

EuroDIG

European Dialogue on Internet Governance

Messages from Tampere 19–21 June 2023

*Internet in troubled times:
risks, resilience, hope*



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 is more than just a conference, because open exchange among and engagement of interested stakeholders in the programme planning process makes a difference. One can say that EuroDIG never stops, because the end of the annual event just marks the beginning of the planning for the next one.

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Introduction

Yrjö Lämsipuro, ISOC Finland and Sandra Hoferichter, Secretary General EuroDIG

After the pandemic, there was no return to business as usual in Europe. In 2023, the continent was riven by a war with no end in sight and faced with risks not seen in many decades. For the Internet, the war was a brutal stress test, not only in the physical sense, with Russia trying to destroy the infrastructure in Ukraine, but also on the level of Internet principles of universality and global interoperability.

Meanwhile, the Internet keeps grappling with risks of its own: fragmentation, increasing abuse of the domain name system, growing dominance of the tech giants, fears of artificial intelligence out of control.

However, in the face of all this, a remarkable resilience is evident. Stakeholders rise to defend the Internet as we know it, to uphold its principles and to keep its basic elements working.

Resilience has given rise to hope for the future, as strenuous work continues to heal what still could be seen as growing pains of the Internet, to improve global digital cooperation and to extend the benefits of the Internet to all mankind.

“Internet in troubled times: risks, resilience, hope” was chosen as the overarching theme for EuroDIG in 2023. An effort was made to look at the three main topics – impact of the war, Internet fragmentation and platform issues – through the prism of risks, resilience and hope.

On the impact of the war, it was stressed that deepening geopolitical divides should not be allowed to affect the foundations of the global interoperable Internet. The unique Ukrainian experience in responding to Internet disruptions was suggested to be shared for increasing resilience everywhere. Protection of journalists covering conflicts was seen as vital, as well as their adherence to professional ethical standards.

It was noted that different stakeholders have different perspectives on Internet fragmentation, and public policies or business decisions can even unintentionally add to it. Thus, there is a need for harmonisation and cooperation among stakeholders to understand the causes of fragmentation. The Global Digital Compact should include commitments by all stakeholders to prevent fragmentation of the Internet’s core functions.

Regarding digital platforms, focus was on new fast developments, and the race between innovation and regulation. Establishing robust governance for metaverses was seen as crucial for ensuring inclusiveness and safety for all. Decentralized plat-

forms were seen to have potential as an alternative to dominant platforms accused of surveillance capitalism and digital colonialism. Large language models and other possibilities to create synthetic text put pressure on content filtering at large platforms, which must adopt clear and transparent content moderation policies.

The messages are found either by the Focus Area #Risks #Resilience #Hope or by the Main Topics (1-3):

- Impact of the war
- Internet fragmentation
- Digital platforms

In addition, a number of other topics were covered in Workshops, Flash Sessions and Pre-events. Workshop topics included investment models in network infrastructure in Europe, digital information literacy as a modern civic skill (a Finnish perspective), trustworthy AI in large language models for children and education, environmental impacts of digital/Internet technologies and how to mitigate them, combating child sexual abuse in the Internet and universal acceptance of international character sets.

YOUthDIG, the youth pre-event to EuroDIG, was again well attended by fellows from across Europe. Their Youth Messages were presented to the opening session.

Another pre-event highlight was the Finnish Internet Forum, the national Internet governance forum of Finland, founded in 2010. This was the first time the national IGF of the host country was held in as a EuroDIG pre-event. It was held in English to enable EuroDIG participants from other countries to attend. The program included a “Meet the Author”-interview with Timo Harakka, the Minister of Transport and Communications of Finland, on his book “Data Capitalism in the world of crises”, and presentations on ethical aspects of AI and on Fediversum-type alternatives for Twitter.



EuroDIG 2023 – Programme

YOUthDIG

Time (EEST UTC+3)	Sessions
17 – 19 June	YOU th DIG – Youth Dialogue on Internet Governance

19 June 2023 / Pre-events

Time (EEST UTC+3)	Sessions			
	Main auditorium	Auditorium A1	Auditorium A3	Auditorium A4
09:00 - 10:00	Registration for onsite participants			
10:00 - 11:30	Finnish Internet Forum, I Opening remarks (5') • Leena Romppainen	Pre 1: Expanding access to Information for All through good evidence (90') <i>UNESCO</i>	Pre 2: Progressing Core Internet Values and Global Good Practice for the Internet of Things (90') <i>Dynamic Coalition on Internet of Things and Dynamic Coalition Core Internet values</i>	Pre 3: Mind the governance gap! Broadening the multistakeholder response to DNS-related cybersecurity threats. (90') <i>Dynamic Coalition on DNS Issues</i>
	Welcome remarks and an introduction to the book “Data capitalism in the world of crises” (25') • Timo Harakka, Minister of Transport and Communications and author of the book			
	Ethical aspects of artificial intelligence (75')			
11:30 - 12:00	Break / change room (30')			
12:00 - 13:30	Finnish Internet Forum, II Shared Social Media Services as Alternatives to Big Social? (60')	Pre 4: Start with WHY? Lessons from the war in Ukraine – have we learned them? (90')	Pre 5: Let's promote the European vision for digital governance and cooperation in the UN! (90')	Pre 6: Efforts in shaping secure online environment by various DNS actors (90') <i>Dynamic Coalition on Data and Trust</i>
13:30 - 14:00	Break / change room (30')			
14:00 - 14:30	NRI Assembly: Youth for sustainable IG(F) (30') • State Secretary Gunn Karin Gjøl, Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development	Pre 7: Civil society oversight of law enforcement action in cyberspace. (90')	Pre 8: The New Age of Healthcare – Robotics & AI for the Medical Internet of Things. (90') <i>Dynamic Coalition on Data Driven Health Technologies</i>	Pre 9: How to procure and purchase ICTs securely by design? (90') <i>Internet Standards, Security and Safety Coalition (Dynamic Coalition)</i>
14:30 - 15:30	IGF 2023 Youth Track Network: Nurturing Digital Well-being: Addressing the Impact of the Digital Environment on Youth Mental Health (60')			

19 June 2023 / Main Programme

Time (EEST UTC+3)	Sessions			
	Main auditorium	Auditorium A1	Auditorium A3	Auditorium A4
15:30 - 16:00	Break / change room (30')			
16:00 - 16:30	Opening Keynotes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jarmo Takala, Provost of the Tampere University • Pasi Hellman, Under Secretary of State (International Development), Ministry for Foreign Affairs • Pearse O'Donohue, Director of the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (online) • Sandra Hoferichter, Secretary General, EuroDIG & Thomas Schneider, President, EuroDIG Support Association 			
16:30 - 17:00	Presentation of YOU th DIG Messages (30')			
17:00 - 17:15	Keynotes (3 x 5') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (video message) • Dr. KUNIMITSU Ayano, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Japan, Member of the Japanese Parliament (video message) • Patrick Penninckx, Head of Information Society Department, Council of Europe 			
17:15 - 18:30	Opening Plenary: Digital cooperation between African and European parliamentarians (75')			
18:30 - 20:30	Welcome reception at Tampere University, Café & Aula Toivo			

20 June 2023

Time (EEST UTC+3)	Sessions			
	Main auditorium	Auditorium A1		Auditorium A3 <i>Flash sessions, self organised</i>
09:00 - 10:00	Registration for onsite participants			
	Main Topic 1: Impact of the war These sessions focus on the influence of the war in Ukraine – now in its second year – on the Internet, and the roles of the Internet in this war. Ukraine has shown remarkable resilience against attacks to destroy its infrastructure, as well as attempts to break its morale by disinformation and hate speech. This war has also raised the fundamental question of how long and to what extent the core of the Internet can remain neutral ground in a world of worsening geopolitical crisis?			
10:00 - 10:30	Keynotes (2 x 15') <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stefan Lindström, Finnish Ambassador for Digital Affairs• Andrii Nabok, Head of fixed broadband, Ukrainian Ministry of Digital Transformation			
10:30 - 11:30	#Risks	Subtopic 1: Shattered Neutrality: Internet at Crossroads of War and Geopolitics (45')	Workshop 1: Models to support investment in the network infrastructure in Europe: what is the way forward? (60')	Flash 1: Governance Model for the Inter-Planetary Network (45')
	Break (15')			Break (15')
11:30 - 12:15	#Resilience	Subtopic 2: Navigating Challenges and Strengthening Ukraine's and European Internet Infrastructure (45')	Break (45')	Flash 2: NewsArcade: seriously, play the news! (45')
12:15 - 13:15	Break (15')		Workshop 2: Digital information literacy as a modern civic skill – a Finnish perspective (60')	Break (15')
	#Hope	Subtopic 3: Protecting citizens in times of crisis (45')		Flash 3: Building Digital Mutual Trust between China and Europe (45')
13:15 - 14:30	Lunch break (75')			

Time (EEST UTC+3)	Sessions			
	Main auditorium		Auditorium A1	Auditorium A3 <i>Flash sessions, self organised</i>
	Main Topic 2: Internet Fragmentation These sessions examines the risk of globally interoperable networks splintering into isolated islands – and to what extent it has already been realized. Avoiding fragmentation is professed as a common goal, but it may mean different things to different actors and at different layers of the network. Autocratic governments try to close their “information space” for political reasons by all means, but even well-meaning efforts by democratic ones may have unintended consequences and lead to fragmentation.			
14:30 - 15:00	Keynotes (2 x 15') <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andrew Sullivan, President and CEO, Internet Society (ISOC) (online)• Lise Fuhr, Director General, European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO), Member of the IGF Leadership Panel			
15:00 - 16:00	#Risks	Subtopic 1: Understanding the risks of Internet fragmentation (45')	Workshop 3: Trustworthy AI: Large Language Models for Children and Education (60')	Flash 4: CRITICAL project (45')
	Break (15')			Break (15')
16:00 - 16:45	#Resilience	Subtopic 2: Internet fragmentation: what's next? (45')	Break (45')	Flash 5: Closing the gap between taught skills and practical needs in cyber security (45')
16:45 - 17:45	Break (15')		Workshop 4: Building cross-stakeholder awareness and understanding of the direct and indirect environmental impacts of digital/Internet technologies and how to mitigate them (60')	Break (15')
	#Hope	Subtopic 3: How can the Global Digital Compact prevent Internet fragmentation? (45')		Flash 6: A New Nordic Agenda for Digital Infrastructure Studies and the case of Arctic infrastructure vulnerabilities (45') <i>canceled on request by session organisers</i>
17:45 - 18:15	Closing of the day (30') <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat – Outlook to the IGF in Kyoto			
19:00 - 20:30	Reception at Tampere City Hall			

21 June 2023

Time (EEST UTC+3)	Sessions		
	Main auditorium	Auditorium A1	Auditorium A3 <i>Flash sessions, self organised</i>
09:00 - 10:00	Registration for onsite participants		
	Main Topic 3: Digital Platforms These sessions explore the interplay between emerging technologies, regulatory trends and the vision for platform governance. Is the current development phase of immersive technologies guided by user safety and fundamental rights principles? How can we set up regulatory frameworks to delineate responsibilities of digital platforms, while not impeding technological advancement? What are the future models of platform governance?		
10:00 - 10:30			
	Keynotes (2 x 15') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merja Ylä-Anttila, CEO Yle (Finnish Broadcasting Company) Tobias Bornakke, Chairman of the Nordic Think Tank for Tech and Democracy (online) 		
10:30 - 11:30	#Risks	Subtopic 1: Virtual worlds, but real risks: navigating metaverses as a next generation of digital platforms (45')	Workshop 5: Proposal for a regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse (60')
	Break (15')		Flash 7: EU Accessibility Directive (45')
11:30 - 12:15	#Resilience	Subtopic 2: The European Union's Digital Transformation – Regulatory Challenges, Technical Impacts and Emerging Opportunities (45')	Break (45')
12:15 - 13:15	Break (15')		Flash 8: Building Resilience through Data Values: Empowering Youth Engagement via Social Media. (45')
	#Hope	Subtopic 3: Platforms as critical infrastructure for democratic discourse (45')	Workshop 6: When Universal acceptance meets Digital inclusion (60')
13:15 - 14:30	Lunch break (75')		
14:30 - 15:30	Agreeing on the Messages and Wrap up (60') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrap up by Thomas Schneider, President EuroDIG SA, Swiss Government, Ambassador, Chair of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) Message drafting with support by Andriana Gavrilovic, reporter from the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP) 		

EuroDIG
European Dialogue on
Internet Governance

Keynotes

Tampere,
19–21 June 2023

Internet in
troubled times:
risks, resilience, hope

Keynotes

State Secretary Gunn Karin Gjøl

Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development



“The Government of Norway extends an open invitation to everyone to join in strengthening the IGF. Together we stand for diversity and intergenerational collaboration, vital for a vibrant and sustainable digital ecosystem. Let us unleash our youth’s untapped potential and empower them as the key drivers of change in the realm of Internet governance.”

Jarmo Takala

Provost of the Tampere University



“Tampere University has a significant role in the development of Internet in Finland. Finland’s National FI Domain was registered 36 years ago in December of 1986 and the Tampere University of Technology applied for the rights to establish and manage the .fi domain from the American Stanford Network Information Center, which at the time managed the Internet name services.” ... “Over these 36 years, we have educated experts in the field and Tampere is an industry hub for industry technology. As Tampere University has been involved in the development of Internet for years, it is a great honour to host the European Dialogue on Internet Governance. The platform is an invaluable means as Internet has evolved into an extremely complex entity and public policy issues are more important than ever.”

Pasi Hellman

Under Secretary of State (International Development), Ministry for Foreign Affairs



“Finland is committed to inclusive, sustainable digital development as part of the development policy and the Agenda 2030 more globally.” ... “We think that Finland is a frontrunner in human-centric AI, and we support the European Commission’s objective of defining a common European risk-based approach for AI and possibly turning Europe into a global hub for trustworthy artificial intelligence. And in this area, we look to build partnerships with our African partners.” ... “We recognize that the level playing field and competition are crucial for the development of new technologies, some actors use methods unfamiliar to normal market practices, at the same time, we want to build these technologies by respecting democratic values and principles and we very much stress technology neutrality as the driving principle.”

Pearse O’Donohue

Director of the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (online)



“There are some states, some actors that propose a more centralized state-driven approach, and that could lead not to just fragmentation of the Internet but to a serious erosion of the benefits. We must combat all forms of Internet shutdowns, disruption of information and communication systems inhibits access to the open Internet and it is another form of fragmentation, but one which you can see in the wrong hands the Internet to be used as a tool for the suppression of Human Rights and free speech. That is why the upcoming review of the WSIS provides us with an opportunity to affirm the multistakeholder Internet governance model. We have to start with our support for the IGF, the Internet Governance Forum, and allow it to grow into something more inclusive, more sustainable. Building on institutions such as EuroDIG.”

Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (video message)



„These are trying, unprecedented times for the web and for the world. In the face of so many challenges, let’s not forget that 2.7 billion people worldwide have never, ever used the Internet. I commend EuroDIG for placing the spotlight on young people, the driving force of connectivity globally, mindful that just half of the youth population in least developed countries had Internet access in 2022. The situation is dire. With all this adversity comes opportunity, a chance for us to come together and advocate for a free, open Internet and to harness the power of digital to rescue the SDGs. The multistakeholder approach used by EuroDIG underpins ITU’s work to support an Internet we can all enjoy and that’s something that gives me hope.”

Dr. KUNIMITSU Ayano

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Japan,
Member of the Japanese Parliament (video message)



“I would like to extend congratulations to the members of EuroDIG as a host of the successful meeting, we’re pleased to be host country of global IGF this October which will give us a chance to promote an open, free, reliable Internet with a multistakeholder approach. ... we’re planning to discuss three key areas, which are important for global society, and they are connectivity, online information, and technology. These topics were also discussed at the G7 digital tech Ministers meeting in Japan hosted this year.”

Patrick Penninckx

Head of Information Society Department, Council of Europe



“The Council of Europe then and now stands for a number of values, and I think that the development of the Internet and the Internet governance has to be seen in the context of those values, and in the context of Human Rights, the rule of law, and democracy, how to preserve those, and also when there is a future development of the Internet, when there are virtual realities, the question of the whole metaverse that is there to come and how we’re going to be behaving in such a virtual reality, I think those issues that need to be tackled, and need to be looked at. Those are the challenges of the future. We need to be able to decide what type of society we want to create, what is the role of the digital technologies within that society.”

EuroDIG
European Dialogue on
Internet Governance
Opening Plenary
Tampere,
19–21 June 2023
Internet in
troubled times:
risks, resilience, hope

Opening Plenary

Digital cooperation between African and European parliamentarians

Rapporteur: Andrijana Gavrilović, Geneva Internet Platform



1. We need a better EU-African dialogue, especially on regulatory issues, to ensure that there is no imposing of ready-made ideas and that parliamentarians are empowered to participate in such discussions.
2. Cooperation at the policy level and the technical level is needed. We also need capacity building, knowledge transfer and training to unlock further investments and engage big tech. Infrastructure development is needed through investments to secure and build resilience, connected networks are the foundation. We also need projects addressing the connected needs of the most underserved and hardest-to-reach rural populations to bring affordable, reliable, secure, and accessible connectivity. Developing the necessary digital skills for meaningful connectivity is required to develop Internet governance leaders.
3. African parliamentarians need capacity building and opportunities for their voices to be heard in tech discussions. Recognition of parliamentarians in glob-



al processes is paramount, and their physical presence is also important for their learning process and for sharing their experiences. Parliamentarians are important stakeholders in realising implementation efforts and pushing for these different legislations within national parliaments.

4. Europeans can offer an alternative to the Africans based on principles of openness, transparency, and democratic Internet governance.
5. On the Global Digital Compact, an issue the European and African countries and parliamentarians can work together on is tackling the digital divide, which means ramping up both public and private investments in digital infrastructure and connectivity. After adopting the GDC, Europe and Africa can work together to coordinate its implementation regarding the standards and capacities.

EuroDIG
European Dialogue on
Internet Governance

Main Topics

Tampere,
19–21 June 2023

Internet in
troubled times:
risks, resilience, hope

Main Topic 1

Impact of the war

These sessions focus on the influence of the war in Ukraine – now in its second year – on the Internet, and the roles of the Internet in this war. Ukraine has shown remarkable resilience against attacks to destroy its infrastructure, as well as attempts to break its morale by disinformation and hate speech. This war has also raised the fundamental question of how long and to what extent the core of the Internet can remain neutral ground in a world of worsening geopolitical crisis?

Keynotes

Stefan Lindström

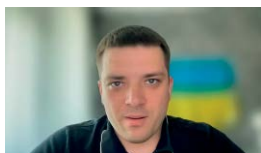
Finnish Ambassador for Digital Affairs



“... what we’re seeing now, of course, the international system that’s worked so well since the Second World War is coming to an end. We see instead there is a new international order emerging everywhere.”

Andrii Nabok

Head of Fixed Broadband in the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine
(online)



“During the last 16 months, Ukrainian Internet providers have been restoring networks after every attack, so that our people are always online.”

Subtopic 1

Shattered neutrality: Internet at crossroads of war and geopolitics

Rapporteur: Andrijana Gavrilović, Geneva Internet Platform



1. The Internet has changed how war is fought, and how it is covered by media. At the same time, the war has put 'One world, one Internet' to a stress test. The foundations of global and interoperable Internet should not be affected by the deepening geopolitical divide, even though it has fragmented the content layer.
2. Measures interfering with the Internet's ability to operate as a global communications infrastructure, such as revoking the delegation of a TLD, IP address prefix or ASN, are problematic. The Internet should be kept as a global space for communication, free from disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions.
3. More needs to be done about constraining online propaganda content. Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act will be helpful in this regard. Media literacy of users should also be strengthened to equip users to discern propaganda effectively.

#Resilience

Subtopic 2

Navigating challenges and strengthening Ukraine's and European Internet infrastructure

Rapporteur: Boris Begović, Geneva Internet Platform

1. Ukrainian operatives are seeking to share their unique experiences in responding to Internet disruptions, threats, and other challenges with the wider community. A call for action was made at the Best Current Operational Practices Task Force, urging the community to help document Ukrainian operators' experiences and turn them into practical guidelines.
2. These guidelines would cover areas such as rebuilding networks, increasing resilience and creating future-proof infrastructure.



Subtopic 3

Protecting citizens in times of crisis

Rapporteur: Katarina Bojović, Geneva Internet Platform



1. Promoting and upholding human rights, democracy, and the rule of law is and has always been the best defence against aggression and authoritarianism. To protect people in times of crisis, there must be proper procedures and approaches before the crisis breaks out. In addition, state institutions and other key stakeholders must be adequately prepared to combat hate speech and build resilience against disinformation.
2. Journalism is vital in the situation of conflict or aggression. Therefore, it is crucial to acknowledge the role of journalists and provide them with protection, access to information, and adequate work conditions. Journalists must adhere to ethical standards of professionalism, a rule-based approach and respect for basic principles when reporting, especially in times of crisis. One should always get to the bottom of the information and adhere to basic values and principles when evaluating it.

Main Topic 2

Internet Fragmentation

These sessions examine the risk of globally interoperable networks splintering into isolated islands – and to what extent it has already been realized. Avoiding fragmentation is professed as a common goal, but it may mean different things to different actors and at different layers of the network. Autocratic governments try to close their “information space” for political reasons by all means, but even well-meaning efforts by democratic governments may have unintended consequences and lead to fragmentation.

Keynotes

Andrew Sullivan

President and CEO, Internet Society (ISOC) (online)



“The Internet is technically, astonishingly robust. We have made a reliable network out of unreliable parts, that’s a genius engineering effort.”

Lise Fuhr

Director General, European Telecommunications Network Operators’ Association (ETNO), Member of the IGF Leadership Panel (online)



“It goes without saying that a fragmented Internet is a weaker, less secure Internet, and can result in lower cybersecurity standards.”

Subtopic 1

Understanding the risks of Internet fragmentation

Rapporteur: Bojana Kovač, Geneva Internet Platform



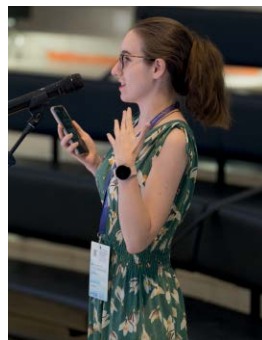
1. Different governments, actors, and stakeholders have different perspectives on what Internet fragmentation is. Thus, it is crucial to address the risks that come with it. Policy proposals that fragment the Internet, whether intentionally or not, prevent it from being a global space, though they may sometimes be necessary to protect other rights and the public interest. The private sector may also fragment the Internet by closing down services into walled gardens and breaking the principle of interoperability through open standards.
2. Geopolitics is another concern, as politicising the fundamentals of the Internet can endanger its technical nature. Content regulations that had unintentional effects on the technical level are now becoming intentional. The call for action is to enhance cross-government education and communication on Internet governance while also ensuring that companies, civil society, and the technical community are included in such discussions.

#Resilience

Subtopic 2

Internet fragmentation: what's next?

Rapporteur: Bojana Kovač, Geneva Internet Platform



1. The Global Digital Compact (GDC) has encouraged states to address fragmentation. Taking into account the views of stakeholders, developing Internet protocols, promoting global discussions, and fostering open and competitive digital markets are vital to addressing Internet fragmentation and the digital divide. Content policies must align with international human rights principles to maintain a unified and rights-focused approach.
2. There is a need for harmonisation and cooperation among stakeholders to understand the causes of Internet fragmentation. We should rethink the Internet fragmentation discussion to not conflate it with business interests and ensure that the technical aspect is addressed carefully. There is a need to raise awareness of the risks of Internet fragmentation and also an opportunity to build on the capacities of the technical community and other stakeholders who are interested in addressing these challenges. Proven solutions, like the Internet Impact Assessment toolkit, can be a way forward.

Subtopic 3

How can the Global Digital Compact prevent Internet fragmentation?

Rapporteur: Mark Carvell, independent Internet governance policy adviser and member of the EuroDIG Support Association



1. The Global Digital Compact should include detailed and transparent commitments by stakeholders – including governments, regulators and the technical community – to prevent fragmentation of the Internet’s core technical resources and of their governance.
2. The GDC process should continue to engage stakeholders, including the national and regional IGFs, in the finalisation and implementation of the Compact.

Main Topic 3

Digital Platforms

These sessions explore the interplay between emerging technologies, regulatory trends and the vision for platform governance. Is the current development phase of immersive technologies guided by user safety and fundamental rights principles? How can we set up regulatory frameworks to delineate responsibilities of digital platforms, while not impeding technological advancement? What are the future models of platform governance?

Keynotes

Merja Ylä-Anttila

CEO Yle (Finnish Broadcasting Company)



“AI is no longer only a question of possibilities, but also a question of necessity for responsible media actors such as Yle.”

Tobias Bornakke

Chairman of the Nordic Think Tank for Tech and Democracy (online)



“The members of the think tank fear that the tech giants will try to make it as difficult as possible to get insight into the problems through bureaucratic processes and relevant technical requirements.”

Subtopic 1

Virtual worlds, but real risks: navigating metaverses as a next generation of digital platforms

Rapporteur: Boris Begović, Geneva Internet Platform



1. Establishing robust governance for virtual worlds is crucial and should ensure inclusive and secure spaces accessible to all. Neglecting global governance could lead to exclusive communities controlled by a select few. By collaborating with global stakeholders and utilising existing structures like EuroDIG, ICANN, and the IGF, we should aim to build upon our shared interests and make progress together.
2. The community must persist in engaging in the discussion about the metaverse, even as it loses its current trendiness and gives way to the prominence of AI. To foster a constructive trajectory, we must proactively contemplate the governance framework before widespread metaverse utilisation.
3. Prioritising a collective agreement on guiding principles is crucial for effectively implementing and enforcing human rights in the metaverse. However, before addressing these matters, the key is to unite globally and acknowledge that state-centric, corporate-led governance of the metaverse is inadequate.
4. It is vital to recognise that digital tools are meant to serve and support human beings. Our goal should be to ensure that the virtual world remains in service to the analogue world, harmonising both spheres for the benefit of humanity.

#Resilience

Subtopic 2

The European Union's digital transformation – regulatory challenges, technical impacts and emerging opportunities

Rapporteur: Bojana Kovač, Geneva Internet Platform

1. Defining security is difficult, if not impossible, due to the evolving nature of technology. Current EU regulatory frameworks aim to cover most of the risks posed by existing technologies, including the Cyber Resilience Act, which is in the making to protect the security of digital products.
2. Security is not absolute; it is always about risk management and reducing vulnerabilities. While larger companies are already equipped to comply with cybersecurity regulations and certifications, the challenge lies in ensuring security in the open source ecosystem, which relies on numerous projects run by individuals, nonprofits, and universities. Rather than solely relying on legal re-



quirements, providing financial support to smaller open-source projects for making security audits and bug fixes would be more effective. Legal requirements should not disrupt the global and collaborative open source software development model.

3. Ensuring comprehensive technological literacy is crucial, as it empowers individuals with a deeper understanding of technology. Due to its continuous evolution, industry professionals and users must remain informed and educated about emerging risks and challenges.

Subtopic 3

Platforms as critical infrastructure for democratic discourse

Rapporteur: Katarina Bojović, Geneva Internet Platform

1. Decentralised platforms have the potential to provide an alternative and overcome some of the concerning features of dominant social platforms, such as surveillance capitalism, the attention economy, and digital colonialism. Yet, many questions and challenges still need to be addressed, such as sustainable financing and the lack of scalable business models.



2. The surge in large language models such as ChatGPT and other possibilities to create synthetic text creates greater pressure on content filtering and a much bigger need for transparency. Big tech companies must adopt clear and transparent content moderation policies that prioritise accuracy and accountability, with clear procedures for removing harmful content. Companies must also ensure their content moderation systems and rules are fair, transparent, and easily accessible in user languages.

EuroDIG
European Dialogue on
Internet Governance
Workshops
Tampere,
19–21 June 2023
Internet in
troubled times:
risks, resilience, hope

Workshops



Workshop 1

Models to support investment in the network infrastructure in Europe: what is the way forward?

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, United Nations University – CRIS

1. Interconnection:

The EU aims at achieving universal connection to 5G by 2030 to support the consistent growth of content while ensuring competitive access through a structured regulatory system. Universal coverage and high-quality connectivity must be achieved to fight against discrimination and secure the digital transition, a process led by communication operators and publicly listed tech companies that are, respectively, investing in rural and remote areas and in data centers. However, laws of physics are not a social construct: 5G connectivity performances are bound by the speed of light and, at some point, the distance between devices will need to shrink. Finally, IoT traffic, connecting devices, e-Government services are paramount challenges and need new solutions, such as different investment models, more mergings, more competition in platform players, and a sustainable financial capacity.

2. Neutrality:

Neutrality is crucial in the EU regulatory framework. The Internet is based on permissionless innovation: as long as one speaks the Internet protocol, innovations can be proposed without any legal or public permission. Moreover, the Internet is not entirely public: peering transit, Internet exchanges and private Internet are all run by non-public players, and they all have their own data storage and other infrastructures. This is one of the causes of the Internet's fragmentation, but redirecting traffic could lead to Internet quality problems.

3. Price increase:

In the latest period, revenues for Internet companies were raised because of a decrease in the cost of infrastructures. Even though an increase in individual customers' prices might not be ideal in such a highly regulated market as the Internet, their overall impact may be positive since other services prices would be balanced.

Workshop 2

Digital information literacy as a modern civic skill – a Finnish perspective

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, United Nations University – CRIS

1. Finnish CRITICAL Project

In Finland, the CRITICAL project includes media literacy (i.e. digital literacy in education) for students and teachers in curricula from early childhood, as stated in the 2013-2016 Finnish Media Literacy National Policy Guidelines. However, though some organisations dealing with fact-checking and networking are playing a crucial role in fighting back the threats of disinformation and trolling (e.g. Faktabaari), the lack of critical literacy skills is still to be tackled since information literacy is essential for fair opportunities.

2. Safeguard of Individual Autonomy in the Internet:

Democracy is undermined by media and digital power monopolies, the threats of disinformation and polarisation, as well as the lack of transparency and accountability in data collection for economic purposes. This context requires safeguarding the concept of individual autonomy by enhancing citizens' digital literacy and education, and by integrating digital competencies with ethical, social and cultural dimensions.

3. Culture in Digital Information Literacy:

To face the current multi-crisis world, it is paramount to provide universal epistemic rights and to secure trust at three levels: in basic societal functions and structures, in knowledge organisations, and between individuals. This aim can be achieved by improving culture's role in Digital Information Literacy, to foster critical dialogue, empathy, and tolerance, while looking for a balance between innovation and regulation. Individual, social and political levels must be taken into account when shaping protection policies, as well as avoiding epistemic violence to pursue a pluralistic society.

Workshop 3

Trustworthy AI: Large Language Models for Children and Education

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, United Nations University – CRIS

1. Large Language Models (LLMs):

Large Language Models like ChatGPT4 have a revolutionary potential for customer services, translation, and human-machine communication, but they do not produce knowledge. Actually, they simply map statistical relationships between linguistic tokens by identifying patterns and finding correlations. AI-generated texts are always fictional, and the result of an easily biased statistical equation. Regulation to protect the most fragile users is certainly needed, but it must be gradual and focused on core principles rather than on quickly out-of-date technologies.

2. Italian Data Protection Authority:

The Italian Data Protection Authority stopped the use of ChatGPT in Italy since they believe that the technology is not mature enough, that the current AI market is dangerously monopolistic, and that it is rising faster than the regulation (e.g. EU regulation on AI is going in the right direction, but it will not be implemented before 2025). Finally, children need special protection, and should be considered as legally unable to enter in any kind of personal-data and digital-service contract.

3. LLMs in education:

LLMs can remarkably improve reading, writing, analytical skills and the production of educational content while providing more personalised learning options. Nevertheless, children are less able to distinguish reality from AI-generated content; LLMs can cause overexposure to biases and disinformation; relational drawbacks such as depression, addiction, and anxiety can take place; and plagiarism, truth, and information quality remain serious issues. Therefore, regulation must be focused on putting children's rights at the center, by spreading digital literacy among children, parents, and teachers, and entailing legal responsibility for the design, the outcome, and the oversight of the system.

Workshop 4

Building cross-stakeholder awareness and understanding of the direct and indirect environmental impacts of digital/Internet technologies and how to mitigate them

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, United Nations University – CRIS

1. Nexus between digital transition and environmental impact:

The Council of Europe has recognised the nexus between digital transition and environmental impact, and its connections with human rights, child abuse, and exploitation. The most effective critical paradigm to unpack this nexus is composed of direct (e.g. energy consumption, mining of rare minerals and raw materials, etc.) and indirect environmental effects (e.g. results of the implementation of digital innovation in industries, etc.). However, a standard measure to analyse these outcomes still needs universal acceptance.

2. Environmental impact of hardware infrastructures:

Though many think AI is software and ephemeral, it is actually rooted in concrete infrastructures, as well as cloud services that are operated through huge factories and data centres filled with computers and storage devices. Moreover, quantum Internet is far from being sustainable. So, to decrease the environmental impact of the Internet, it is first crucial to determine the green metrics for measuring it.

3. Decision-making process:

The current decision-making process lacks knowledge regarding the environmental cost of each decision and of new digital technologies, and struggles to concretely implement sustainable technology by design. Therefore, regulation should take a consultative and iterative approach, starting from improving measurement, standards and collaboration on data collection, then looking at the complete life cycle impact.

Workshop 5

Proposal for a regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse

Rapporteur: Org Team

1. In regard of the EU Commission Proposal for a Regulation to Prevent and Combat Child Sexual Abuse, the panel, composed of different stakeholders, agreed that something needs to be done to better protect children online due to data showing that 59% of the CSAM removed from the Internet is hosted in the EU¹, with the severity and proliferation of these images and videos growing year on year.
2. Risk assessment and mitigation are crucial! Digital service providers have a responsibility to create and provide safe and reliable services for all users. To protect children, regulation should make detection and removal of communications and depictions on the Internet compulsory. Diverse views were shared on how Safety by Design can be harnessed, including encryption as a way to offer children safe online services. Concerns were also raised on how companies could be doing more to detect CSAM within End-to-End Encrypted Environments were raised. In addition, media literacy education for children and parents is recommended.
3. Privacy concerns should be taken seriously. More research and development of reliable technologies to avoid large numbers of false positives are required. And care must also be taken to avoid technologies being repurposed for means other than their intended use – to detect child sexual abuse – by less democratic regimes. For these purposes a strong and independent EU Centre is also recommended.

¹ <https://annualreport2022.iwf.org.uk/trends-and-data/geographical-hosting-urls/>

Workshop 6

When universal acceptance meets digital inclusion

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, United Nations University – CRIS

1. Multilingualism in cyberspace:

Multilingualism is a key issue for universal acceptance and digital inclusion. According to statistics, English is the Internet default language as it is embedded in the foundational blocks of databases and programming and it represents the absolute majority of content, while between 15 and 35% of the world population are left out of the digital dialogue. Preservation, promotion, and revitalisation of indigenous languages worldwide must then be fostered to let marginalised communities preserve their cultural heritage while fully participating in the digital age.

2. Inclusion of indigenous languages

Finland has made huge efforts to provide digital content in Sami indigenous languages, covering information, media communication, digital learning, welfare bureaucracy, and soft public services. Moreover, internationalised domain names or IDNs have proliferated in recent times, but South Asia and the Sub-Saharan region remain the least connected to the Internet. All in all, content is key to achieve Internet multilingualism and universal acceptance: having content in specific languages builds a market and represents a convincing reason for users to want to go in that specific domain.

3. Solutions

First, to achieve universal acceptance it is necessary to adapt devices, keyboards, screens, tools and programming languages, as well as applications and contents to a real multilingual context. Second, huge investments are needed in intertranslatability and in promoting consumer choice and inclusivity by ensuring that domain names and email addresses work in all software applications. This process must be performed for and by the indigenous communities and its feasibility is linked to the current heterogeneity in connectivity, though a general overview is what is really missing.

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Let's promote the European vision for digital governance and cooperation in the UN!



This pre-event on 19 June 2023 was a continuation of the intersessional work on stakeholder engagement¹ in two critically important UN processes:

1. The UN Secretary-General's proposal for a Global Digital Compact (GDC) to be agreed and launched at the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024;
2. The review of the outcomes of the UN World Summit on the Information Society in 2003-2005 (the WSIS+20 review), which will include a decision on whether to renew the mandate of the global Internet Governance Forum.

The workshop was structured in two segments:

Part 1:

A review of current European stakeholder engagement in: (1) the development phase of the Global Digital Compact (including online consultations by the co-facilitators and the Tech Envoy); and (2) the preparation for the WSIS+20 Review (including the IGF WSIS+20 Action Plan and the roadmap of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [CSTD]).

Part 2:

A look ahead to the next decade of European stakeholder involvement in: (1) the implementation phase of the Global Digital Compact's commitments to action in 2024-25; (2) the evolution of the IGF ecosystem following the WSIS+20 review in 2025, including the reformed "IGF Plus" and its network of national and regional IGFs.

¹ See also: <https://www.eurodig.org/get-involved/digital-cooperation/>

Results:

The proposed GDC will establish shared principles for “*an open, free and secure digital future for all*” and commitments on a range of themes including digital connectivity, avoiding Internet fragmentation, options as to how personal data is used, applying human rights online, promoting a trustworthy Internet by introducing accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content, regulation of AI, and digital commons as a global public good.

There have been two rounds of stakeholder consultations. The UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology issued a survey questionnaire. EuroDIG responded with a summary of recent EuroDIG messages relating to the proposed GDC themes and recommended green digital transformation as an additional theme. There has also been a series of “deep dive” thematic consultations chaired by the UN co-facilitators (the permanent representatives of Rwanda and Sweden).

The workshop followed the publication of two related documents:

1. the Secretary-General’s Policy Brief No. 5, which includes a proposal to establish a Digital Cooperation Forum to support implementation of the GDC;
2. a report by the Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB) which includes a recommendation to create a Global Commission on Just and Sustainable Digitalization.

The workshop also received an update by the European Commission on the Declaration on the Future of the Internet (DFI), an initiative led by the EU and the US. This set out the principles of a trusted Internet that is open, free, global, interoperable, reliable and secure, with commitments to protect human rights.

Main points raised in the workshop

- The European stakeholder community – including Internet users and young people – should continue to participate in the current global processes which will determine the future of Internet governance. This includes the negotiation phase of the GDC in 2024.
- While acknowledging the GDC should cover addressing risks and online harms, it is also important that it recognise:
 - Internet governance has proved to be resilient despite the pressures of the global pandemic and the war in Europe;
 - the success of existing multistakeholder bodies such as the IGF and ICANN, in addressing key issues such as access, diversity and multilingualism;
- The GDC should assist the evolution of WSIS with new action lines.

- The creation of new bodies such as the proposed Digital Cooperation Forum and the Global Commission raises concerns about fragmentation of governance and duplication of existing processes, notably the IGF.
- Rather than re-inventing the wheel, the GDC should serve to strengthen the current processes of Internet governance, including the IGF.
- More effective cooperation between the technical and policy governance layers is also important.
- National regulation should be based on dialogue with stakeholders and decision-making needs to be multistakeholder.

The workshop was informed that there will be opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the next steps of the HLAB recommendation for a Global Commission on Just and Sustainable Digitalization, and of the commitments contained in the Declaration on the Future of the Internet.

In his reflections on the discussions in the workshop, the Envoy on Technology Amandeep Gill acknowledged the dynamism of EuroDIG and other regional and national fora in “expanding the footprint of the IGF” and he emphasised the close linkage between the IGF and the GDC process.

He welcomed the Leadership Panel’s appointment as strengthening the IGF. As a contribution to the overall “*How can we do better*” aim, he described the HLAB’s recommendations for addressing gaps and inefficiencies as options which complement the Policy Brief. Implementation of the GDC needs to be endorsed by all stakeholders and he encouraged communities to continue to provide inputs.

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YOUthDIG
Messages

Tampere,
19–21 June 2023

Internet in
troubled times:
risks, resilience, hope

YOUthDIG

... is the Youth Dialogue on Internet Governance, a yearly pre-event to the European Dialogue on Internet Governance that aims to foster active youth participation.

YOUthDIG is unique in the manner in which building the agenda and messages are approached:

- Sessions are prepared by former and current participants. This way we ensure that we focus on the issues that participants are keen on learning more about. But in addition, former participants advise on topics which are relevant to successfully participate in EuroDIG.
- Presentations by participants focus on bringing their local issues, challenges, backgrounds and solutions to the attention at European level. This is especially notable through the design of the YOUthDIG Messages.
- These Messages bring the collective knowledge of participants through the question, “what are the key issues and challenges that we want to bring to the attention of European decision makers?”.
- We focus not only on content, but also on skill building. The agenda includes effective networking, public speaking, session planning, advocacy, lobbying and other skills. We do this through the sessions but also through our social events.

The organising team, consisting of former YOUthDIG participants, started with introductory webinars in April where selected participants collaborated on a series of short-format inputs depending on their own expertise.





From 16 June, YOUthDIG continued as an in-person meeting. Addressed issues were development of social media including disinformation and propaganda, the impact of AI and corresponding regulations, open research data and data ownership, and how to contribute to and stay involved in the Internet governance ecosystem. The sessions were supported by a wide range of guest experts.

Social events took place in the evenings to foster team building among the participants. During these days, the YOUthDIG Messages were formulated and presented at EuroDIG.



YOUthDIG Messages



Topic 1: Creating a brighter future with artificial intelligence: safety and prosperity for all

1. The European Union (EU) should assume a **leadership role in promoting global collaboration in artificial intelligence (AI) research and development**, with a particular focus on ensuring the safety and ethical use of AI technologies.
2. To mitigate the risks of AI for society:
 - a. the EU should **invest and support AI alignment and AI development research** equally.
 - b. governmental bodies must ensure that **high-risk AI systems are supplemented by human involvement** in order to prevent single points of failure.
3. To improve the EU AI Act:
 - a. legislators must implement explicit regulations on using high-risk AI systems for research purposes, to ensure that **the AI Act does not hinder ongoing and future research on AI**
 - b. legislators should include stipulations so that **AI providers must consider the impact of applications on both the individual and societal level**.
 - c. legislators need to **explicitly and unambiguously define what constitutes “subliminal techniques” of manipulation**.
 - d. legislators need to introduce **better distinction and regulation of “foundational model” and “general purpose AI” systems**.
4. Call for the **teaching of AI, namely its potential usages, limitations and ethical implications**, both in formal and in life-long learning education across Europe

to counteract the lack of comprehensive understanding of the potential applications and limitations of AI.

5. Governmental bodies and civil society **need to advocate for AI to be regarded as a common good**, emphasizing the importance of inclusive access, fairness, and societal benefit in the development and deployment of AI systems.

Topic 2: Bridging the Divides: Building a Conscientious Digital Ecosystem

1. Call on the European states to reduce mining of critical raw materials by shifting to **materials recovery and e-waste recycling** to prevent ecosystem degradation and human rights violations.
2. Call for enhancing the digital skills of children by strengthening the **systematic education of caregivers and educators** so:
 - a. Children can take advantage of digital tools
 - b. Risks involved are mitigated
3. Urge all relevant stakeholders to **collaboratively prioritize the inclusion of marginalized voices in the decision-making process** with the aim to create an inclusive digital landscape in Europe.
4. An urgent appeal to governments to **increase investment in rural regions' Internet infrastructure** with the objective to reduce Internet fragmentation and the lack of potential work opportunities it creates.
5. Establish a set of **cohesive standards towards increased interoperability** in order to avoid vendor lock-in in commercial applications and discourage excessive market concentration.

Topic 3: Current Challenges of Data Governance

1. **Protecting data of people on the move:**
 - a. NGOs need **access to and training on safe-by-design data warehouses** to safeguard the data of migrants.
 - b. The EU Parliament should **reduce the four-year period** granted by the EU Parliament for the **EU large-scale migration database** to align with the safeguards in the EU AI Act.
2. **Data privacy in healthcare:**
 - a. EU Member States must **collaborate with European institutions** to protect individuals' rights and obligations regarding the collection and handling of personal/health data under GDPR.
 - b. The European Union must ensure **consistency and uniformity** when accepting proposals for the **European Health Data Space** to ensure cross-border access to efficient healthcare.

3. Private company data governance:
 - a. Governmental bodies should **provide small companies with affordable and accessible mechanisms** for data governance capacity-building.
 - b. Private companies should adhere to internal regulatory frameworks and **improve codes of conduct to enhance accountability, transparency, and compliance** with European data protection regulations.
4. Consensus on digital rights:
 - a. National governments must **integrate the European Declaration of Digital Rights and Principles into regulations** at the EU national level.
 - b. Legislative bodies across the European Union **should participate in multi-stakeholder initiatives** within and between member states to foster credibility and respect for digital rights.

Topic 4: No backdoors in the future of IG: towards a cooperative and evidence-based Internet governance!

1. Call on the international community to create **enforcement mechanisms** to hold governments to account for their **commitments contained in the Declaration for the Future of the Internet**.
2. All stakeholders involved in regulation or development of the Internet should conduct thorough **impact assessments** to identify the effects of their activities on the Internet and the user experience in order to protect security and privacy and avoid fragmentation.
3. Call on states and the EU to **systematically engage the technical community** with regards to cybersecurity considerations throughout the policy-making cycle.
 - a. Do not break encryption!
 - b. No backdoors – no vulnerability management but vulnerability disclosure and patching processes!
4. Call on governments to create a **framework for acceptable online activism**.
5. EuroDIG must ensure that all past and future youth messages are addressed by their respective stakeholders and ensure that the **youth are systematically involved** throughout decision-making processes.

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Networking opportunities

Tampere,
19–21 June 2023

Internet in
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risks, resilience, hope

Networking opportunities

NASK, the Polish research institute, invited attendees to a welcome reception at Tampere University on 19 June. Music was made by GEMS! GEMS stands for Global Equal Multi-Stakeholder Band.



On 20 June, we were kindly welcomed by the Mayor of Tampere at the City Hall.



The meeting venue offered splendid networking opportunities. Coffee breaks were sponsored by the Finnish IGF, IEEE and EURid.



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Facts and Figures

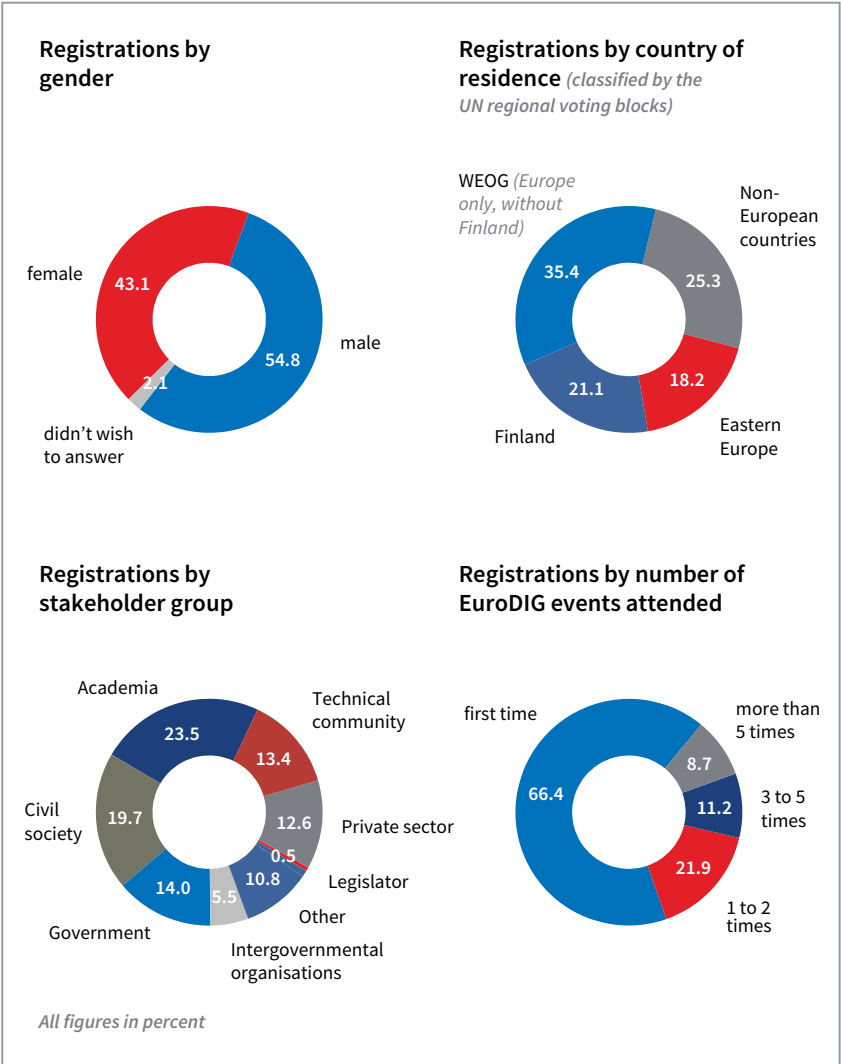
Tampere,
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Breakdown of registrations and participation

Registrations

We received 752 registrations. The following numbers are based on these. Out of 338 delegates who registered for on-site participation 256 people picked up a badge.



Participation

The post-event analysis showed that about 380 different people logged on to Zoom during the three days. Like last year, a considerable number of participants followed the live stream, or watched the recording later.

Zoom Rooms <i>Unique participants per day</i>			
	19 June	20 June	21 June
Main Auditorium	153	111	90
Auditorium A1	75	77	47
Auditorium A3	57	52	18
Auditorium A4	64	-	-

Taking the numbers from onsite participation, Zoom and streaming/recording together we reached a comparable number of participants to previous years or to what we had at physical meeting before the pandemic.

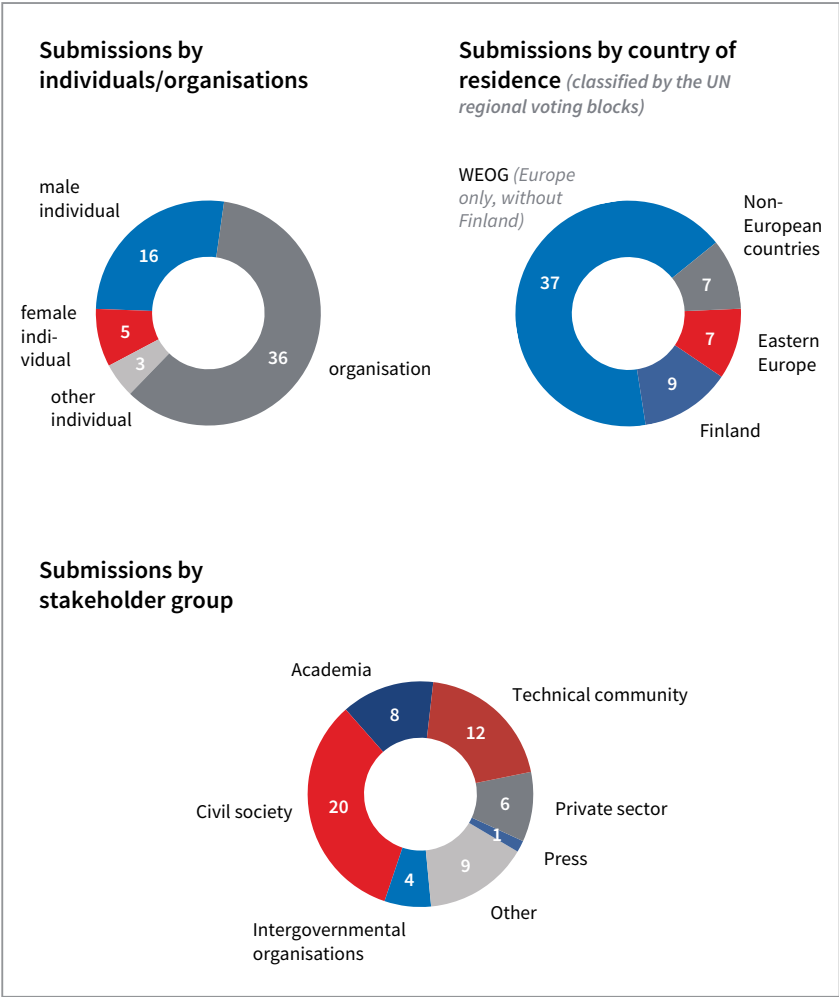
Video-Streams <i>Count by Google as of 2023-08-31</i>					
	parallel views during livestream	Unique viewers within 24 h			Unique viewers till end of August
		19 June	20 June	21 June	
Stream of 19 June, Main Auditorium	15	120	40	11	216
Stream of 20 June, Main Auditorium	18		221	64	361
Stream of 21 June, Main Auditorium	14			83	141

An example from the Main Auditorium for 20 June: 111 participants logged into the Zoom room. In addition, 18 participants (peak parallel views) followed sessions on this day via the live stream on YouTube. In total 221 unique participants watched the livestream or the recording from Main Auditorium on this day.

As of 31 August 2023, a total of 361 people followed the livestream or the recording from this day.

Breakdown of submissions

During the call for issues for EuroDIG we received 60 submissions in the period from 12 September till 31 December 2022.





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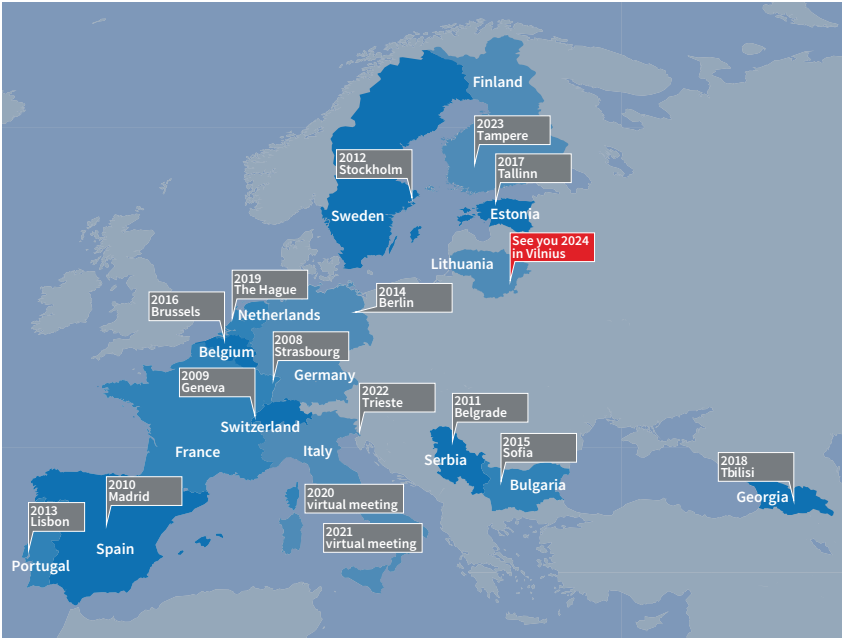
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See you 2024 in Vilnius, Lithuania!

We will meet for 3 days during the week of 17-21 June.



Find out more at www.eurodig.org.

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