values? How do we preserve the freedom on expression, the independence of media, the investment in quality of the media and news output across Europe? How do we preserve European culture and still be open to all of the cultures of the world as we should be? How do we preserve European culture at a time when people are accessing more and more information – not news – information on culture, funded and provided by big multinational companies, most of which are based outside of Europe? How do we protect that digital infrastructure?

Alessandra Todde Ministry of Economic Development, Italy, Undersecretary

In particular, the nature of 5G networks requires the adoption of increasingly effective measures and ensuring the networking's security, since the related architecture also be composed from many segments going from the part of radio access to the worker with a vast range of items that perform even more complex functions.

Fabrizio Hochschild Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General

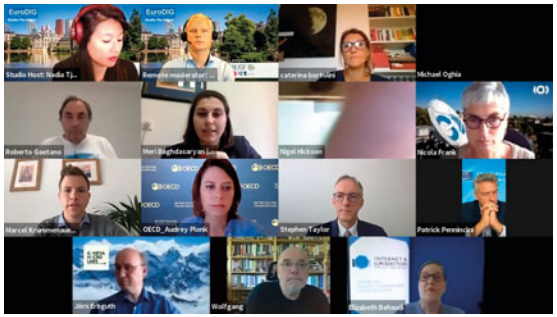
The COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing have accelerated the adoption of information and communication technologies and transformed how we communicate. COVID-19 has also highlighted challenges of technologies and the need to manage them more effectively. COVID-19 has thus raised the stakes for global, digital cooperation.
Similar to the technology devices and applications we use, the Internet Governance Forum and regional, national forums including EuroDIG need to continually be upgraded to be able to be more responsive, relevant to current digital issues.

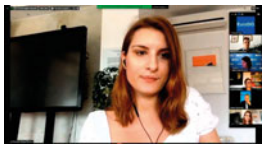
Plenary sessions

European Digital Economy and COVID-19 pandemic – current state of affairs, risks, and opportunities

Report: Natasa Perucica, Geneva Internet Platform

- The main question that we as society need to answer: Is COVID-19 ushering in a fundamental digital paradigm shift?
- To bridge the gap of the digital divide, telcos need to apply a forward looking approach that promotes investment and co-investment in both the short and long term, in addition to building trust and up-skilling on ICT matters in order to facilitate improvements.
- There should be no contradiction between data protection and health. Independent oversight and audits should be applied to technologies such as contact tracing to ensure privacy and data protection.
- In the road ahead, we need to think about the type of sustainable society that we want to create and what role digital technology will play in this society.
- Science has a key role to play in the hybrid and flexible future as it allows for an evidence-based approach to the technological industry.

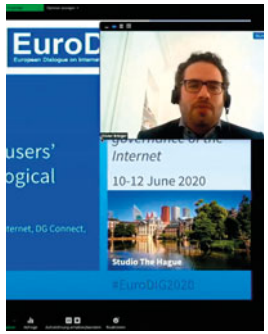


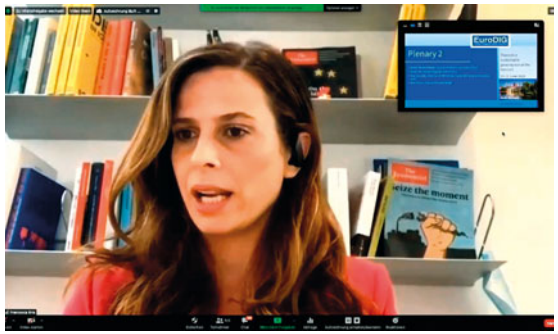


Digital sovereignty – from users' empowerment to technological leadership

Report: Katarina Andjelkovic, Geneva Internet Platform

- The EU is at the frontline when it comes to enabling the digital sovereignty of individuals due to its legal, ethical, and basic values that were in place before the digital era. However, it is crucial that the EU takes more action than before in order to retain its leading role in the topics around digital sovereignty.

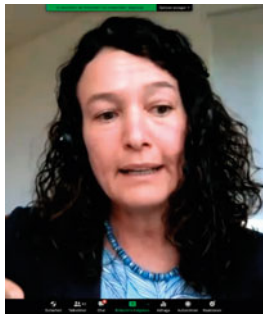


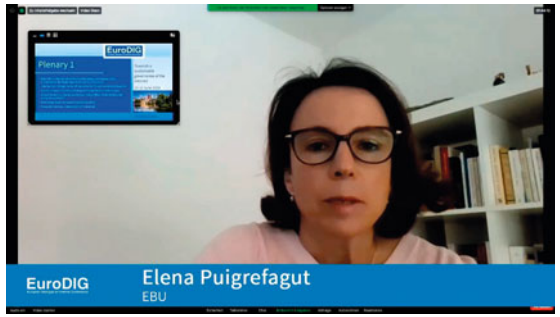


- The real foundation of digital sovereignty is digital infrastructure, as shown by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is therefore key for the EU to focus on investments in telecommunication infrastructure, reflect on its regulatory frameworks and its actions, and further raise its voice at international fora.
- To ensure a thorough approach in regard to the digital economy, the EU needs to also have a strong position on software, not only on infrastructure. The assurances that we have the knowledge and competences to build something, to understand what is underlying, and to innovate are key.
- The EU's large companies need to be much more active in acquiring and using innovation founded by the region's SMEs and startups and linking that with the extremely important work of universities and research centers.

5G – the opportunities and obstacles

Report: Cedric Amon, Geneva Internet Platform



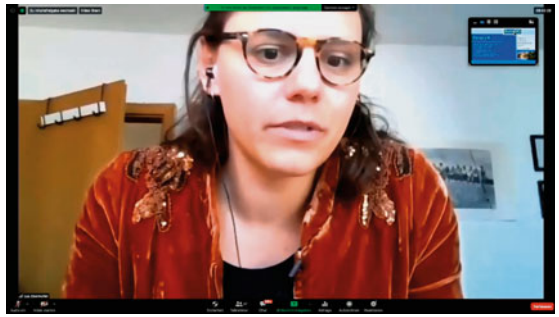


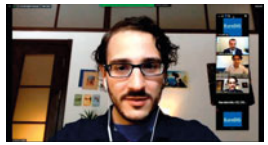
- 5G reinforces the foundation for digital transformation by offering new ways to innovate and create new business models based on real time availability of data.
- 5G has significant potential to increase sustainability, especially in urban environments, by allowing them to reduce energy consumption and by enabling a new generation of digital services and solutions for cities.
- Collaborating on the elaboration of 5G standards is key to ensure interoperable data/IoT solutions and to promote the security of the 5G ecosystem.

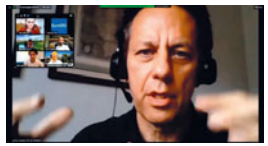
Greening Internet governance – Environmental sustainability and digital transformation

Report: Natasa Perucica, Geneva Internet Platform

- A standardised methodology and indicators are necessary to assess and monitor the environmental and social impact of digital technologies to enable evidence based decision making at the regulatory and political levels.
- Internet governance must include sustainability at its heart.
- To reduce the environmental impact of the digital world, it is necessary to adopt measures to optimise energy and material efficiency (circularity) of the digital sector. For example, increasing the use of renewables, innovating for low energy consumption, keeping devices longer in use, facilitating re-use, improving reparability and recyclability, and adopting sustainable business models.
- We need to make sure that the infrastructure we use runs on green power. We should leverage policy, and in particular the policy on spending public money, to speed along the use of a greener Internet.
- Areas where international co-ordination is needed the most are measures to promote the circular economy, to share environmental data, to reduce environmentally harmful consumption, to promote efficiency and enhance digital applications, and to ensure transparency regarding environmental costs and materials, as well as the improvement of data protection through technical measures.
- Regulations that increase circular production and consumption, ensure corporate accountability, and increase the reuse of devices as well as increasing their longevity are some of the most important policy areas that need to be addressed in order for Europe to have a sustainable digital future.





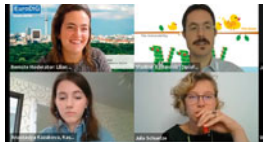


Workshops

Enhancing users' confidence in cyberspace – risks and solutions

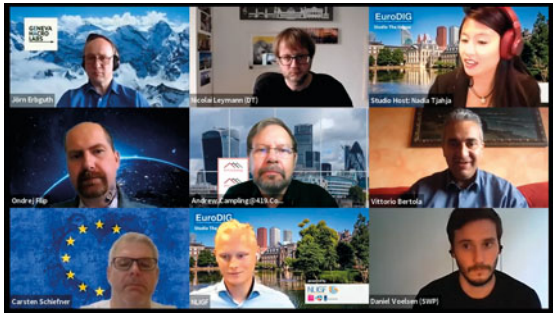
Report: Andrijana Gavrilovic, Geneva Internet Platform

- There is a need for stronger digital literacy, particularly for children, their parents and teachers, and those who are forced to become a part of digital society by the pandemic, such as the elderly. Digital literacy should be approached in an interdisciplinary manner. Users should be more aware of risks and taught to think critically, as well as differentiate between safe and unsafe practices.
- Security needs to be more user-friendly. To that end, ICT providers need to provide greater transparency around their practices, especially regarding the implementation of security by design and security by default.
- Companies should implement policies that will raise user trust in these companies. They should be more transparent on how data management is installed, how they handle user data, how their vulnerability disclosure practices work, and how the mechanisms for reporting inappropriate content on social media platforms function.



The Impact of DNS Encryption on the Internet Ecosystem and its Users

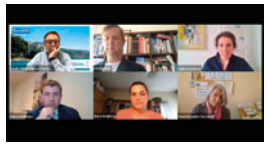
Report: Ilona Stadnik, Geneva Internet Platform



- The encryption of DNS queries (DoH, DoT) has different effects on end-users, ISPs, operating systems, browsers, and applications.
- Though DoH can result in stronger privacy and security for an end-user, it can also bring additional problems, such as limited choice of DNS resolvers, as well as specific browser or OS configurations and their upgrades. For ISPs it creates even more problems – the balance of power between browser and operator communities is broken, bringing forth high risks of market and network centralisation.
- We have to work on deployment models that will address these problems, keeping in mind the education of end-users about DNS operations and increasing the level of trust in ISPs and DNS resolvers.
- We also need to think about legal aspects of relationships between end-users and DoH/DoT providers.

Innovative uses of blockchain for public empowerment

Report: Marco Lotti, Geneva Internet Platform

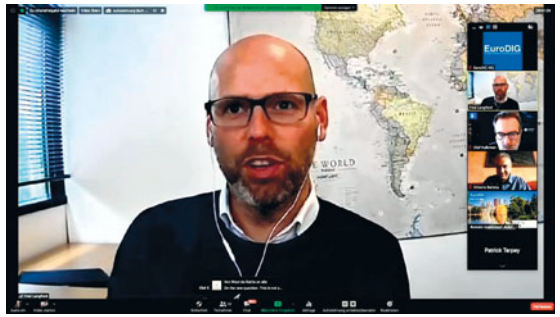


- It is important to develop the knowledge of blockchain technology at the government level. There is the need to further develop the capacity of policymakers in regard to blockchain and new technologies so that they can fully understand the potential of such technology for citizens and for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- To ensure that blockchain applications benefit wider society, capacity development programmes should also focus on consumers and citizens so as to fight miscommunication and distorted perceptions about the potential of this technology.
- The blockchain environment is still highly fragmented: The lack of interoperability and engagement of stakeholders are among the challenges that prevent a broader application of blockchain technology. As a result, there is the need to develop common standards of application and a common legal framework by looking at existing standards. One of the possible ways forward is represented by the regulatory sandbox approach promoted by the European Commission.

Should public policy priorities and requirements be included when designing Internet standards?

Report: Ilona Stadnik, Geneva Internet Platform

- There is general agreement on the inclusion of public policy priorities in the development of Internet standards.
- Civil society and governments should participate in the development of Internet standards, though with important reservations. Policy requirements must meet engineering requirements, keep the Internet safe and resilient, and avoid political manipulation. For this purpose, policymakers should have a long-term vision of the digital future and the impact of technologies on social and economic life.
- We need to keep in mind the serious limitations of such participation: In particular, the lack of specific technical knowledge, time, and the difference between stated and real participation mechanisms within the existing standardisation groups.
- Public policy input into standardisation processes must be based on the multi-stakeholder principle, ensuring equal participation among stakeholder groups, be it through a new body or through existing standardisation organisations.
- There is a general consensus that direction on public policy priorities should be provided in advance of Internet standards development. However, more discussion is needed on whether proposed standards should be reviewed against public policy requirements before their final release.



Social media – opportunities, rights and responsibilities

Report: Katarina Andjelkovic, Geneva Internet Platform

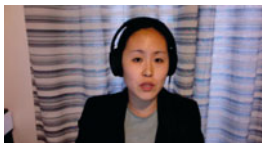
- Multistakeholder involvement (i.e. the involvement of those directly concerned and impacted by misinformation) is of utmost importance in fighting misinformation. There is also a need for the infrastructure to organise fact checking and research activities that would be available in all EU languages and would, therefore, benefit all EU countries.

- High-quality trusted news is the best antidote to fake news. To achieve that, there is a need for more reliable funding for public service journalism on one hand, and the protection of the freedom of the press by national authorities on the other. Crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic should not be an excuse for governments to restrict freedom of expression.
- Media literacy is crucial in fighting misinformation. It is very important to educate and empower people to spot misinformation and make informed decisions on whom to trust.
- In order to regulate all platforms in a uniform manner, there is a need for a more comprehensive reflection on how to construct a 'regulatory backstop' that creates more uniformity, more instruments with appropriate oversight mechanisms, and in cases of need, sanctions.

Criminal justice in cyberspace – what's next?

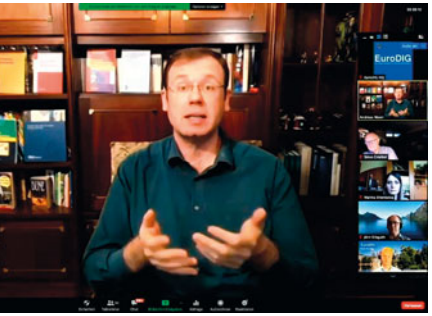
Report: Cedric Amon, Geneva Internet Platform

- Finding the right balance between the control of online content and upholding fundamental rights will remain an important challenge. Given that most incidents are occurring across borders and that there is no common definition of crime and terrorism, co-operation between states (and with the private sector) on such matters is crucial.
- The use of artificial intelligence by law enforcement provides a big opportunity but must be explored diligently because it requires vast amounts of resources as well as an advanced understanding of the technology. It should however not be implemented without human oversight.
- The flurry of activity to create new norms that deal with cybercrime bears the risk of increasing legal fragmentation as well as only finding agreements on minimum standards. It is thus important to avoid falling below already existing standards such as the Budapest Convention.
- Due to increasing levels of encryption and anonymisation by cyber criminals, alternatives must be found in terms of upholding privacy protections while allowing law enforcement to protect users online (and offline).



Privacy in Europe – GDPR vs. information freedom?

Report: Cedric Amon, Geneva Internet Platform

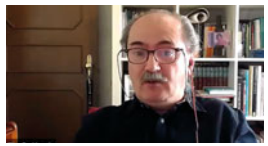


- Privacy regulations such as the GDPR are based on the assumption that the rule of law is respected. However, laws are not applied in the same way across borders and so policies must be harmonised across jurisdictions.
- There are important tensions between freedom of information and privacy protection arising from compliance to the GDPR and other privacy regulations. A fresh look at registration models is needed to enable access to data and information that abides by privacy rules and enables sustainable sharing of information.
- The GDPR is protecting data to varying degrees depending on the area of application. There is a need for additional safeguards for medical data.

How to turn challenges into opportunities for education transformation?

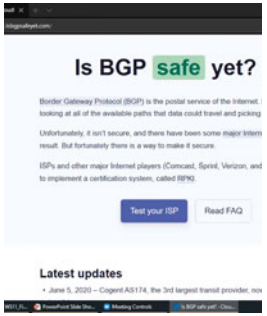
Report: Andrijana Gavrilovic, Geneva Internet Platform

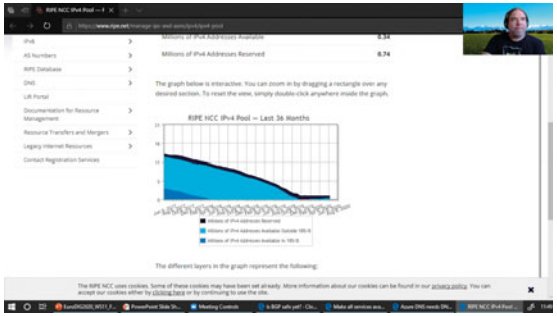
- The current pedagogical processes need to be modified if we are going to recognise and be part of the digital transformation in education. The way teachers are taught, the way teachers teach, the tools used, and the relationship between teachers and the industry all need to change.
- This right to education needs to be provided by the state and it must be non-discriminatory. The state needs to take active measures to make sure that the right to education is granted to every youth.
- A multistakeholder approach is necessary to raise awareness of relevant tools and platforms, to optimise the technical infrastructure for Internet access, and to enhance cybersecurity, which is important when connecting classrooms to the wider world.
- A bottom-up approach is necessary to gain awareness of what children need to access digital tools, to become part of social and blended learning, and to become digital citizens. A new standard is needed to provide digital lessons and social learning lessons.
- Access to a computer, tablet, and to the Internet must be observed as a universal right today.



Challenges and uptake of modern Internet standards (including, but not limited to IPv6, DNSSEC, HTTPS, RPKI)

Report: Ilona Stadnik, Russia – Geneva Internet Platform

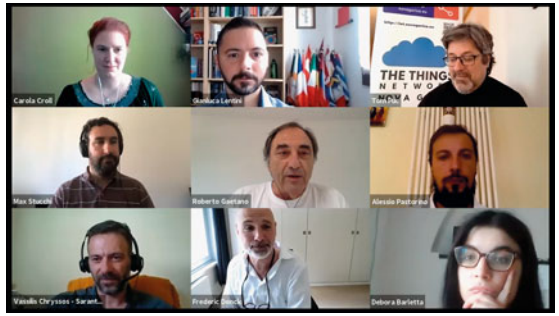




- Several agreed upon Internet standards and protocols (HTTPS, IPv6, DNSSEC, RPKI, etc) have been slow in deployment for decades.
- The adoption of these standards and protocols is challenging due to multiple factors such as: market incentives, unwillingness of the tech community to make an effort, and the discrepancy between the efforts spent and the end result regarding the safety and security of protocols.
- We need to create pressure points in society to spur the deployment of standards. First, we need to address the marketing problem by making security gaps in the Internet transport layer visible to users through education. Second, we need to carefully discuss political tools of pressure, including commercial, political, legislative and others, all of which have pros and cons.

Community networks and smart solutions in remote areas – a bottom-up approach to digital citizenship

Report: Marco Lotti, Geneva Internet Platform



- Community networks provide Internet access for and by remote communities. When establishing community networks, it is crucial to build digital capacity both in terms of installation and maintenance of technical infrastructure and in terms of developing digital literacy programmes that ensure users' meaningful participation on the Internet.
- There are many existing challenges in establishing community networks, particularly on the regulatory, funding, and connectivity side, just to name a few. However, technical aspects go hand in hand with a strong network of community support: Both the technology and the sense of community are crucial elements in ensuring the success of community networks.
- On the human side, communities' trust and participation in the networks are a tangible challenge. Therefore, it is crucial that the network is established through a community-owned process and that once in place, it is used for the benefit of the whole community. When establishing a new network, it is crucial to involve the members of the community in the process so as to develop community-tailored solutions. Showing the benefits of the network to community members and obtaining community participation at every step of the process are some of the solutions.

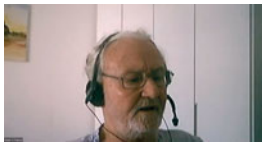
Fighting COVID19 with AI – How to build and deploy solutions we trust?

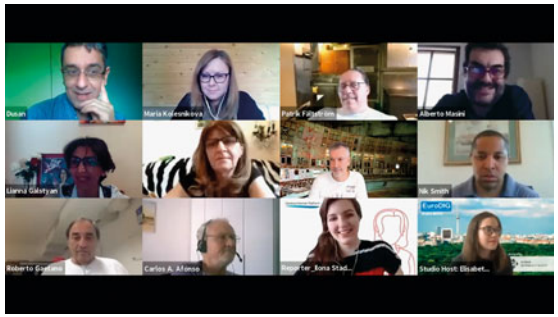
Report: Marco Lotti, Geneva Internet Platform

- Trustworthiness should be regarded as a prerequisite for innovation. When addressing it, we shall look at two sides: One that regards the characteristics product (i.e. its ethically relevant characteristics) and one that is related to how trustworthiness is communicated to the people. One solution could be developing a standardised way of describing an ethically relevant framework of AI systems. As an example, an independent organisation formed by four Danish organisations launched a new company labelling system in 2019 that aims to make it easier for users to identify companies who are treating customer data responsibly.
- Striking the right balance between trustworthiness and innovation represents an important regulatory challenge for AI applications. The European Commission's White Paper addresses this aspect especially in high-risk scenarios when rapid responses are needed. Trustworthiness can also be a driver for innovation.
- AI and data are interlinked: It is difficult to make sense of large data sets without AI, and AI applications are useless if fed with poor quality data or no data at all. Therefore, AI discussions need to be linked to data governance schemes addressing sharing, protection, and standardisation of data. However, AI also presents important peculiar characteristics (such as 'black box' and self-learning elements) that make it necessary to update existing frameworks that regulate other technologies.

Universal Acceptance – a technical or a cultural issue?

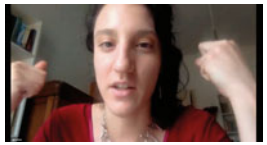
Report: Ilona Stadnik, Geneva Internet Platform

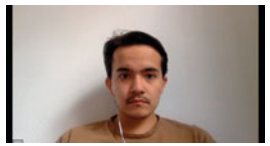


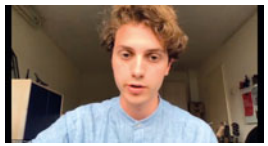


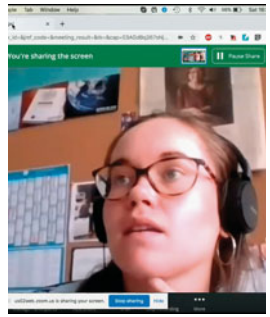
- Universal Acceptance (UA) is crucial to make the Internet truly for everyone.
- UA is not limited to the deployment of internationalised domain names and e-mail addresses. More importantly, people must be able to use their computers, and create and share content in local languages.
- Thus, we need to work closely with major players like Microsoft, Apple, Facebook, and others to speed up the technical part of the UA and software development, as well as with governments that are interested in UA to preserve cultural identity and enhance online communication with their citizens.
- As a practical step, we can concentrate on increasing the visibility of local languages and encouraging local communities to use them in the creation of content on international platforms.
- Spreading cases of the successful local content projects is useful for a greater UA.

YOUthDIG Messages









YOUthDIG

... is the Youth Dialogue on Internet Governance (YOUthDIG). It is a yearly pre-event to the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) that aims to foster active youth participation.

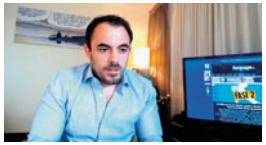
This year, both meetings were planned at the Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy.

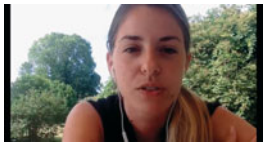
Due to the spread of COVID-19 no face-to-face YOUthDIG was possible. Instead we conducted a webinar series with all selected participants. There were thematic webinars on:

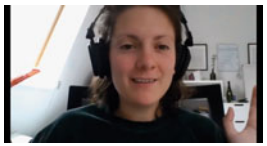
- The Internet Governance ecosystem
- Media and content with a focus on countering disinformation and safety online
- Online activism and decentralized human rights work
- Youth participation in Internet Governance (in cooperation with Youth Coalition on Internet Governance – YCIG)

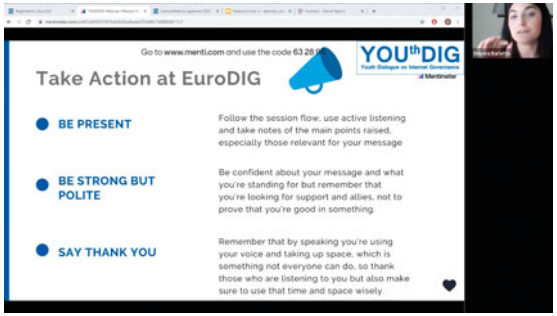
The webinars were conducted throughout May 2020.

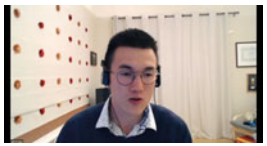
This workflow culminated in the drafting of the youth messages on the weekend before EuroDIG. Participants were encouraged to actively participate in EuroDIG as well, and take the role of an online moderator.











YOUthDIG Messages

1. Data protection and children's safety

Mainstreaming gender and contrasting racial discrimination
Data collection in the context of GDPR should also account for possible discriminatory practices. Issues affecting minorities (e.g., LGBTQ+) and victims of violence need to be addressed in data protection regulation. Representatives of these groups and communities should be included in the policy making process so that they can raise context-specific issues.

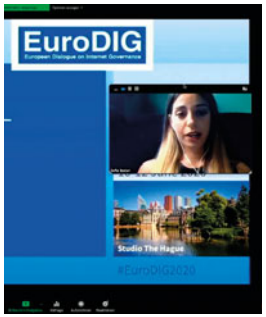
Spreading personal information without consent
When personal information is shared without the person's consent and/or endangering him/her, states should adopt legislation to remove such information from public spaces and punish perpetrators in accordance with international obligations under the UN, CoE, and EU human rights framework.

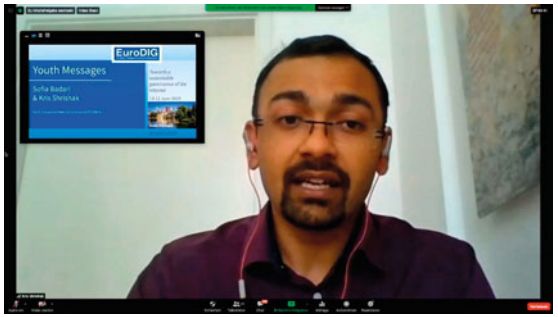
Dark patterns
Companies should not use dark patterns, nudge and deceive users into accepting data collection and processing without informed consent. Companies should follow ethical design principles while regulators should recognize dark patterns as a violation of GDPR and fine violators.

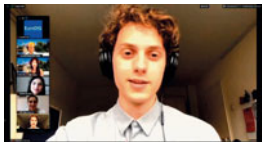
Children's protection
Users, in their parental role, should encourage transparency in their children's activities by placing computers in family spaces. They should help children learn about the risk of sharing information online and build trust with their children to report cases of bullying. Governments and child protection services should be trained to address the issue of bullying and should assist with training parents and school teachers.

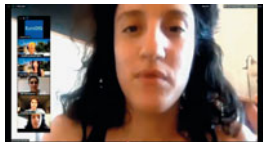
2. Internet Access and inclusion

Sound internet infrastructure is crucial. We call on Governments, independent regulatory agencies in cooperation with the private sector to establish universal connectivity and legal/regulatory frameworks which protect user access and safe use of the available Internet tools.









Digital Divide

We call on local governments, technical professionals and civil society actors to leverage community networks as a de-centralised solution to provide internet access in rural/remote areas. We advocate for public/private partnerships to set-up internet booths/tele-centres, complemented by technical help, government monitoring and suitable infrastructure. Further, government agencies partnering with the academia can conduct cross-cutting public research and data collection about population needs. This informs decision makers to enable evidence-based policies that target the most vulnerable population groups.

Digital Literacy & Fake News

Adoption of strategic programs aimed to improve digital literacy which includes building digital curriculum and focusing on skill-building and knowledge at a student-level at schools.

Adopt guidelines as well as regulations on how to detect fake news through collaborative discussion between civil society and government based on guidelines developed by Council of Europe. We call on governments to dedicate a week on internet governance awareness as a part of the strategic program which will bring the topic to the centre of attention and can trigger concrete actions directed by civil organizations.

A system for reporting data breach, fake news and hate speech issues can be designed by the governmental agency engaged in data security which is accessible to the public in order to actively and quickly react to the case.

3. Blockchain

There are many successful applications of blockchain in commerce and a lot of projects try to move beyond. We don't want to use blockchain for every possible process but rather have a pool of use-cases where it brings the biggest business value (transparency, immutability, accountability etc).

Internet/network technology practitioners should conduct more research and aggregate use-cases to reveal where the best added value lies in the application of blockchain and distributed ledgers to facilitate the processes and transactions online.

A few of the use-cases we think are very important are democratic processes (online voting), identity verification, public procurements and other processes where security and transparency are still problematic.

There is a rising number of young and competent internet users exposed to the advanced technology ready to take the next step to the adoption of new technology applications. Awareness by the education of this technology must be created such that (youth) communities will advocate it for proper use.

4. Greening the Internet

It would be essential to create a dialogue among private companies operating in the technology and energy sector and EU institutions, with the final aim of drafting policies, measures and incentives that would be implemented.

This process and the transition to a green internet should be transparent, accountable, based on scientific research and should take in consideration all the stakeholders' visions.

Assembly of National and Regional Initiatives on Internet governance (NRIs)

NRI Assembly

Report: Mark Carvell

It is a tradition that European National and Regional Internet Governance Initiatives (NRIs) are meeting at EuroDIG. We kept this tradition also in our virtual meeting. Besides an exchange on best practices on possible NRIs legal entities the debate on a digital cooperation architecture and approaches for the future was in focus of this meeting.

The UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation launched its report "The Age of Digital Interdependence" on Monday 10 June 2019. From this point the EuroDIG community not only accompanied but also contributed to this process with stakeholder consultations, public discussions on the outcome of the report and ideas on the development of improving digital cooperation.*

EuroDIG held an online consultation on the report's recommendations in August-October 2019 with the aim of collating views from European stakeholders and communicating the main areas of consensus agreement to the office of the UN Secretary-General as a contribution to the follow-up process of implementation of the options for enacting the Panel's recommendations.

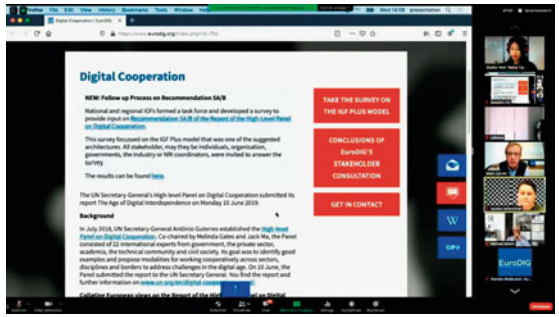
Responses were received from European institutions active in the digital space including the European Commission and the Council of Europe, national governments, national IGFs, individual stakeholders and international NGOs with large European membership including the Internet Society and the International Chamber of Commerce.

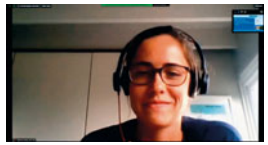
The Secretary-General's initiative to convene the High-level Panel was welcomed by European stakeholders as valuable and timely in examining the challenges, barriers and gaps that need to be addressed in order to maximise the potential opportunities for sustainable development created by transformative digital technologies.

In particular support was expressed for the High-level Panel's focus on:

1. achieving wider inclusivity through universally affordable access as important for ensuring nobody gets left behind in the increasingly digital global society and economy;
2. ensuring respect for human rights, fairness, trust and security in the online world, while noting the ongoing work in these areas by several international institutions and bodies in these areas (for example the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Group of Government Experts and the Global Commission on Stability in Cyberspace).

* The report of the EuroDIG consultation is available at https://www.eurodig.org/index.php?id=750





The results of the EuroDIG consultation were also presented at the global IGF in Berlin in November 2019 and provided a European contribution to the consultations undertaken by a Task Force established by the UN IGF NRI (national and regional IGFs) community in 2020. The conclusions drawn from these consultations were discussed at the NRI Assembly during a pre-event at EuroDIG on 10 June 2020.

EuroDIG Messages on Digital Cooperation

- Digital technologies should be developed and implemented in a holistic, balanced, transparent, accountable and human-centric way, in support of maximising digital inclusion and equal access for women and under-served and marginalised groups.
- Digital cooperation is best achieved through flexible, multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary mechanisms and processes.
- The deficiencies and gaps in the current mechanisms of cooperation identified by the High-level Panel and can be resolved primarily by strengthening existing multi-stakeholder processes, institutional relationships and fora, rather than creating a wholly new architecture of digital cooperation.
- Consideration should be given to evolving the IGF as set out in Recommendation 5A/B in the "IGF+" option so that it produces more clearly outcomes that lead to cooperation and action for change.

- There needs to be greater participation in the IGF by government policymakers (especially from developing countries) and decision-takers in industry and business.
- The mandate for the IGF agreed at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2005 should not be changed in order to give it the power to make binding decisions and treaty-based obligations.
- While the IGF's open and multi-stakeholder, bottom-up character should be retained, more effective linkages should be made between the IGF and the institutions and mechanisms where decisions are taken.
- Consideration should also be given to the IGF+ taking on additional functions set out in the other options described in Recommendation 5A/B such as the observatory and provision of help desks to guide policymakers and decision-takers. However, care should be taken to avoid the risk of duplicating existing repositories of best practice and well-established networks of institutional helpdesks.

Special thanks to Mark Carvell, for chairing the European contribution process and summarising the results.

More information on the High-Level Panel's membership, its recommendations and related follow-up process for implementation is available at https://www.un.org/en/digital-cooperation-panel/ and https://digitalcooperation.org/.

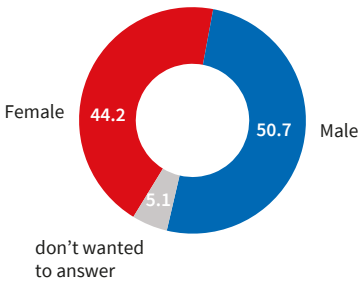
Facts and figures

Breakdown of registrations and participation

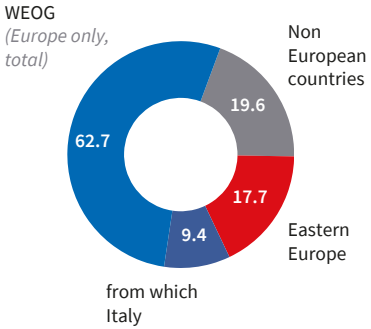
Registrations

We received 1200 registrations for the virtual meeting, which was about double the usual. The following numbers are based on these.

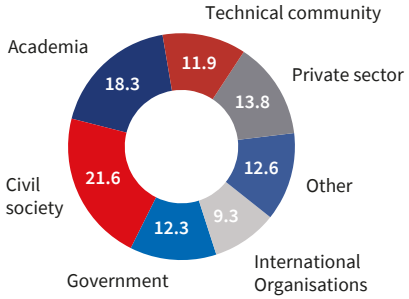
Registrations by gender



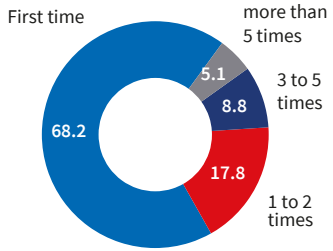
Registrations by country of residence *(classifyed by the UN regional voting blocks)*



Registrations by stakeholder groups



Registrations by number of EuroDIG attendance



all figures in percent

Participation

The analysis after the event showed that we had around 500 different people logging in to Zoom, but never more than 100 people per session at the same time. In addition, a significant number of participants were watching the stream, either live during the session or later on the recording. Taking the numbers from Zoom and streaming/recording together we reached a number of participants as would have had with a face-to-face meeting.

Zoom Rooms
Unique participants per Day (without duplicates)

	Day 0	Day 1	Day 2
Studio The Hague	163	266	215
Studio Berlin	122	94	99
Studio Trieste		92	74

Video-Streams
Count by Google as of 2020-08-27

	parallel views during livestream	Unique viewers within 24 hours			Unique viewers till end of August
		Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	
Stream of Day 0, Studio The Hague	18	121	54	27	204
Stream of Day 0, Studio Berlin	25	136	29	11	199
Stream of Day 1, Studio The Hague	47		269	47	393
Stream of Day 1, Studio Berlin	14		77	15	112
Stream of Day 1, Studio Trieste	22		110	18	174
Stream of Day 2, Studio The Hague	30			155	252
Stream of Day 2, Studio Berlin	22			69	95
Stream of Day 2, Studio Trieste	17			106	143

An example from day 1 in Studio The Hague: 266 unique participants logged into the Zoom room. In addition, 47 unique participants (peak number) followed sessions via live stream on YouTube. In total 269 unique participants watched the live stream or the recording of this Studio on this day. As of 27th August 2020 overall 393 people visited this recording.

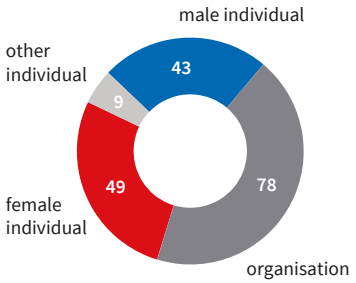
It is notable that in a physical meeting the room capacity for workshops would not have accommodated as many participants as we could accommodate in the virtual meeting. However, there was quite a difference to the number of registration.

Breakdown of submissions

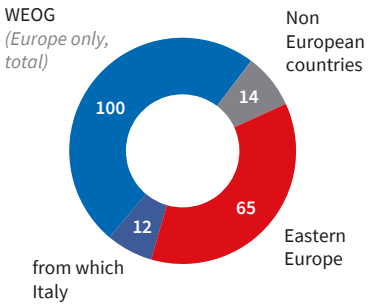
During the joint call from 1 October – 8 December 2019 we received 179 submissions for the joint call for issues, both for EuroDIG and SEEDIG – the South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG) – in the following categories:

- Access & literacy (19)
- Development of IG ecosystem (29)
- Human rights & data protection (29)
- Innovation and economic issues (30)
- Media & content (20)
- Security and crime (18)
- Technical & operational issues (20)
- Other (14)

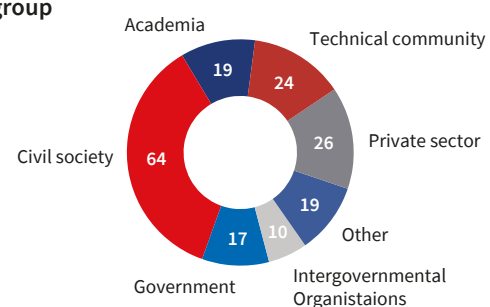
Submissions by individuals/organisations



Submissions by country of residence *(classifyed by the UN regional voting blocks)*

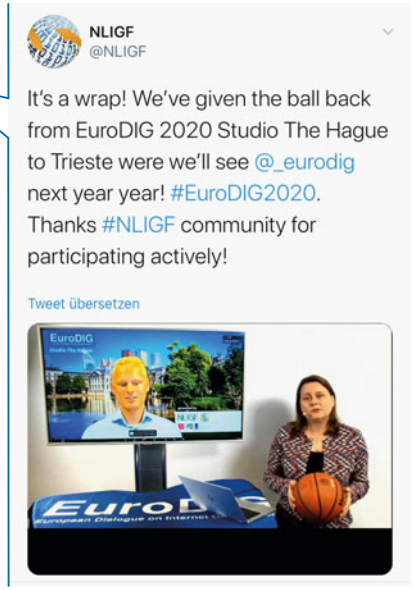


Submissions by stakeholder group



all figures in percent

See you 2021 in Trieste, Italy!



EuroDIG
European Dialogue on Internet Governance

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